



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological evaluation on land to the Rear of 22 Rotton Row, Raunds Northamptonshire



### **Northamptonshire Archaeology**

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



**Northamptonshire  
County Council**

Christopher Jones

Report 11/134

June 2010



**STAFF**

Project Manager: Iain Soden BA MIfA

Text: Christopher Jones

Fieldwork: Christopher Jones  
Peter Haynes  
Angela Warner BSc

Pottery: Iain Soden

Environmental remains: Karen Deighton MSc

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc  
James Ladocha BA

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row, Raunds, Northamptonshire	
Short description	In June 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row, Raunds, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for two detached dwellings, a detached garage and to widen access onto the land. The work was in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent. The evaluation identified the medieval north-south aligned boundary ditch, which had been identified in earlier excavations to the north and south of the proposed development area. A shallow isolated pit was the only other feature present. The evidence from the excavation would suggest that the development area contains remains peripheral to the adjacent sites.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status	Scheduled Monument no 11507	
Previous work	None (extensive excavations adjacent)	
Current land use	Waste ground	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Saxon-Medieval (Manor)	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	22, Rotton Row, Raunds	
Post code		
OS co-ordinates	SP 9987 7325	
Area (sq m/ha)	c1574 sq m	
Height aOD	58.86	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones (NA)	
Project Manager	Iain Soden (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Plough Developments Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	20/06/2011	
End date	21/06/2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	NA store	Pottery
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 22, Rotton Row, Raunds, Northamptonshire, June 2010	
Serial title & volume	11/134	
Author(s)	Christopher Jones	
Page numbers	7	
Date	29.06.2011	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND  
TO THE REAR OF 22 ROTTON ROW RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
JUNE 2011**

**Abstract**

*In June 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row, Raunds, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for two detached dwellings, a detached garage and to widen access onto the land. The evaluation identified the medieval north-south aligned boundary ditch, which had been identified in earlier excavations to the north and south of the proposed development area. A shallow isolated pit was the only other feature present. The evidence from the excavation would suggest that the development area contains remains peripheral to the adjacent sites.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In June 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row, Raunds, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 9987 7325; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Plough Developments Ltd and was undertaken to inform a planning application for the proposed development of the land for two detached dwellings, a detached garage and to widen access onto land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row. The development covers c1574 sq m and as part of the development there will be new wall footings, drainage, services lines and road access.

The site of the development is a Scheduled Monument (11507) which covers 1329 sq m and is the unexcavated portion of the late Saxon and medieval Furnells manor at Raunds. The new building footprints, roads and services would lie within the boundary (Fig 1). Any work within the boundary must be undertaken with Scheduled Monument Consent which is a statutory requirement of the Ancient Monuments and Areas Act 1979 (as amended) Section 2.

The Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage, as archaeological curator for the monument, required further information to complete the understanding of the previously excavated evidence surrounding the site. An archaeological trial trench evaluation was therefore required for the works.

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation (No.48). The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the specification prepared by NA (Brown 2011). The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Topography and geology**

The site is situated on the north side of Raunds at c52-53m above Ordnance Datum. The land lies at the base of a small valley which contains the culverted Raunds Brook. The geology of the valley sides comprises a sequence of Northampton Sand Ironstone, Great Oolite Limestone and Clay, with outcrops of Cornbrash and Oxford Clay (Parry 1996, 222). Pockets of drift material are present as red loam and areas of Cornbrash are generally thin with Great Oolite Clay exposed beneath. North End, the portion of Raunds to the north-east, lies exclusively upon Oxford Clay.

### **2.2 Historical and archaeological background (Figs 2, 3 and 4)**

The land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row encompasses the south-eastern corner of the plots believed to have been a part of the late Saxon and medieval Furnells manor, which was extensively excavated between the late 1970s and early 1980s (Audouy and Chapman 2009; Boddington 1996). Land to the immediate west and south was also extensively excavated in the late 1980s. A small block of land to the rear of 14 Rotton Row was excavated prior to development in 2002 (Morris 2002). The present site has been the subject of desk-based assessment (Chapman 2009) and a watching brief has already been undertaken during construction of a kitchen extension and detached double garage on the plot of 22 Rotton Row (Patenall 2009).

To the immediate south of the proposed development there lay a post-medieval metalled track running east to west, which probably respected the line of an earlier trackway that separated Furnells manor from lower-status properties to the south. This trackway should run through the narrow southern extension of the site, immediately south of the Scheduled area.

Immediately to the west of the Scheduled area, there was an early Saxon sunken-featured building, and further evidence of early to middle Saxon occupation is expected within the Scheduled area.

A boundary ditch system of late Saxon origin, probably also used in the medieval period, is felt likely to cross the western end of the Scheduled area. This feature relates to the division of the manor into several separate smaller plots, which are presumed to have served different functions within the overall running of the manor.

