Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land at Harley Way, Benefield Northamptonshire

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Report 11/203

October 2011

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Harley Way, Benefield, Northampton	
Short description	In September 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at Harley Way, Benefield, Northamptonshire. The evaluation has proved the veracity of the geophysical survey results with the excavation of a number of Romano-British ditches and a single pit dating to the 1st to early 2nd centuries AD in the eastern part of the field. The fragmentary skeleton of a human newborn were found at the top of the pit. However, the general paucity of artefacts and complete absence of finer pottery indicates that it was probably a low status rural farmstead. In the northern part of the field, where aerial photography identified rectilinear soil marks probably relating to the remains of Churchfield deserted medieval village, the remains of a medieval stone building were found. Pottery associated with the building dated to the 13th century. A further spread of material in another trench may suggest that further building remains may survive on the northern boundaries of the site.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Dawson 2011) and Geophysical Survey (Butler and Walford 2011)	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Roman and medieval	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Harley Way, Benefield	
Study area	6 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 0600 8790	
Height OD	43.00-53.50m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	CgMs (Dawson 2011)	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ant Maull	
Project Manager	Ant Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	10/2011	
End date	10/2011	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content**
Physical	-	None
Paper	BHW11	Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, colour slides, black and white contact prints, digital photographs, plans and section drawing
Digital	BHW11	Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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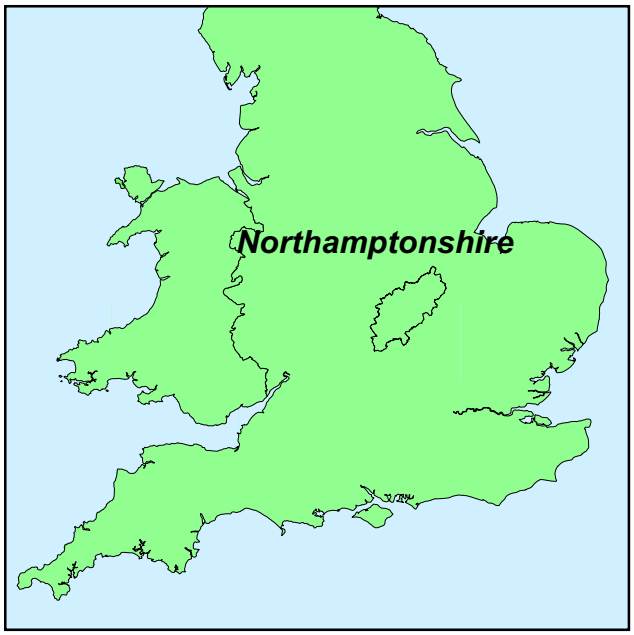

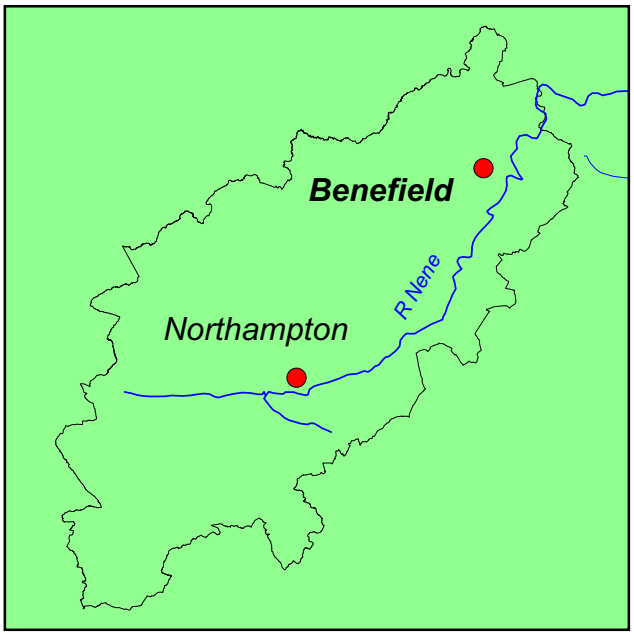

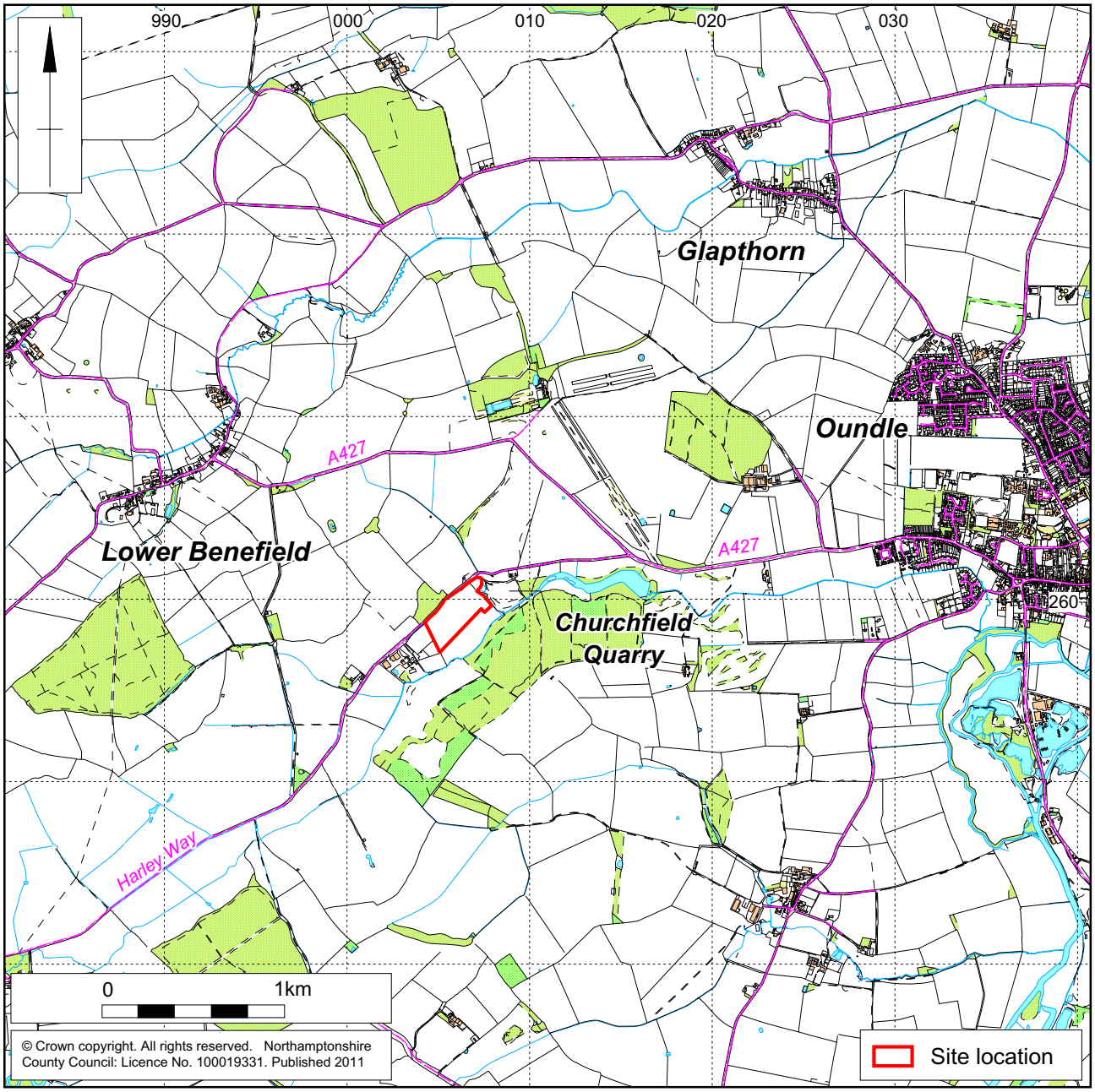

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Site location Fig 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT HARLEY WAY, BENEFIELD
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
OCTOBER 2011

Abstract

In September 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd on land at Harley Way, Benefield, Northamptonshire. The development area, comprising 6ha of land to the south-east of Lower Benefield, has been subject to a desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey. This report provides the results for sixteen evaluation trenches within the development area.

The evaluation has proved the veracity of the geophysical survey results with the excavation of a number of Romano-British ditches, a probable trackway and a single pit dating to the 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. The skeletal remains of a human baby were found at the top of the pit. However, the general paucity of artefacts and complete absence of fine pottery indicates that it was probably a low status rural farmstead. The trenching has confirmed that the Roman settlement is confined to an area of just over 1ha within the eastern part of the field.

In the northern part of the field, where aerial photography identified rectilinear soil marks probably relating to the remains of Churchfield deserted medieval village, the remains of a medieval stone building were found. Pottery associated with the building dated to the 13th century. A further spread of material in another trench may suggest that further building remains may survive on the northern boundaries of the site; to the south evidence of remnant furrows indicates much of the site was part of the open field system. Large pits at the west indicated quarrying had also taken place during the medieval period. Although the extent of the medieval settlement remains is not precisely defined, it is likely that they are concentrated close to the northern boundary of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of G P Planning, to undertake archaeological trial trench evaluation to inform a planning application on land at Harley Way, Benefield, Northamptonshire. (NGR TL 0600 8790, Fig 1). The works have been required in response to a forthcoming planning application for an extension of an existing quarry in line with *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment.*

The programme of archaeological investigation, as outlined in the Specification issued by CgMs Consulting, involved the excavation of sixteen trenches across part of the development area, the results of which are presented in this report.

This tranche of works follows a Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011) and detailed geophysical magnetometer survey (Butler and Walford 2011). Both studies identified areas of archaeological potential within the development area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The evaluation area comprised approximately 6ha of arable land located in the parish of Benefield, immediately south of Harley Way and immediately west of Churchfield Quarry (Fig 1). At the time of the evaluation the field had been recently harvested and was under oil seed rape stubble.

The survey area occupies part of the south-easterly facing slope of the Lyveden valley, overlooking a small stream. The ground slopes down from a maximum elevation of *c* 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to a minimum of *c* 45m aOD (Fig 2). To the east and west of the area are minor tributary valleys which run down-slope to the main valley floor of the River Nene.

The site, looking south-east Fig 2

2.2 **Geology** by Steve Critchley

The site lies on rocks belonging to the Middle Jurassic Great Oolite Group comprising in ascending stratigraphical order the Rutland, Blisworth Limestone and Blisworth Clay Formations.

The Rutland Formation beds comprise a sequence of marine and non marine mudstones with limestones, sandstones and siltstones. These were exposed in the sloping eastern and southern portions of the site in Trench 15, parts of trench 3 and probably Trench 4 and observed to consist of weathered sticky mudstones and silty sandy limestones underlying the more competent Blisworth Limestones. The latter beds are composed of pale yellow fossiliferous oolitic/bioclastic marine limestones weathering at outcrop to a blocky rubble composition. These beds occupied the middle portion of the site observed in Trenches 2, 9, 11, portions of 3, 4, 10 and probably 14 and 16. Overlying the Blisworth Limestone are marine clays of the Blisworth Clay Formation which weather to stiff plastic mottled clays observed to be exposed in Trenches 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and parts of 10 and 6. Trench 6 which was dug into the highest portion of the site is mapped on the BGS sheet 171 as partly lying on rubbly limestones belonging to the overlying Cornbrash Formation though field evidence was unclear that this was the case.

Field evidence was reasonably accurate in assessing which beds were exposed in any particular trench though there was inevitably some blurring of junctions between

formations due to plough spreading of particularly the Blisworth Limestone and the development of colluviums on slopes.

2.3 Archaeological background

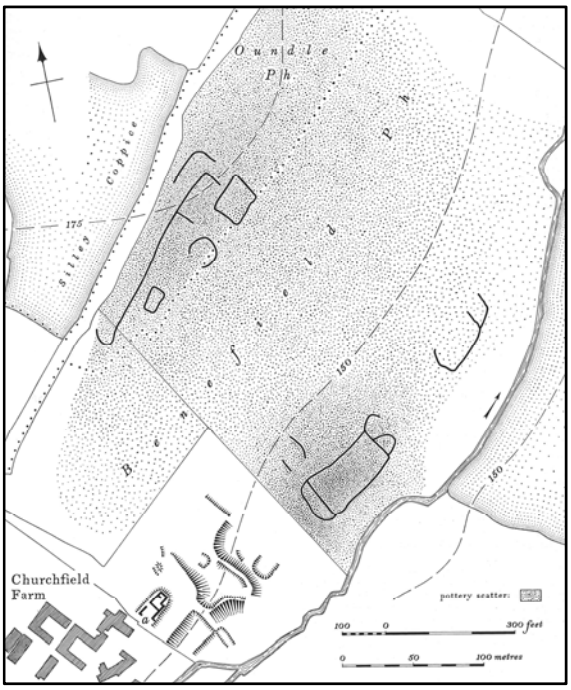
The outline development area has been examined by Heritage Assessment (Dawson 2011) which collated Historic Environment Record (HER) data and cartographic sources. The development area has also been subject to a geophysical survey (Butler and Walford 2011). The following archaeological background is taken from both sources.

There are numerous records of Iron Age and Roman remains in the vicinity as well as within the development area. Indeed, the geophysical survey supports the idea of settlement within the south-eastern part of the site, although without excavation it was difficult to apportion a date (Fig 4). South of the site is a putative Iron Age settlement and there are a number of Romano-British sites recorded to the north. The Historic Environment Record (HER) site records a site (HER no 9433) within the proposed development area on the basis of a number of finds that have been retrieved in the past. The nature of the artefacts may suggest that the underlying ironstone was being quarried and processed in the vicinity.

Part of the deserted medieval village of Churchfield is located within the development area. Much of the village, apart from a small area of extant earthworks near the farm to the west and beyond the development area, has been destroyed by ploughing. The village was first mentioned in *c* 964 in a charter and again in the early 12th century. In 1301, nine taxpayers are listed under Churchfield (RCHM 1975) but by the late 17th century there is only a single house listed under the Hearth Tax Returns and this is almost certainly the present farm. A chapel was in existence by 1189, but the name of the village suggests that there was one here much earlier.

Churchfield was originally part of Oundle; although it was a separate township (meaning it had its own separate, self-contained field system). It was already enclosed by 1565; the Oundle field book of 1565 refers to Churchfield Closes (Hall 1995). The later history of Churchfield is linked to Lyveden to the west, which itself has a confusing history. Lyveden is not a parish, but is shared between the parishes of Aldwincle, Benefield, Pilton and possibly Brigstock (as well as Oundle if Churchfield belongs to it). Documents point to a number of settlements with the name Lyveden and there are a number of deserted settlement sites to the west of Churchfield that may have been one of the Lyvedens, as well as a large number of minor settlement sites. The main settlements are located on the sides of the Lyveden Brook, similar to Churchfield.

Much of the site is covered by limestone and pottery dating from the 12th to the early 13th centuries, much of it the local Lyveden ware. Air photographs show a series of faint soil marks in the northern part of the development area (Fig 3).



The deserted village of Churchfield, from RCHM 1975 Fig 3

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation are specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

General aims comprised the following:

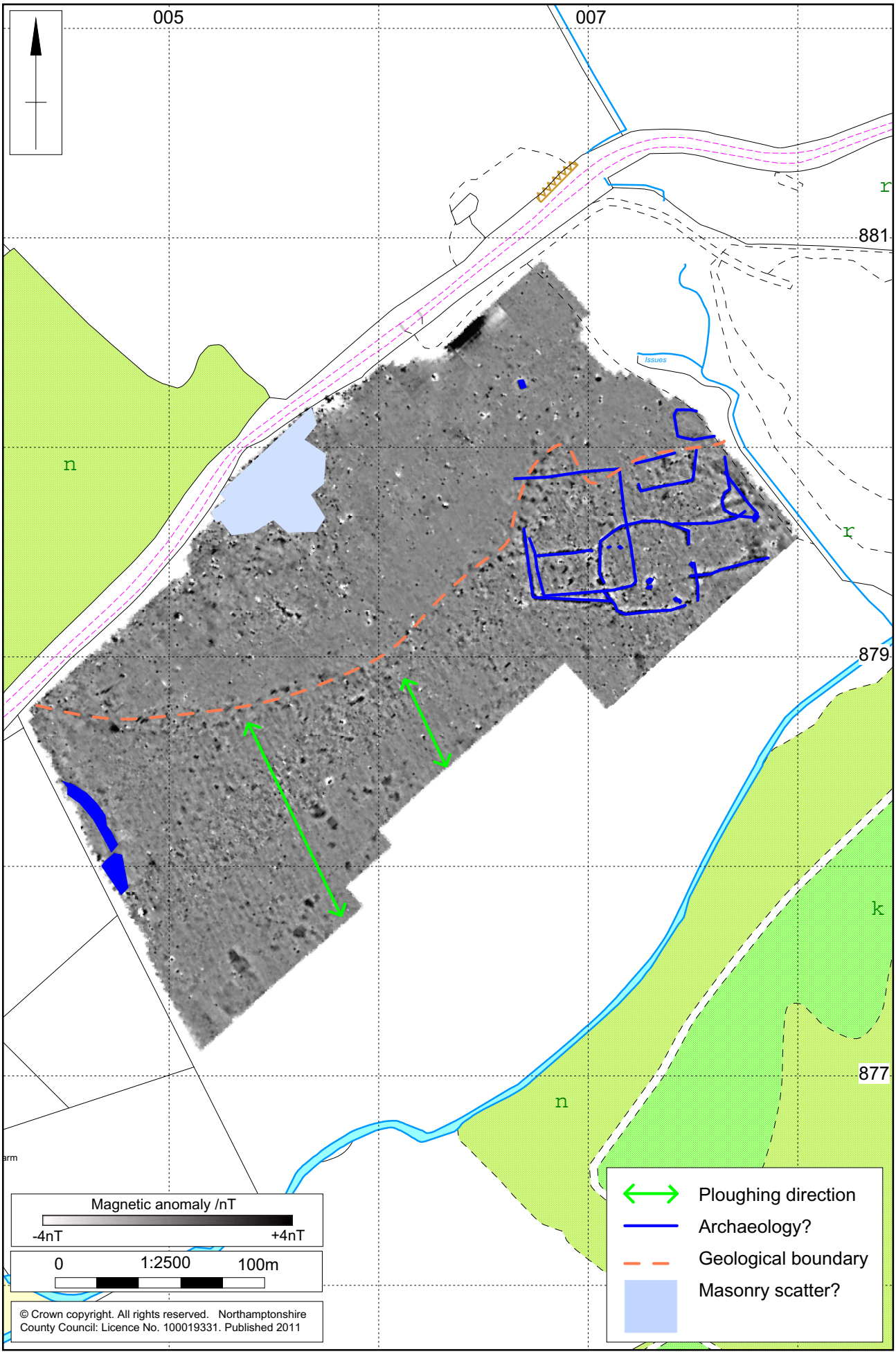
- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions

Specific research objectives will be drawn from the national and regional research frameworks (EH 1991; Cooper 2006).

3.2 Methodology

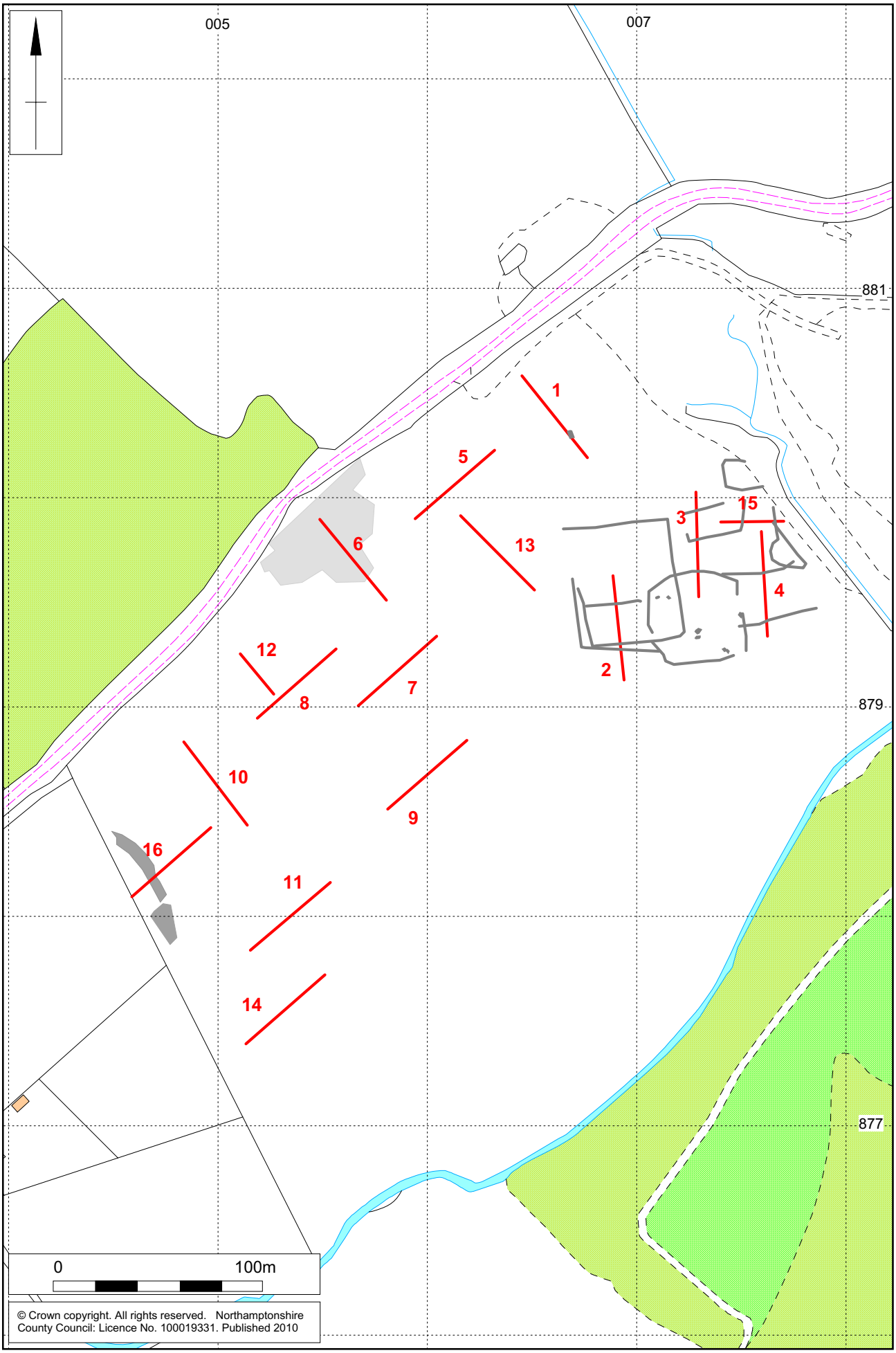
The works were conducted in accordance with the specification (NCC 2011a and b), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, revised 2010). The work was monitored by the County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council