Towards the end of the medieval period, houses set within the plots were being replaced by new buildings set on the street frontages. Evidence for this has been identified to the north-east on the Midland Road frontage, but no frontages on Rotton Row have been accessible to date.

## **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Objectives**

It is the aim of the archaeological fieldwork to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting. The objectives are established in pursuit of national and regional research agendas (EH 1991; 1997; Cooper 2006).

The archaeological field work was to:

- characterise and record the date, nature and extent of the activity taking into account its level of preservation and assess its potential for further research,
- establish the depth and stratigraphy of deposits and consider these in relation to the previously excavated features surrounding the site, where they may extend within its perimeter,
- Collect all artefacts clearly pre-dating the modern period for further analysis, except where they constitute non-stratified losses of a generic nature such as brick, tile or animal bone from topsoil,
- Consider those deposits that clearly predate modern material for sampling in the light of their potential to provide palaeo-environmental data to fill gaps in existing knowledge and inform on local preservation conditions.

Remains were to be placed in their local, regional and national context, with specific reference to the published evidence (Audouy and Chapman 2009; Boddington 1996). The results of the evaluation were to be referenced to the results of the neighbouring excavations in order to assess fully the significance of the remains within the site.

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

### 3.2 Methodology

The archaeological trial excavation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches, located within the Scheduled Monument (SAM) (Fig 5). Trench 1, 20m long by 2m wide, was directly across the approximate position of the two principal building footprints. Trench 2, 10m long by 2m wide, was in the west of the Scheduled Monument across the anticipated alignment of one of the north-south axial ditches belonging to Furnells manor.

A third trench, Trench 3, 10m long by 2m wide, was proposed in the south of the development, outside the SAM. Trench 3 was not excavated because the present landowner of the proposed roadway leading to the site refused to allow excavation to take place. This reduced evaluation was carried out with the full agreement of English Heritages Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

Surveying and the positioning of trenches was carried out by hand tapes from the known fixed points of the boundaries and structures mapped by the Ordnance survey.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural garden soils were removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. Excavation did not truncate archaeological remains. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and deposits.

All features of potential archaeological significance were sampled by hand excavation in minimum 1.0m wide sections to determine their date and character. Smaller features such as pits or postholes were subject to a 50% sample excavation. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record.



The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All drawings included levels that were related to Ordnance Datum.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire procedures (NA 2006). All archaeological deposits were given individual context numbers and described on *pro-forma* context sheets, to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Digital photographs form the principal photographic record for report purposes, but supplemented with 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies in the traditional manner.

## **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 General stratigraphy**

The underlying geology was Great Oolite Limestone and Clay, with outcrops of Cornbrash and Oxford Clay which was encountered between 0.20-0.60m below the modern ground surface in all trenches. The subsoil was mid brown silty clay, the topsoil was dark greyish-brown clayey loam, both soils containing occasional limestone fragments and pebbles.

The trench locations are shown in Figure 5 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix.

### **4.2 The archaeological evidence**

The topsoil in both trenches contained no finds, with only the subsoil in trench 2 (202), containing two fragments of medieval pottery.

#### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was 20m long by 1.8m wide, aligned north-east to south-west. It was located directly across the approximate position of the two principal building footprints (Fig 6).

At the north-east end of the trench there was a pit, [105], with a broad, U-shaped profile. It measured 1.35m wide by 0.29m deep and was filled with dark grey-brown silt clay (104), containing two fragments of early/middle Saxon and medieval pottery (Fig 7).

No other features were present in trench 1.

#### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was 10m long by 1.8m wide, aligned east west. It was located in the west of the Scheduled Monument across the anticipated alignment of one of the axial ditches, aligned north-south, belonging to Furnells manor (Fig 8).

There were two possible shallow pits [207] and [209], both cut by ditch [205]. Both pits were of similar size, 0.50m wide by 0.28m deep, with fills of dark grey-brown clay. Both contained pottery dating to the early-middle Saxon and medieval periods and small fragments of animal bone (Fig 10).

At the west end of the trench there was a ditch [205], aligned north-south (Fig 9). It had a broad, U-shaped profile, 2.40m wide by 0.36m deep, with a fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay (204), which was friable and contained moderate roots. The ditch contained pottery dated to the early-middle Saxon and medieval periods, and small fragments of animal bone.

No other features were present in trench 2.

## 5 THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY by Iain Soden

A total of twelve sherds of pottery, weighing 74g, were recovered from the evaluation.

These comprise the following, correlated to the Northamptonshire County Type Series (CTS):

<b>Context/feature</b>	<b>104/105</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>204/205</b>	<b>206/207</b>	<b>208/209</b>
<b>Pottery type</b>	<b>pit</b>	<b>subsoil</b>	<b>ditch</b>	<b>pit</b>	<b>pit</b>
Early-middle Saxon	1/4g	--	2/12g	--	1/2g
CTS100/200	--	--	2/5g	1/5g	2/2g
CTS 330	1/7g	2/37g	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>2/11g</b>	<b>2/37g</b>	<b>4/17g</b>	<b>1/5g</b>	<b>3/4g</b>

These are generally very small abraded sherds in small quantity. As such they do not suggest occupation very close by but have been weathered and possibly re-deposited a number of times. The pottery includes early-middle Saxon material, which is residual in later contexts. The majority however, comes from the long-lived shelly-ware tradition, which in Northamptonshire begins in the middle-late Saxon period of the 8th century, often with Maxey-types, and continues well into the Post-Conquest period as the regional 'St Neots' type ware', before flourishing as a major local shelly-coarseware industry.

The small St Neots type body sherds here are not readily distinguishable between the pre-Conquest (CTS 100) and its later counterpart (CTS 200) which straddles the Conquest and continues into the 12th century. The two sherds of shelly coarseware (CTS 330) from the subsoil (202), are distinguished by their typical medieval rim form with typical 12th-13th century pie-crusting on the rim.

These few sherds should be seen merely as confirmation of the proximity of contemporary occupation between the early-middle Saxon and the post-Conquest period, up to about 1200/1250. Other than the subsoil (202) the features in which the pottery occurs are probably to be dated c900-1200.

**6 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS** by Karen Deighton

A total of 68g of animal bone was collected by hand from three contexts. Preservation was poor with heavy fragmentation (the result of old breaks) and surface abrasion. Canid gnawing was noted on two bone elements, which suggests the presence of dogs or foxes. No evidence for butchery was present.

Unfortunately only three fragments of the nine recovered could be identified to taxa. These were two cattle mandibular molars from context (204) and a mid-shaft fragment of cattle metatarsal from context (208).

**7 DISCUSSION**

The archaeological evaluation identified a medieval boundary ditch, aligned north-south, which had been identified in earlier excavations both to the north and south of the proposed development area. The presence of the ditch in Trench 2, confirms that the feature relates to the division of the manor into several separate smaller plots, which are presumed to have served different functions.

A shallow isolated pit was the only feature in Trench 1, which together with the low incidence of features seen in Trench 2 and the earlier nearby watching brief (NA 2009), would indicate that this area of land lay outside the main Saxon and medieval settlement focus, and contains remains peripheral to the previously excavated foci.