Sixteen trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches 1-11, 13,14 and 16 were 50m long by 2m wide, Trench 15 was 30m long by 2m wide and Trench 12 was 25m long by 2m wide. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by CgMs Consulting and the County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire and have been related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 4). On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.



Scale 1:2500

Magnetometer Survey Interpretation Fig 4



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Trench location plan Fig 5

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal archaeological remains or, where absent, to the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections of the sequence of deposits in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and related to Ordnance Datum. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 General comments

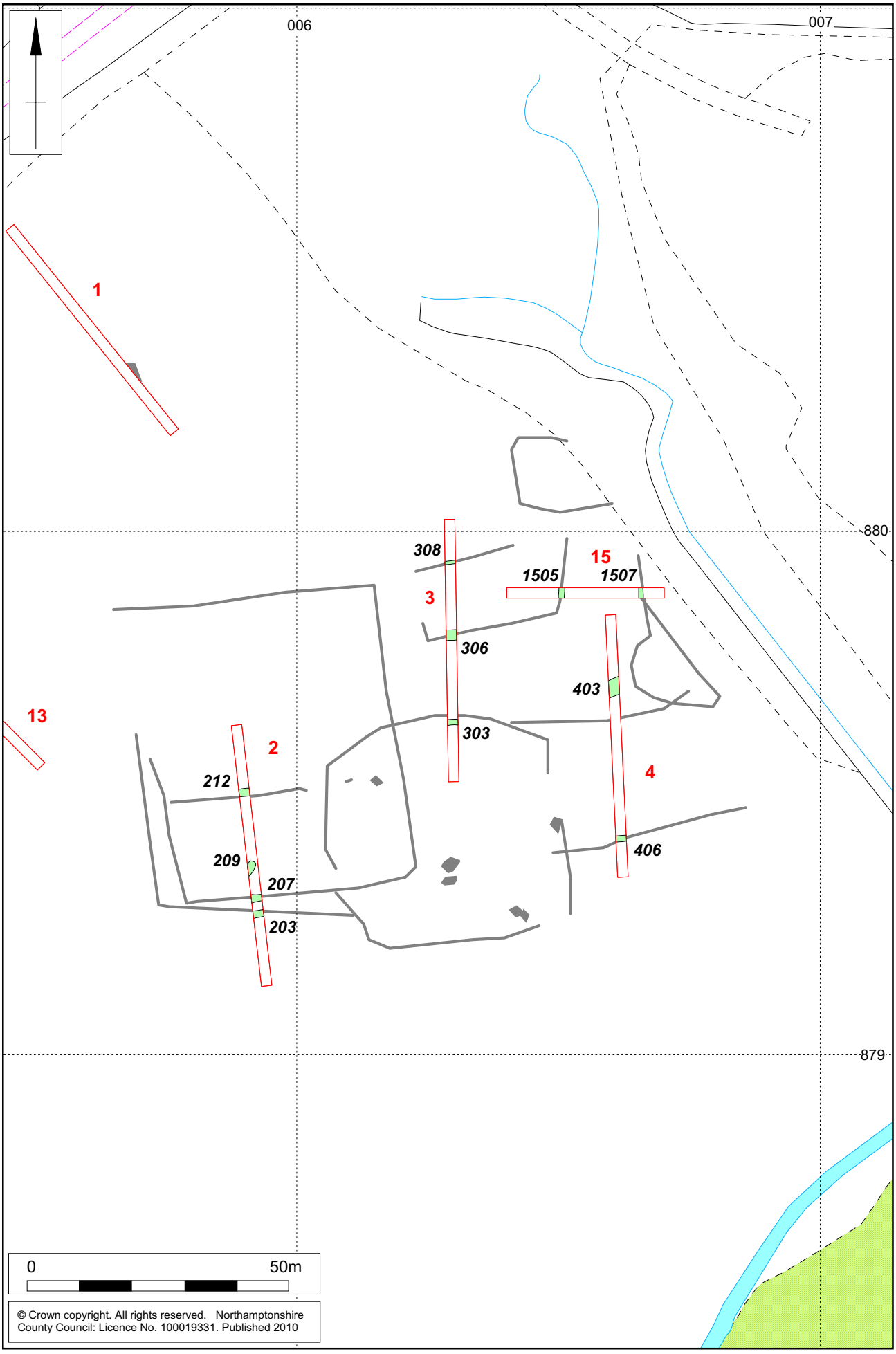
The trenches were typically aligned north-east to south-west or south-east to north-west, positioned to provide a full coverage of the development area, and to provide more detailed coverage where the geophysical survey had identified any possible archaeological features. Sixteen trenches were excavated (Fig 5).

Trenches 1 and 5 and 10-12 contained no archaeological features and a backfilled geotechnical test-pit was the only feature in Trench 13. In Trenches 7 to 9 there was evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation but no other archaeological features.

4.2 Romano-British settlement

The geophysical survey located the remains of Iron Age or Romano-British ditched enclosures and pits at the east of the development area on the Blisworth Limestone (Figs 4 and 5).

Trench 2 was placed to attempt to characterise a presumed ditched enclosure towards the western edge of the settlement (Fig 5). At the south of the trench ditch [203] was aligned east to west and was at least 0.30m wide and 0.66m deep, with an irregular, fairly steep south edge and flat base (Figs 6 and 7, Section 4 and Fig 8). The compact light brown sandy clay contained large quantities of small fragments of limestone, as well as larger pieces. The ditch was later re-cut by ditch [217], 1.49m wide and 0.71m deep. The ditches appeared to be the southern arm of a possible square or rectilinear enclosure, which was *c* 37m long. At the east the ditch appeared to terminate at or abut an oval enclosure, possibly indicating that they were contemporary. The western arm of the enclosure was *c* 33m long; no northern or eastern sides were visible on the survey (Fig 5).



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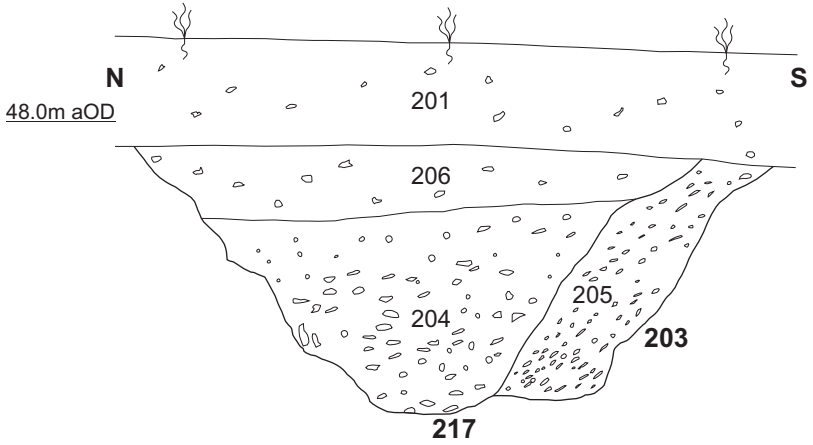
Romano-British settlement Fig 6

Scales 1:200 and 1:20 @ A4

Trench 2

0 10m

Section 4



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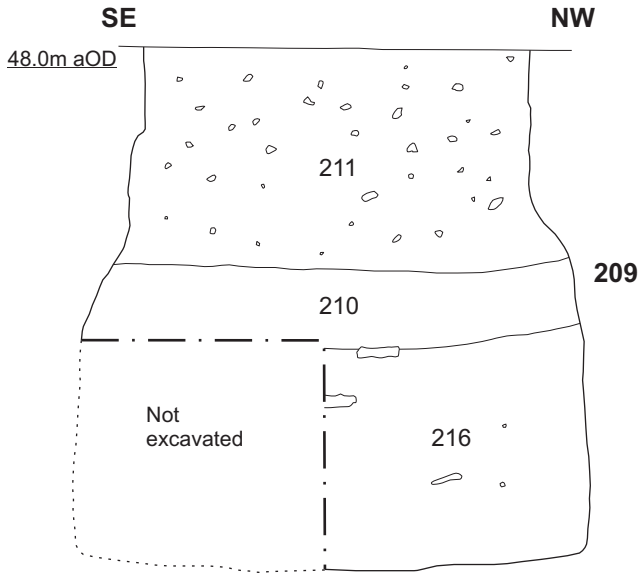

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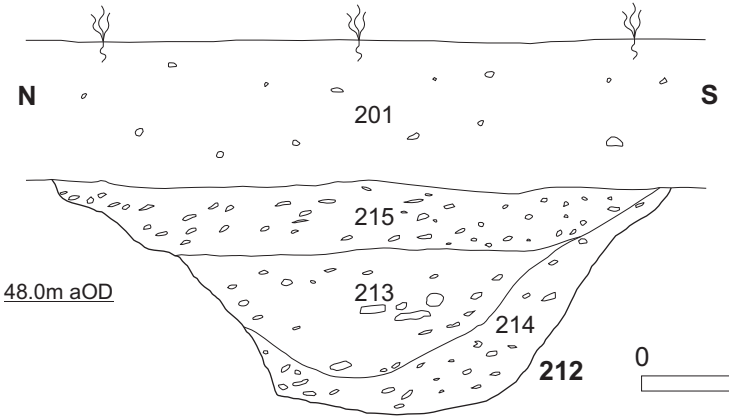