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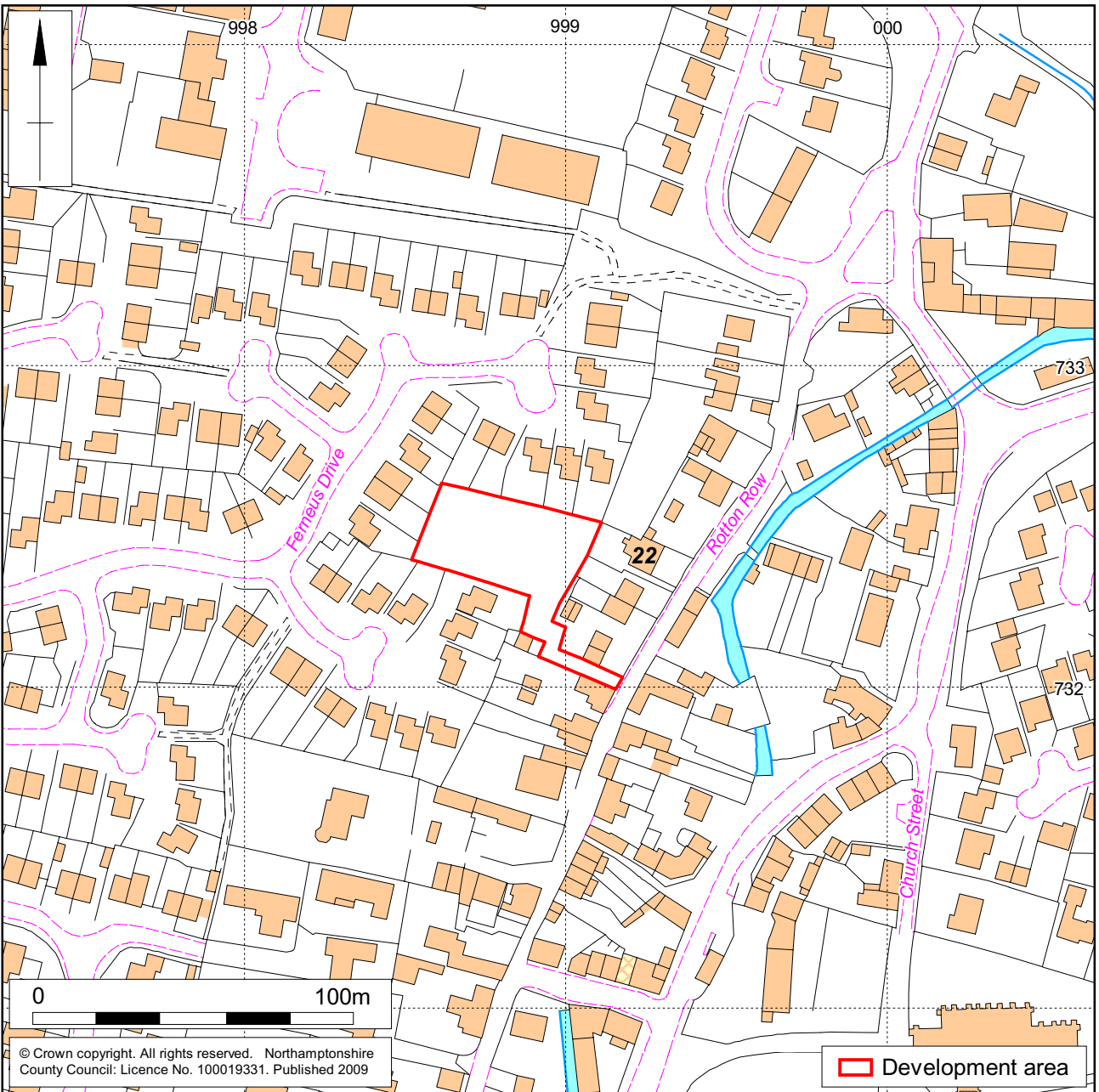
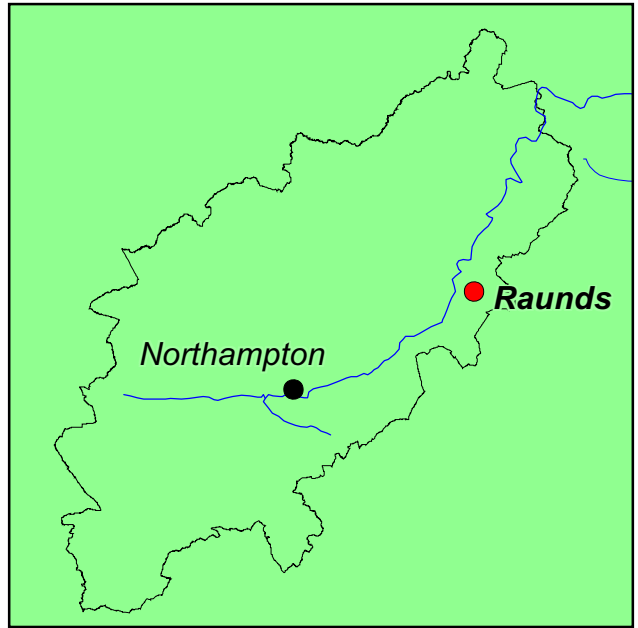
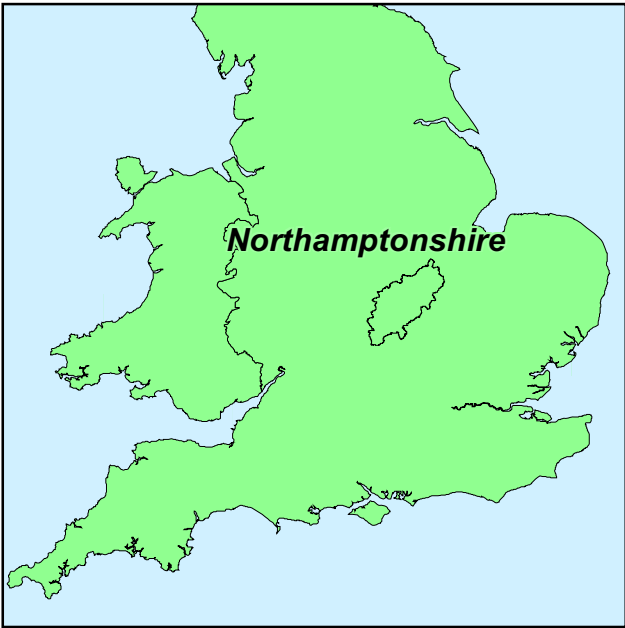
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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