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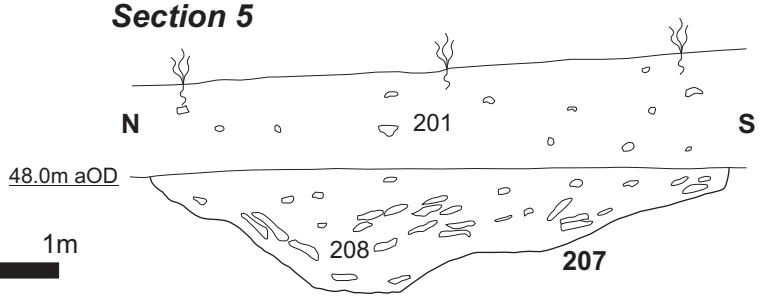
Section 5



Plan and sections of Trench 2 Fig 7

Ditches 203 and 217, looking east Fig 8

Slightly to the north was a further ditch aligned east to west, [207], which was 1.52m wide and 0.33m deep, with shallow, irregular sides and a concave base (Fig 7, Section 5). The fill (208) was compact grey-brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments. The ditch formed the southern arm of a large rectilinear enclosure which was *c* 55m long and 45m wide and appeared to overlap the oval enclosure to the south-east. There may have been a wide entrance, over 20m wide, at the north-western corner. Within the enclosure was a possible internal division, ditch [212] (Figs 6 and 7, Section 7). The ditch was aligned east to west, 1.63m wide and 0.62m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The primary fill of the ditch (214) was very firm mottled grey-brown clay silt with frequent small limestone fragments. Fill (213) was sterile compact grey-brown clay silt with occasional limestone and the upper fill (215) was compact grey-brown sandy clay with frequent limestone as well as pottery and bone.

Also situated inside the enclosure was a possible large pit. Although not originally marked on the geophysical interpretation, the feature does appear to correlate with a discrete positive anomaly on the survey results (Fig 4). Pit [209] was at least 2.50m long, 1.33m wide and 1.37m deep with a bell-shaped profile (the base of the pit being slightly wider than the top; Figs 6, 7, Section 6 and Fig 9). The primary fill (216) of the pit was very loose grey-brown silty clay with moderate limestone fragments. There were no finds. The secondary fill (210) was loose grey-brown gritty silty with occasional large pieces of limestone and similarly sterile. The upper fill (211) was compact dark brown sandy clay with frequent small pieces of limestone, not only containing a few sherds of pottery and bone, but also the fragmentary skeleton of a human infant.

Pit 209, looking south Fig 9

The oval enclosure was investigated by Trench 3; the northern enclosure ditch, [303], was located at the south of the trench (Figs 6 and 10, Section 12). It was aligned east to west and was 1.10m wide and 0.55m deep with a U-shaped profile. The primary fill of the ditch (305) was concentrated on the southern side of the ditch, perhaps suggesting that material from an internal bank had slumped. It was composed of firm dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate amounts of limestone. The upper fill (304) was firm light grey-brown silty clay with almost 60% limestone, some of which were large pieces concentrated in the upper northern parts of the fill.

Ditch [306] formed the southern arm of a small rectilinear enclosure, 25m long and 14m wide (Figs 6 and 10). The ditch was aligned east to west and was 0.90m wide and 0.28m long with asymmetrical edges and a flat base. The fill (307) was firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. The northern arm of the enclosure, [308], was also located in Trench 3. It was aligned east to west and was 0.60m wide and 0.26m deep with steep edges and a concave base (Fig 10, Section 13).

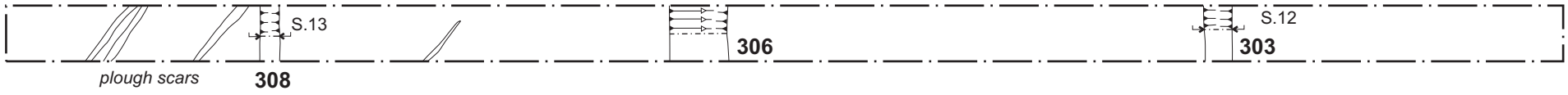
Ditch [1505], which was the eastern arm of the enclosure, lay in Trench 15 (Figs 6 and 12, Section 10). It was aligned north to south and was 1.08m wide and 0.35m deep, with a U-shaped profile and concave base. The fill (1506) was firm mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. There was a further ditch (1507) at the west end of the trench. Although it was present on the geophysical survey results it is not clear to what it relates. It was aligned north to south and was 0.70m wide and 0.32m deep with steep edges and a concave base (Fig 12, Section 11).

In Trench 4 there was a wide linear feature, [403], aligned north-east to south-west, which may have been a trackway (Figs 11 and 12, Section 11 and Fig 13). The hollow was 3.5m wide and up to 0.40m deep with shallow edges and a broad, concave base. The basal layer (405) was a firm mid yellow-brown stiff clay matrix within which were a large number of worn small to medium limestone pieces, probably used as metalling. The hollow above the trackway had later been filled with grey-brown clay silt, representing its abandonment. A faint positive anomaly on the geophysical survey results may correspond to the trackway; it may lead to the oval enclosure, although there does not appear to be a corresponding entrance and the angle is somewhat at variance to the enclosure (Fig 4).

A further ditch, [406], was aligned east to west and was 1.10m wide and 0.29m with deep shallow edges and a concave base (Fig 11, Section 8). The fill was mid grey-brown clay silt.

Scales 1:200 and 1:20 @ A4

Trench 3



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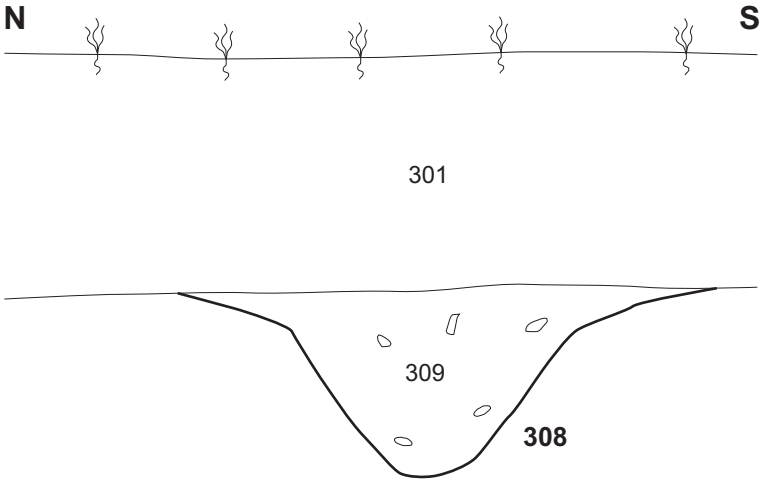
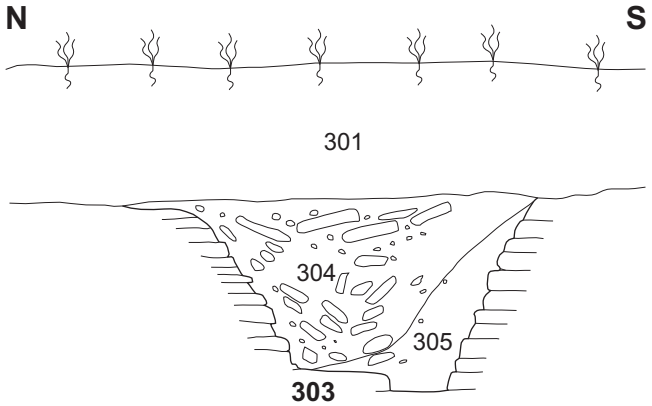
Section 13



Section 12



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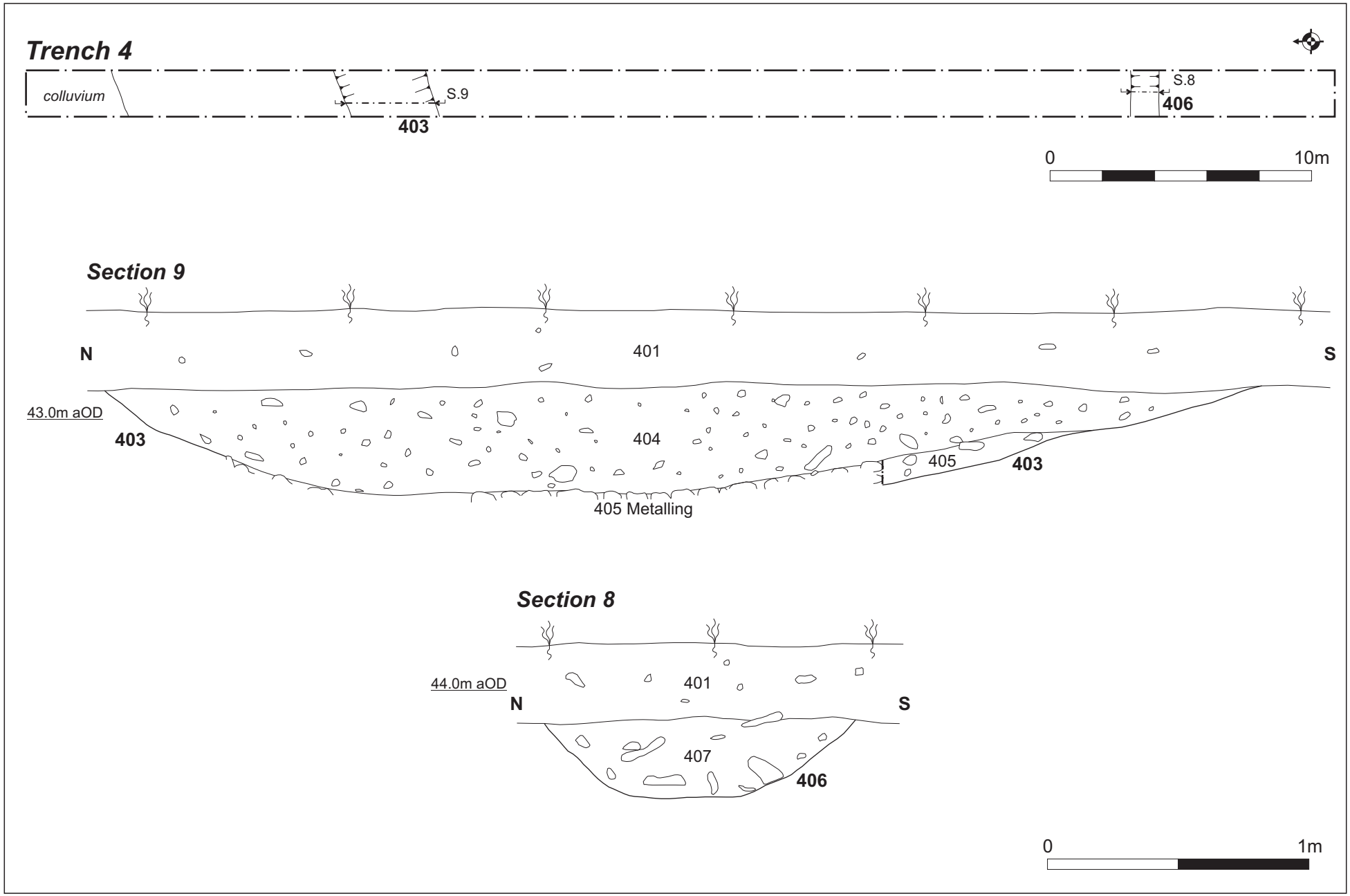
Plan and sections of Trench 3 Fig 10