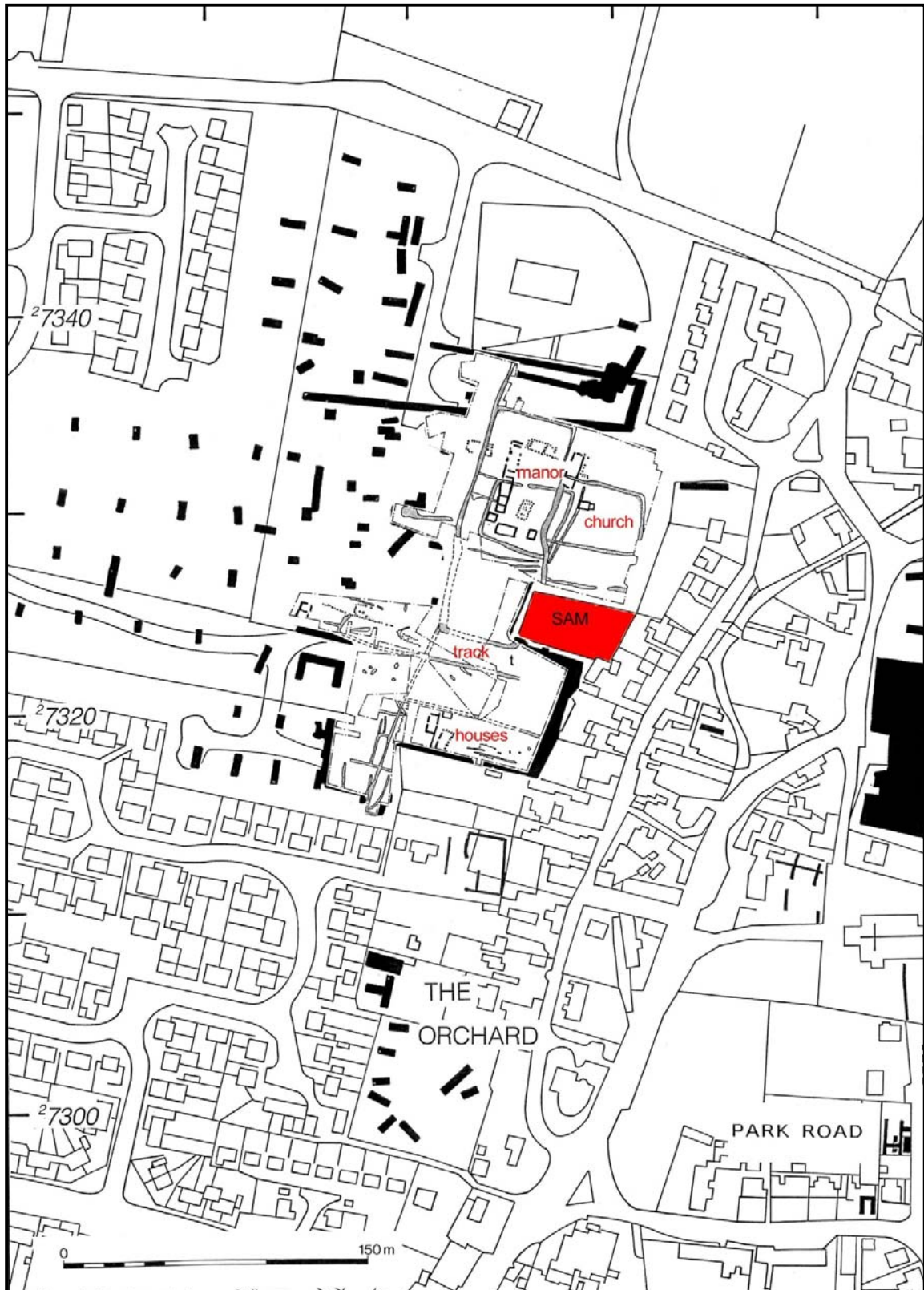
Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	20m x 1.8m NE-SW	499880/273245	58.19m aOD	0.40m, 57.66m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam	Up to 0.26m deep	---
102	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay with limestone fragments	Up to 0.22m deep	---
103	Natural	Great Oolite Limestone and Clay		---
104	Fill of Pit 105	Grey-brown silty clay, infrequent small limestone fragments	0.29m deep	Saxon/medieval pot
105	Cut of Pit fills 104	U-shaped profile, shallow irregular sides to flat base.	1.35m wide; 0.29m deep	---

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	10m x 1.8m E-W	499861/273251	60.05m aOD	0.57m, 59.02m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam	Up to 0.30m deep	---
202	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay with limestone fragments	Up to 27m deep	Medieval pottery
203	Natural	Great Oolite Limestone and Clay		---
204	Fill of ditch 205	Dark grey-brown clay, infrequent limestone fragments	0.36m deep	Medieval pottery Animal bone
205	Cut of ditch Fills 204	broad, U-shaped profile,	2.40m wide by 0.36m deep	---
206	Fill of pit 207	Dark grey-brown clay fill. Limestone fragments	0.22m deep	Saxon pottery Animal bone
207	Cut of pit Fills 206	Near vertical sides to concave base	0.56m wide by 0.22m deep	---
208	Fill of pit 209	Dark grey-brown clay fill. Limestone fragments	0.28m deep	Saxon/medieval pottery. Animal bone
209	Cut of pit Fills 208	Near vertical sides to flat base	0.40m wide by 0.28m deep	---

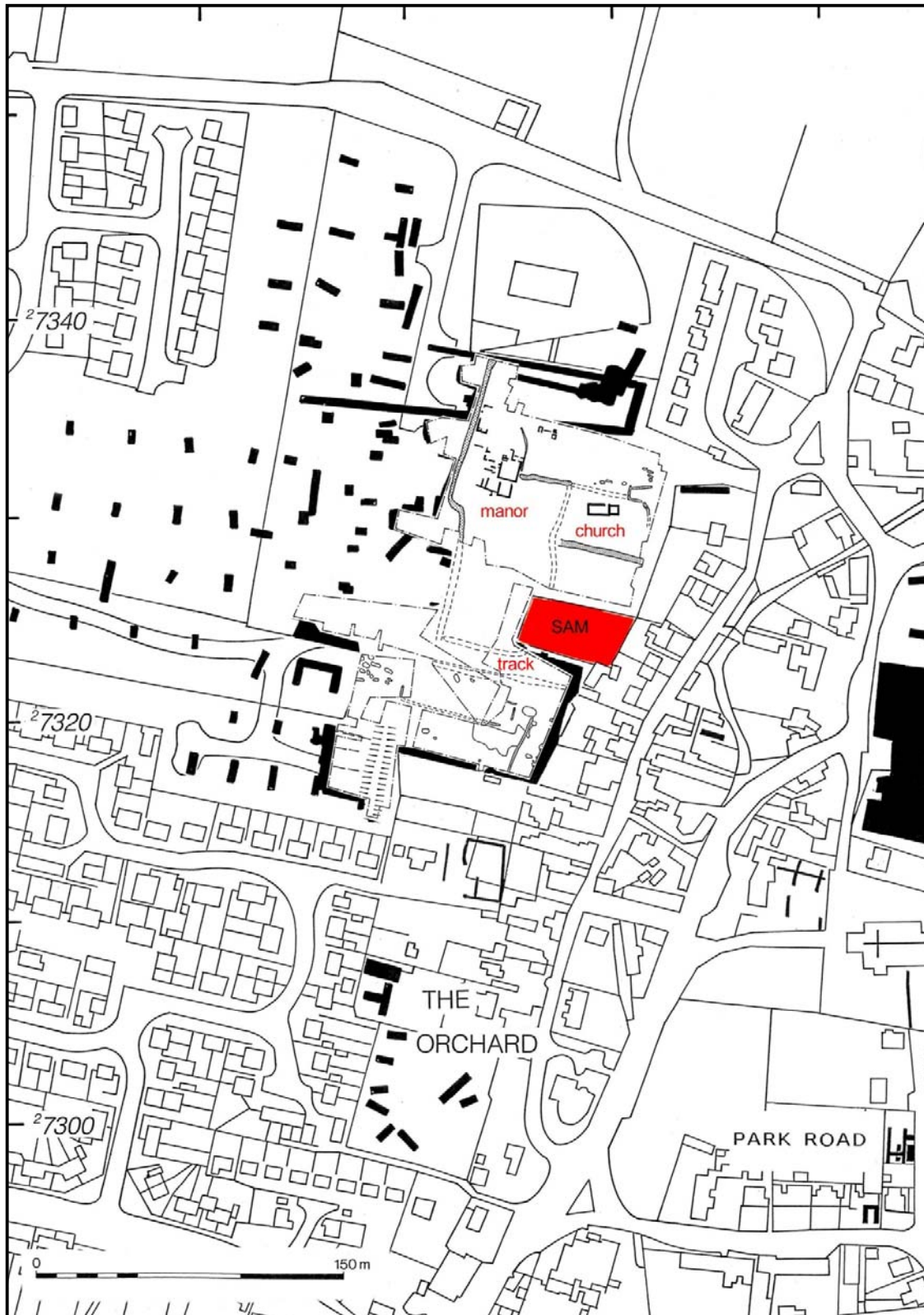


Scale 1:2000

Site Location Fig 1

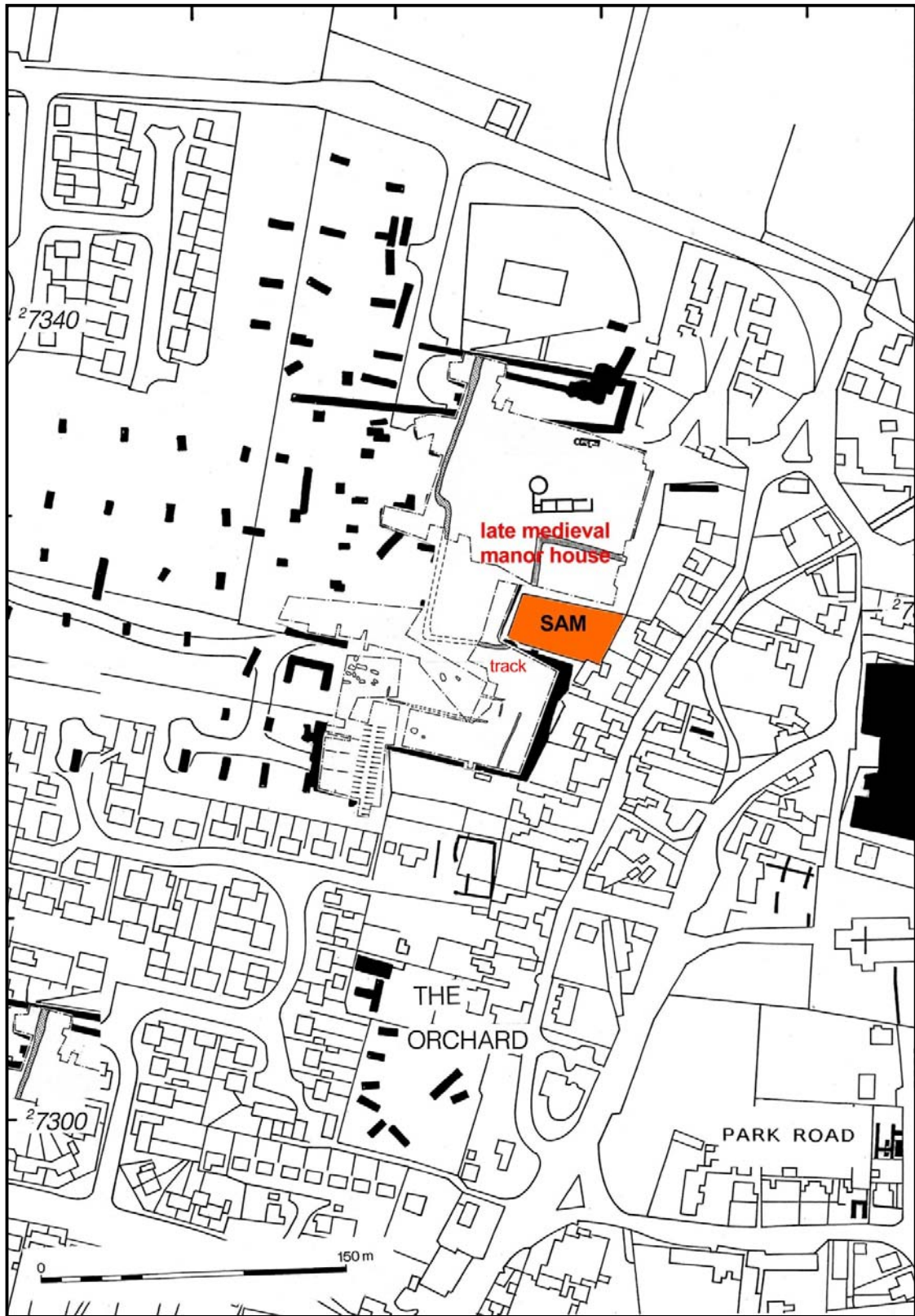


Late Saxon manor, church and settlement, AD 850-1100 Fig 2  
(from Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig 3.4)