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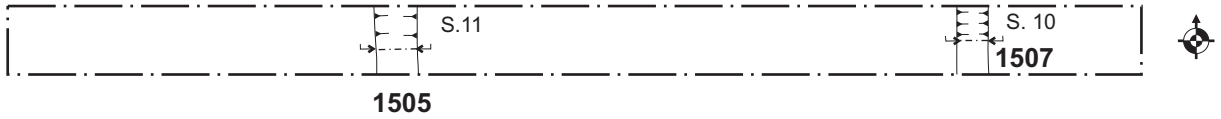
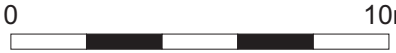
Plan and sections of Trench 4 Fig 11

Scales 1:200 and 1:20 @ A4

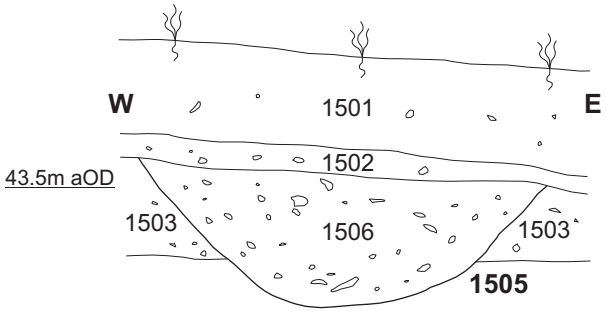
Plan and sections of Trench 15 Fig 12

Trench 15

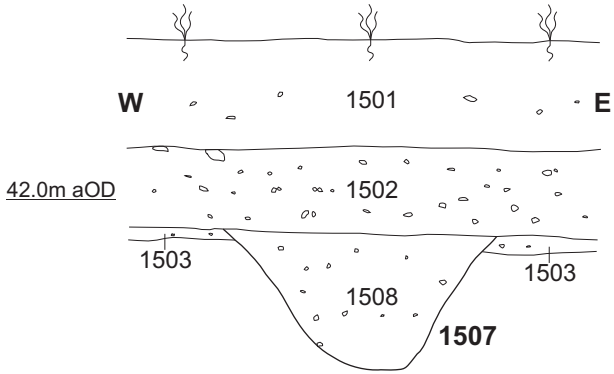




Section 10



Section 11



The trackway, 403, looking east Fig 13

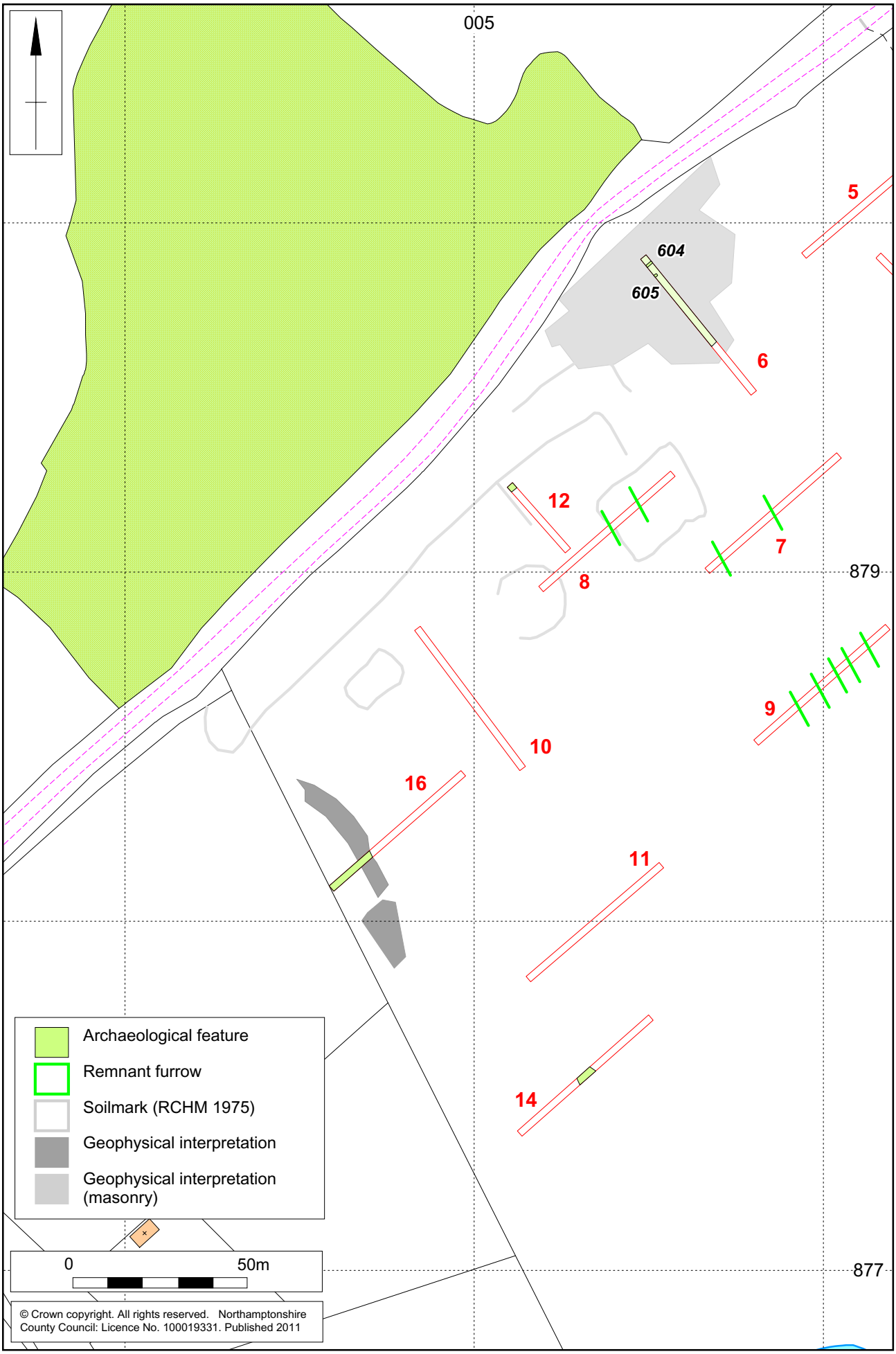
4.3 Medieval settlement

Trench 6 was located in an area of noisy magnetic data thought to be a scatter of masonry from buildings associated with Churchfield deserted medieval village. At the north end of the trench were two walls, both aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 15 and 16). The northern wall, [604], extended the width of the trench and was up to 0.65m wide. It was composed of large pieces of limestone up to 0.40m long by 0.40m wide and 0.08m thick packed with smaller limestone fragments. It was bonded with dark red-brown slightly silty clay. Abutting the southern edge of the wall was a possible internal surface, [606], which comprised large limestone slabs laid almost flat and which extended up to a metre south of wall [604].

A further wall, [605], lay 3.0m to the south of wall [604]. It terminated in the centre of the trench, possibly indicating an entrance (Figs 14 and 16). It was 0.60m wide and composed of large, roughly faced limestone blocks up to 0.30m long by 0.25m wide and 0.05m thick packed with smaller limestone fragments. Only a single full course survived.

Surrounding the wall was a general spread or layer of limestone fragments, [603], which may have resulted from the demolition of the building. Pottery from it dated to the 13th century. The spread extended 3.0m south of wall [605]. Beyond that there was a further spread of firm dark red-brown silty clay with charcoal and large amounts of pottery also dating to the 13th century. This layer extended 21m further south which correlates well with the area of noise recorded in the geophysical survey.

South wall [605] of building in Trench 6, looking north-west Fig 14



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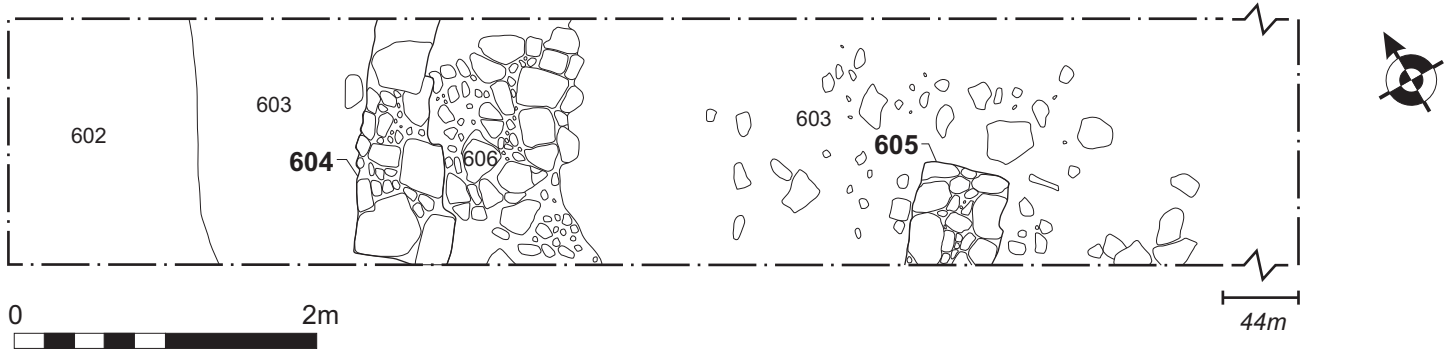
Scale 1:1,500

The medieval settlement Fig 15

Scale 1:50



Wall 604

Wall 605

Trench 6, the medieval building Fig 16

Trenches 7-9
Remnant furrows of the medieval open-field system were identified in three trenches (Fig 15). They were all aligned north-west to south-east (as identified in the geophysical survey). They are likely to date to the period prior to the enclosure of Churchfield's fields at some date before 1565. Pottery dating to the mid 12th to 13th centuries was found in furrows in Trenches 8 and 9.

Trench 12
A layer of dark grey-brown silty clay at the north end of the trench may be a natural outcrop or possibly the remains of a house-platform or other structural activity (Fig 15). There was no pottery within the fill, but a large quantity of medieval pottery was found in the topsoil of this trench perhaps indicating nearby activity. This may be associated with the spread of material in Trench 6.

Trenches 14 and 16
Evidence of quarrying was found in both trenches (Fig 15). In Trench 14, the quarry cut [1403] was *c* 4m wide and 0.50m deep, aligned north-west to south-east with a shallow, dish-like profile. The primary fill (1405) was firm mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent limestone and contained two sherds of 13th-century pottery; the upper fill (1404) was very similar with much less limestone and contained a copper mount dating to the 14th /15th century. The quarry pit coincides with a positive anomaly seen on the geophysical survey results.

The quarry pit, [1605], in Trench 16 was at least 0.50m deep but no clear edges could be defined. The geophysical survey results suggest that the pit was *c* 4.5m wide and extended up to 41m north to south. Excavation indicated that it was at least 15m wide. The primary fill (1607) was compact light orange-brown silty clay with 50% limestone, the upper fill was similar, but with much less limestone. Pottery from both fills dated to the 13th century.

5 FINDS

5.1 The Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

In total 51 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 0.517kg were recovered from 14 stratified deposits in five trenches (2-4, 14, 15; Tables 1 and 2)). The assemblage dates from the late 1st to 2nd centuries and comprises entirely coarsewares. The overall condition of the pottery is relatively poor, the sherds are small and this is reflected in a mean sherd weight of 10g, there are few diagnostic features and therefore the fabric type has been used as an indicator of date. Regional finewares or imported wares are not represented within the assemblage. Where possible the fabrics have been coded according to the National Roman fabric reference codes (Tomber and Dore 1998).

The assemblage is dominated by locally produced coarsewares in shell-gritted (61% by weight) and grog-tempered (23%) wares. The presence of a small number of lid-seated jars in grog-tempered and shell-gritted fabrics (cf Brown 1994, fig 27, 100) provide a date range of late 1st to mid/late 2nd centuries. The shell-gritted wares (HAR SH) originate from the kilns excavated at Harrold (Brown 1994). Other forms represented include a large grog-tempered bowl with a groove on the rim and crudely executed horizontal grooves on the exterior surface (cf Foster *et al* 1977, fig 18, 57) which dates to the *c* late 1st century. With the exception of a necked jar in greyware, no other forms are represented.

In summary, this small group of pottery comprises entirely locally manufactured coarsewares dating from the late 1st to the mid/late 2nd centuries.

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery, Trenches 2 and 3

Fabric type	Trench/context number													
	204		206		208		211		215		304		305	
	No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)	
Roman pottery														
Grog-tempered ware	-	-	1	6	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greyware	1	8	1	36	2	3	-	-	2	10	-	-	-	-
Shell-gritted	4	179	1	3	1	5	6	28	1	12	1	9	1	28
Misc sandy wares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxidised sandy ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	-
Whiteware	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**5**	**187**	**3**	**45**	**4**	**10**	**7**	**33**	**4**	**31**	**1**	**9**	**1**	**28**

Table 2: Quantification of Roman pottery, Trenches 3, 4 and 15

Fabric type	Trench/context number													
	307		404		405		1404		1501		1506		1508	
	No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)		No/Wt (g)	
Roman pottery														
Grog-tempered ware	1	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	49	-	-
Greyware	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Shell-gritted	-	-	3	26	2	11	3	10	1	7	-	-	-	-
Misc sandy wares	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
Oxidised sandy ware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whiteware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**2**	**64**	**4**	**29**	**1**	**2**	**11**	**10**	**1**	**7**	**6**	**54**	**1**	**8**

5.2 **The medieval pottery** by Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 328 sherds with a total weight of 3,767g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.39. It was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F205: **Stamford ware**, AD850-1250. 2 sherds, 7g, EVE= 0.03
F319: **Lyveden/Stanion 'A' ware**, AD1150-1400. 265 sherds, 2768g, EVE= 0.94
F320: **Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware**, AD1225-1400. 48 sherds, 869g, EVE=0.29
F330: **Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400**. 5 sherds, 60g, EVE=0.09
F331: **Developed Stamford ware**, late 12th-early 13th century. 1 sherd, 3g, EVE=0.04
F360: **Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares**, AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 5g, EVE=0
F404: **Cistercian Ware, late 15th–17th century**. 1 sherd, 12g, EVE = 0
F426: **Iron-Glazed Coarsewares**, *c* late 17th-18th century. 1 sherd, 36g
F1000: **Misc. 19th and 20th century wares**. 3 sherds, 7g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in north-east Northamptonshire in that it is dominated by the products of the Lyveden and Stanion manufactories (Steane and Bryant 1975; Blinkhorn 2008), along with smaller quantities of Stamford Wares and Shelly Coarsewares.

Chronology

Much of the assemblage was found within the topsoil across the development area, but the range of ware types indicates that the main period of activity at the site is from the mid-12th-13th/14th centuries. However, medieval sites in northern Northamptonshire which date the second half of the 12th century usually produce large assemblages of Stamford Ware as well as Lyveden/Stanion Wares (eg Blinkhorn 2001, table 1), so the paucity of the former at this site makes it likely that there was little significant medieval activity at the site before the 13th century date at the earliest. Just one context, (501), produced pottery which can be said to date to the 14th century, as it produced a sherd from the shoulder of a Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware jar, a vessel type which was introduced around that time, and continued in use into the 15th century.

It seems unlikely that there was any significant 15th or 16th-century activity at the site. The only sherd which can be confidently dated to that time is a sherd of Cistercian Ware from a topsoil context, (901), and thus could be from later manuring rather than occupation. Other common late medieval wares are absent, such as Late Medieval Reduced Ware (CTS fabric F365) and, particularly, Late Medieval Oxidized Ware (fabric F401). The latter was manufactured at Glapthorn, just *c* 2km from this site (Johnston 1997). Lyveden Stanion 'D' Ware, which is of a similar date and also usually fairly well-represented at late medieval sites in this area of the county is also absent, so it seems very likely that activity at the site was relatively short-lived, perhaps from the late 12th/early 13th – the early/mid 14th centuries.

The assemblage

The range of fabric and vessel types is typical of contemporary sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2001). As noted above, it is dominated by products of the Lyveden and Stanion kilns, with the range of vessel forms comprising entirely jars (EVE = 0.90), bowls (EVE = 0.12) and jugs (EVE = 0.37), a consumption pattern which is also very typical of sites of the period in the region. Most of the jars and bowls were in the unglazed 'A' Ware (fabric F319), and the jugs were mostly glazed examples of the 'B' Ware (fabric F320). Most of the 'B' Ware jugs had a green glaze and vertical white slip stripes, with a few with pellets of white slip with stamp impressions. These decorative schemes are all common. A few fragments of unglazed jugs in 'A' Ware were also noted, which is somewhat unusual, as such vessels are very rare in this fabric.

The mean sherd weight for the assemblage (11.5g) appears low for a medieval assemblage in the region, and while this may be due to the amount of unstratified pottery present, the stratified pottery is not in much better condition, with a mean sherd weight of 12.2g, suggesting that most of it is the product of secondary deposition.

Table 3: Medieval pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	F205		F330		F331		F319		F320		
Cntxt	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Date**
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	49	-	-	U/S
501	1	5					4	26	2	40	U/S
601	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	195	1	11	U/S
603	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	548	12	343	13thC
607	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	255	3	45	13thC
701	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	51	3	41	U/S
801	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	199	-	-	U/S
804	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	361	5	52	13thC
901	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	113	1	5	U/S
903	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	22	-	-	M12thC
1001	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	33	1	3	U/S
1101	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	47	7	77	U/S
1201	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	519	5	71	U/S
1301	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	93	1	14	U/S
1401	-	-	5	60	-	-	7	59	-	-	U/S
1405	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	1	4	13thC
1601	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	62	3	81	U/S
1602	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	14	1	16	13thC
1606	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	38	13thC
1607	1	2	-	-	-	-	8	116	1	28	13thC
Total	**2**	**7**	**5**	**60**	**1**	**3**	**265**	**2768**	**48**	**869**	

	F360		F404		F426		F1000		
Cntxt	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Date**
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
601	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	U/S
603	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
701	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
801	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
901	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	U/S
903	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M12thC
1001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
1101	-	-	-	-	1	36	-	-	U/S
1201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
1301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
1401	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
1405	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
1601	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U/S
1602	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
1606	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
1607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13thC
Total	**2**	**5**	**1**	**12**	**1**	**36**	**3**	**7**	

5.3 **The other finds** by Tora Hylton

There are five other finds; four were recovered from a series of medieval features in Trenches 4, 6, 8 and 14 and one was recovered from the topsoil. The assemblage dates to the 14th and 15th centuries and includes items relating to dress and domestic use.

A lead alloy badge was recovered from furrow [805]. Although incomplete and measuring *c* 19 x 18mm, enough survives to suggest that it is probably part of a cast secular or pilgrim's badge. There are two joining pieces and together they represent a

human face with eyes, nose and a furrowed brow in relief; striations radiating from the lower part of the face presumably represent a beard. Although a suitable parallel has not been located, in general badges of this type date from the *c* 13th-15th centuries.

A small copper alloy mount was recovered from quarry pit 1403 (1404). The mount has a rectangular frame and an integral external rivet (cf Egan 1991, fig 147, 1239) and it would have been used to secure loose straps. The internal measurement of the mount indicates that the strap would have measured *c* 7mm wide. Such mounts date to the 14th/15th centuries.

A whetstone for sharpening the blades of knives and tools was located in the remains of the medieval building (604). It is sub-rectangular and all the surfaces display signs of wear. The upper surface is furnished with two deep parallel V-shaped knife/blade sharpening grooves.

The other finds recovered include a possible nail shank from metalled trackway 403 and a copper alloy rim fragment from a flatware vessel (cf Egan 1998, fig 149, 514), which was recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trench 5.

6 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

6.1 The human remains by Andy Chapman

Fragmentary remains of a human infant was recovered from the upper fill (211) of a large pit, [209], containing Roman pottery.

The remains comprise fragments of the skull (eye orbits and cranium), the distal end of a femur, a complete tibia and a fibula, two partial ulna and a radius. The tibia is 68mm long, a length which is consistent with a neonatal death, occurring at or shortly after birth (Schaefer *et al* 2009). Perinatal and neonatal burials discarded in an apparently casual manner are not uncommon in Roman contexts.

6.2 The animal bone by Laszlo Lichtenstein

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's vertebrate reference collection, and further guidelines from Schmid (1972), Driesch (1979), Sisson & Grossman (1953) and Feher (1990). Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat the criteria set out by Boessneck (1964) were used to separate the two species. Ageing data and tooth eruption and wear were categorised according to Hillson (2005) with the identification of juveniles after Amorosi (1989).

The following were recorded for each bone: species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, fusion, cut- or animal teeth marks (where applicable).

Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (large ungulate size: cattle or horse sized, small ungulate size: sheep or goat). All fragments were recorded.

A total of 49 (544g) animal bone elements and fragments were analysed. The material was recovered from fill (206) of ditch [203] and fill (215) of ditch [212], fill (211) of Roman pit [209]; a medieval spread [607]; and the fill (1606) of quarry [1605] (Table 4).

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

Species/taxa	Count (Roman)	Percentage (Roman)	Count (medieval)	Percentage (medieval)
Bos Cow	9	40.9%	20	74.1%
Ovis Sheep	1	4.6%	2	7.4%
Gallus Fowl	-	-	1	3.7%
Large ungulate	12	54.5%	2	7.4%
Unidentified	-	-	2	7.4%
Total	**22**		**27**	**-**
Human tooth	1			

Roman period

A total of 22 (213g) hand-collected animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from the Roman period. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures 10 specimens (45.5% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least two mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Ovis*/sheep) species. The majority of bones came from cattle (40.9%). There was no evidence of horse, pig (*sus*), avian, fish, amphibian or small mammalian bones.

The bones were generally in good condition, but the fragmentation was high (Table 5), with the majority (72.7%) being less than 50mm in size. Only low level of surface abrasion was observed. No complete long bones were recorded, because the

proximal and the distal end were damaged. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded, including recently broken bones. More than 50% showed signs of fresh breaks.

Pathological condition was noted on a cattle metapodium (phalanx prima) from context (211), pit [209].

There was no evidence for burning, canid gnawing, butchery or bone working.

Table 5: Size of the animal bone assemblage (with the teeth) in the Roman period

Size (mm)	Count	Percentage
<20	2	9.1%
20-50	14	63.6%
50-100	6	27.3%

Ageing
Little ageing data was available because of the sheep teeth and cattle bone fusion. Epiphysical fusion was recorded for cattle bones (radius); these animals (at least two) were mature at death. The sheep tooth was part of a juvenile animal.

Table 6: Minimum number of individuals identified in the Roman animal bone assemblage

Common name	*MNI*
Cattle	2
Sheep	1

Discussion
Unfortunately, little can be said of the animal economy of the site with such a small assemblage. The fragmentation was very high and many bones were smashed recently. 45.5% of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by cattle, followed by lower numbers of sheep. The species present are typical of those seen from Roman contexts. The dominance of cattle and sheep is not unusual of this period (Table 6). Its presence is likely to be the result of domestic waste disposal. There was evidence of possible pathology on one bone.

Medieval period

The material was recovered from spread [607] and fill (1606) of quarry [1605]. A total of 27 (331g) hand-collected animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from these contexts. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures three specimens (85% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least two mammalian (*Bos*/cattle; *Ovis*/sheep) and one avian (*Gallus*/domestic fowl) species. No horse, *sus*, small mammalian, fish or amphibian bones were recovered.

The bones were generally in good condition. The fragmentation was high (Table 7), with the majority (74%) being less than 50mm in size. No complete long bones recorded, because the proximal and the distal end were damaged. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded including recently broken bones. More than 50 % showed signs of fresh breaks.

There was no evidence for burning, canid gnawing, butchery or bone working was observed.

Table 7: Size of the animal bone assemblage (with the teeth)

Size (mm)	Count	Percentage
<20	5	18.5%
20-50	15	55.5%
50-100	5	18.5%
100-150	2	7.5%

Ageing

Little ageing data was available. A slightly worn down sheep tooth indicate a juvenile induvidual. A sheep tibia from spread (607) was unfused at the distal end which is indicate a juvenile induvidual. The domestic fowl ulna also indicates a juvenile individual.

Table 8: Minimum number of individuals identified in the medieval animal bone assemblage

Common name	MNI
Cattle	1
Sheep	1
Large ungulate size	1
Domestic fowl	1

Discussion

Unfortunately, little can be said of the animal economy of the site with such a small assemblage. The fragmentation was very high and many bones were smashed recently. 85 % of the assemblage could be identified to species. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (Table 8). The sheep tooth and an unfused tibia belong to a young animal. The chicken bones present are typical from medieval contexts; its presence is likely to be the result of domestic waste disposal. The dominance of cattle and sheep is not unusual for this period.

6.3 Charred plant remains

One bulk soil sample of 40 litres was taken from the primary fill (216) of pit [209] in order to identify macroscopic plant remains. All samples were taken following English Heritage guidance (EH 2002) and were fully processed.

The samples were processed by Northamptonshire Archaeology staff using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250 micron mesh and flot sieve. The assemblage contained nothing other than charcoal; no charred seeds were present. Modern fibrous roots, and arthropod remains were present.

7 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching has largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and further refined understanding of the Romano-British and medieval activity on the site.

The Romano-British activity is represented by a number of overlapping enclosures probably dating to the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries. It seems to be a fairly discrete area of activity and does not seem to extend any further north or west than the areas defined in the geophysical survey. Other than enclosure/boundary ditches the only other feature was a pit which contained the fragmentary remains of an infant human. The pottery assemblage from the site is entirely composed of local coarsewares and is, furthermore, somewhat small. It is therefore likely that the site was a small low status rural farmstead or possibly just stock enclosures with the main settlement area located somewhere in the vicinity.

The medieval activity was confined to the northern part of the site adjacent to Harley Way and lying on the clay geology rather than the Blisworth Limestone on which the earlier activity lay. There was a single building aligned north-east to south-west, parallel to Harley Way. There may be further settlement activity along the northern boundary of the site related to Churchfield.

The palaeo-environmental potential for the site has been shown to be low; many of the fills were sterile and the single sample that was taken proved to have no charred seeds within it. The bone assemblage, while small, has shown that there is some potential for further analysis should further mitigation work be undertaken.

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Appendix 1: Context list

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**50.80m aOD**	**0.26m, 50.54m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
101	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	0.2-0.24m thick	Medieval pottery
102	Natural	Very stiff mottled yellow-green clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.06m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**48.30m aOD**	**0.45m, 47.85m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
201	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	0.3-0.34m thick	
202	Natural	Blisworth limestone comprising fragmentary limestone with patches of stiff yellow clay	>0.18m thick	
203	Ditch (filled by 204-206)	E-W linear ditch, with irregular asymmetrical profile with heavily eroded southern face with concave to flat base. Forms southern side of rectangular enclosure.	1.66m wide by 0.70m deep	
204	Fill (secondary) of ditch [203]	Compacted mid grey brown sandy gritty clay containing abundant small limestone fragments.	0.96m wide by 0.44m thick	Roman pottery

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
2	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**48.30m aOD**	**0.45m, 47.85m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
205	Fill (primary) of ditch [203]	Compacted light brown sandy gritty clay containing abundant small limestone fragments deriving from natural erosion of southern face.	0.31m wide by 0.6m thick	
206	Fill (upper) of ditch [203]	Compacted mid brown (with a slight red tinge) sandy gritty clay containing abundant small limestone fragments.	1.49m wide by 0.19m thick	Roman pottery
207	Ditch (filled by 208)	Slightly sinuous E-W linear ditch, with irregular asymmetrical profile with heavily eroded northern face with concave to flat base. Forms possible internal ditch to the north of enclosure ditch [204].	1.52m wide by 0.33m deep	
208	Fill of ditch 207	Compacted grey-brown sandy gritty clay containing abundant small limestone fragments.	1.52m wide by 0.33m thick	Roman pottery
209	Pit/well (filled by 210, 211 and 216)	Possible oval-shaped pit/well (only eastern terminal investigated the rest of feature continuing outside limit of excavation. Bell-shaped with near vertical sides with concave to flat base.	1.06m (top) to 1.33m wide by 1.67m deep	
210	Fill (secondary) of pit/well [209]	Loosely compacted sterile grey-brown gritty silt containing occasional large limestone fragments. May represent a consolidation layer.	1.33m wide by 0.20m thick	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
2	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**48.30m aOD**	**0.45m, 47.85m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
211	Fill (upper) of pit/well [209]	Compacted dark brown sandy clay containing 20-30% small limestone fragments and the heavily truncated remains of an infant burial.	1.21m wide by 0.60m thick	Roman pottery Bone Burial No 1
212	Ditch (filled by 213-215)	E-W linear ditch, with irregular asymmetrical profile with eroded northern face with concave to flat base. Possibly forms internal partition to rectangular enclosure.	1.63m wide by 0.62m deep	
213	Fill (secondary) of ditch [212]	Compacted sterile grey brown clay silt containing <15% small to medium limestone fragments.	1.02m wide by 0.42m thick	
214	Fill (primary) of ditch [212]	Very firm mottled grey brown clay silt containing abundant small limestone fragments deriving from natural erosion of southern face.	0.36m wide by 0.62 thick	
215	Fill (upper) of ditch [212]	Compacted grey brown sandy gritty clay containing circa 50% small limestone fragments.	1.49m wide by 0.19m thick	Roman pottery Bone
216	Fill (primary) of pit/well [209]	Very loosely compacted grey brown silty clay containing < 15% small angular to sub-rectangular limestone fragments.	0.31m wide by 0.6m thick	Sample No 1

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
3	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**46.50m aOD**	**0.36m, 46.14m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with abundant limestone fragments	0.24-0.26m thick	Pottery
302	Natural	Mixed orange-brown/mid grey/brown sandy clay interspersed with Blisworth limestone, some observed as horizontal bedding	>0.12m thick	
303	Ditch (filled by 304 and 305)	E-W linear ditch, with sharp break of slope, steep sides with irregular stepped base. Forms the northern side of a oval-sub circular enclosure.	1.10m wide by 0.55m deep	
304	Fill (upper disuse) of ditch [303]	Compacted sterile light grey-brown clay silt containing up to 60% small to medium limestone fragments.	0.70m wide by 0.55m thick	Roman pottery
305	Fill (primary) of ditch [303]	Dark grey brown silty clay with small limestone fragments deriving from natural erosion of southern face.	0.35m wide by 0.55 thick	Roman pottery
306	Ditch (filled by 307)	E-W linear ditch, with sharp break of slope, steep sides with a U-V shaped profile and flat base. Forms southern side of a small irregular/rectangular enclosure located to the north of the principal enclosure.	0.90m wide by 0.28m deep	
307	Fill of ditch [303]	Compacted sterile mid grey-brown clay silt containing abundant small to medium limestone fragments.	0.90m wide by 0.28m deep	Roman pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**46.50m aOD**	**0.36m, 46.14m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
308	Gully/ditch (filled by 309)	E-W linear ditch, with shallow break of slope, gradual to steep sides with a U-V shaped profile and concave base base. Possibly forms the northern side of a small irregular/rectangular enclosure defined by ditch [306].	0.60m wide by 0.26m deep	
309	Fill of gully/ditch [303]	Compacted sterile mid red grey- brown clay silt containing up to 40% small to medium limestone fragments.	0.60m wide by 0.26m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**43.80m aOD**	**0.35m, 43.45m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
401	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with abundant limestone fragments	0.33-0.37m thick	
402	Natural	Mixed orange-brown/mid grey-brown sandy clay interspersed with Blisworth limestone, some observed as horizontal bedding	>0.02m thick	
403	Metalled track	NE-SW aligned tracksway, broad shallow to gradual sides and concave-flat base	3.5m wide by >0.40m deep	
404	Upper fill of track [403]	Compacted mid grey-brown clay silt containing *c*30-40% limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks	3.5m wide by >0.32m thick	Roman pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	**50m x 1.8m N-S**		**43.80m aOD**	**0.35m, 43.45m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
405	Primary fill of track [403]	Very firm/stiff mid brown to yellow-brown clay containing rammed layer of worn small to medium limestone fragments measuring 0.03-0.15m long by 0.02-0.09m wide	3.1m wide by >0.08m thick	Roman pottery SF 3 (fe nail)
406	Ditch	ENE-WSW linear ditch, with gradual sides and a concave base	1.10m wide by 0.29m deep	
407	Fill of ditch [406]	Compacted sterile mid grey-brown clay silt containing up to 40% small to medium limestone fragments.	1.10m wide by 0.29m thick	
408	Natural	Very stiff blue clay noted at base of trackway, but underlying natural horizon (402)		
409	Colluvium	Mid brown sandy clay with abundant, 60-80% small limestone inclusions	>0.05 thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**51.60m aOD**	**0.30m, 51.30m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
501	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with circa 10% limestone fragments	0.24.0.28m thick	Medieval pottery SF 4 (cu object)
502	Natural	Very stiff mottled yellow-green clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.06m thick	

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
6	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**52.40m aOD**	**0.36m, 52.04m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
601	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone fragments and occasional sub-circular/angular pebbles	0.24-0.30m thick	Medieval pottery
602	Natural	Very mixed stiff mottled yellow-green to dark brown silt clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.12m thick	
603	Spread/layer	Substantial spread of limestone noted at NW end of trench within building.		Medieval pottery (13th Century) SF2 Whetstone
604	Wall (North)	Linear generally E-W aligned comprising large slabs of limestone measuring up to 0.40m x 0.40m x 0.08m, with outer edges roughly faced bonded with a dark reddish-brown clay		
605	Wall (South)	Linear generally E-W aligned comprising large slabs of limestone measuring up to 0.30m x 0.25m x 0.05m, with outer edges roughly faced bonded with a dark reddish-brown clay		
606	Possible floor surface	Large generally horizontally laid limestone blocks/slabs measuring 0.25m x 0.30m		
607	Spread/layer	Compacted dark red-brown silty clay with some charcoal flecking. Probably working surface or trample to south of E-W aligned building	0.03m	Medieval pottery (13th century)

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**50.60m aOD**	**0.36m, 50.24m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
701	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	0.28.029m thick	Medieval pottery
702	Natural	Very stiff mottled yellow-green clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.06m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**51.60m aOD**	**0.36m, 51.24m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
801	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with *c* 10% limestone fragments	0.24-0.27m thick	Medieval pottery
802	Natural	Very stiff mottled orange/yellow/green clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.11m thick	
803	Furrow	NW-SE linear furrow, with gradual sides and a concave base	1.20m wide by 0.18m deep	
804	Fill of furrow [803]	Compacted sterile dark grey-brown clay containing occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks.	1.20m wide by 0.18m thick	Medieval pottery (13th century)
805	Furrow	NW-SE linear furrow, with gradual sides and a concave base	1.20m wide by 0.15m deep	
806	Fill of furrow [805]	Compacted sterile dark grey-brown clay containing occasional limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks.	1.20m wide by 0.15m thick	SF 1 (lead pilgrims badge fragment)

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	**50 x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.30m aOD**	**0.34m, 48.96m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
901	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with *c* 10% limestone fragments	0.32.0.34m thick	Medieval pottery
902	Natural	Blisworth limestone comprising frequent limestone fragments (some horizontal bedding slabs within a stiff yellow-orange clay matrix	>0.01m thick	
903	Fill of furrow [904]	Compacted sterile light yellow-brown silty clay containing frequent limestone fragments and rare charcoal flecks.	0.90m wide by 0.06-0.11m thick	Medieval pottery (mid-12th century)
904	Furrow	NW-SE linear furrow, with gradual sides and a concave base, with deeper plough scar on western face	0.90m wide by 0.06-0.11m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**50.50m aOD**	**0.32m, 50.18m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1001	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone fragments and occasional sub-circular/angular pebbles	0.30-0.32m thick	Medieval pottery
1002	Natural	Very mixed stiff mottled orange/green silt clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.		
1003	Natural	Very mixed red-brown silt clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**50.50m aOD**	**0.32m, 50.18m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1004	Natural	Very mixed orange-brown sandy clay with abundant small limestone fragments with evidence for deep plough scarring.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.40m aOD**	**0.28m, 49.12m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1101	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with *c* 10% limestone fragments	0.27.0.29m thick	Medieval pottery
1102	Natural	Blisworth limestone comprising frequent limestone fragments (some horizontal bedding slabs within a stiff yellow-orange clay matrix	>0.02m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	**25m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**52.00m aOD**	**0.26m, 51.74m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1201	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone fragments and occasional sub-circular/angular pebbles	0.24-0.33m thick	Medieval pottery
1202	Natural	Very mixed stiff mottled grey/green silt clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.11m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	**25m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**52.00m aOD**	**0.26m, 51.74m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1203	Spread/Layer	Dark grey-brown silt clay containing abundant limestone fragments noted at NW end of trench. Possibly represents natural outcrop or defines part of a possible house-platform or other structural activity .		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	**50m x 1.8m NW-SE**		**50.50m aOD**	**0.27m, 50.23m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with limestone fragments and occasional sub-circular/angular pebbles	0.27-0.28m thick	Medieval pottery
1302	Natural	Very mixed stiff mottled grey/green silt clay with limestone fragments and evidence for deep plough scarring.	>0.08m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.1m aOD**	**0.29m, 48.81m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1401	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with circa 10% limestone fragments	0.28.0.30m thick	Medieval pottery
1402	Natural	Blisworth limestone comprising frequent limestone fragments (some horizontal bedding slabs within a stiff yellow/orange clay matrix	>0.08m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.1m aOD**	**0.29m, 48.81m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1403	Quarry (filled by 1404 and 1405)	Irregular NW-SE bell-shaped quarry with gradual to irregular sides and a concave to flat base.	Circa 4m wide by 0.50m deep	
1404	Fill (Upper disuse) of Quarry [1403]	Friable sterile mid grey-brown silt clay containing up to 10% small to medium limestone fragments.	4m wide by 0.24m thick	Roman pottery and medieval pottery (13th century) SF5 cu object
1405	Fill (primary) of quarry [1403]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent small limestone fragments deriving from natural erosion of southern face.	0.35m wide by 0.55 thick	Pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	**30m x 1.8m E-W**		**43.70m aOD**	**0.50m, 43.20m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1501	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with abundant small imestone fragments	0.28.0.31m thick	Roman pottery
1502	Colluvium	Mid brown sandy clay with abundant, 60-80% small limestone inclusions	0.06-0.24 thick	
1503	Colluvium	Mid red-brown sandy clay with abundant, 60-80% small limestone inclusions	>0.07 thick	
1504	Natural	Fragmentary Blisworth limestone within a stiff yellow-orange clay matrix		
1505	Ditch	N-S linear ditch, with U-V shaped profile, gradual to steep sides and a concave base	1.08m wide by 0.35m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	**30m x 1.8m E-W**		**43.70m aOD**	**0.50m, 43.20m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1506	Fill of ditch [1505]	Firmly compacted sterile mid grey-brown clay silt containing frequent small to medium limestone fragments.	1.08m wide by 0.35m thick	Roman pottery
1507	Ditch	N-S linear ditch, with gradual sides and a concave base	0.70m wide by 0.32m deep	
1508	Fill of ditch [1507]	Loosely compacted mid orange-brown clay silt containing occasional small limestone fragments.	0.70m wide by 0.32m thick	Roman pottery

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.50m aOD**	**0.45m, 49.05m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1601	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with *c* 10% limestone fragments	0.30-0.45m thick	Medieval pottery
1602	Subsoil (sealing quarry [1605]	Mottled light grey sandy clay with occasional small limestone inclusions	0.08-0.35 thick	Medieval pottery (13th century)
1603	Fill (upper disuse) of Quarry [1605] Same as (1606)	Mottled mid grey-brown (with orange patches) silt clay containing up to 10% small to medium limestone fragments.	0.40m thick	
1604	Natural	Blisworth limestone comprising frequent limestone fragments (some horizontal bedding slabs within a stiff yellow/orange clay matrix	>0.04m thick	
1605	Quarry (filled by 1603, 1606 and 1607)	Irregularly-shaped quarry found within the western part of the trench extending north, south and west. Only partially investigated by sondage.		

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
16	**50m x 1.8m NE-SW**		**49.50m aOD**	**0.45m, 49.05m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/Samples***
1606	Fill (upper disuse) of quarry [1605] Same as (1603)	Mottled mid grey-brown (with orange patches) silt clay containing up to 10% small to medium limestone fragments.	0.40m thick	Medieval pottery (13th century) Bone
1607	Fill (primary) of quarry [1605]	Very firmly compacted light grey-orange-brown silty clay with frequent small limestone fragments deriving from natural erosion of eastern face.	0.35m wide by 0.55 thick	Medieval pottery (13th century)

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