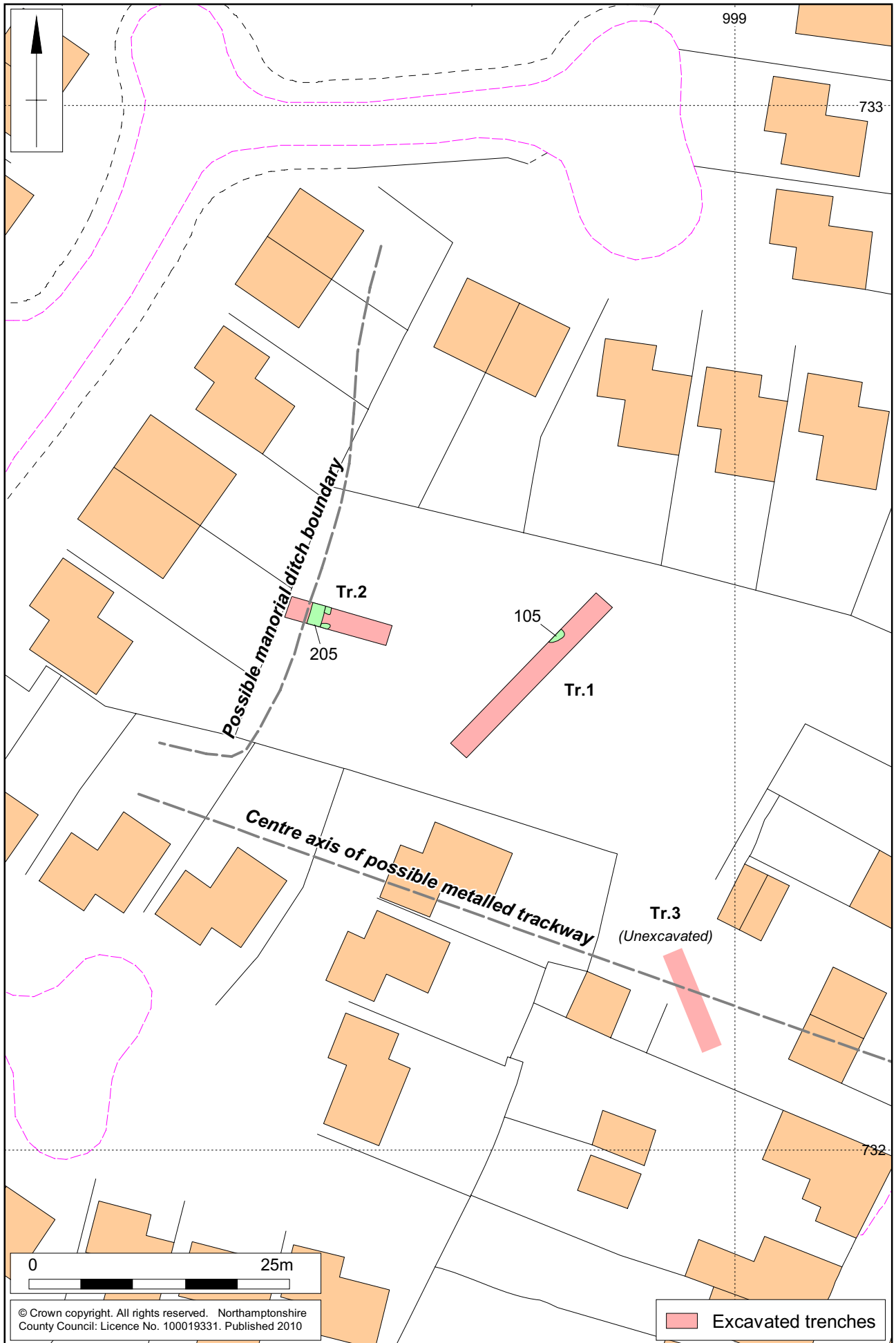


The medieval manor, church and village, AD 1200-1350/1400 Fig 3  
(from Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig 3.14)





The late medieval manor and village, AD 1350/1400-1500 Fig 4  
(from Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig 3.18)



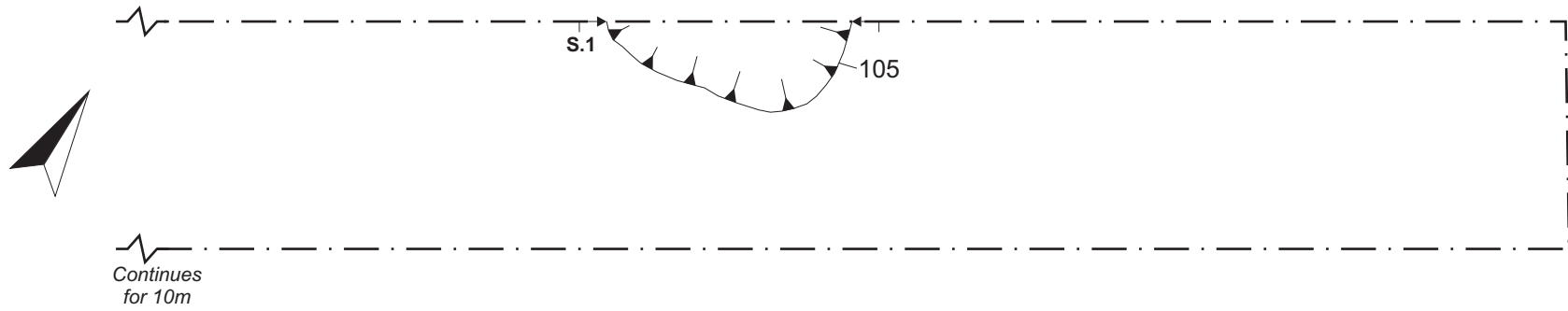
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Trench locations Fig 5

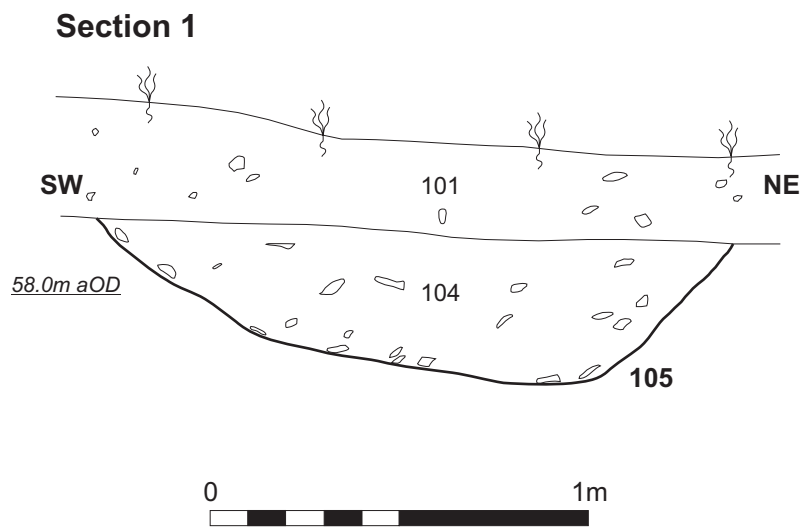
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Trench 1, plan and view, looking west Fig 6

### Trench 1



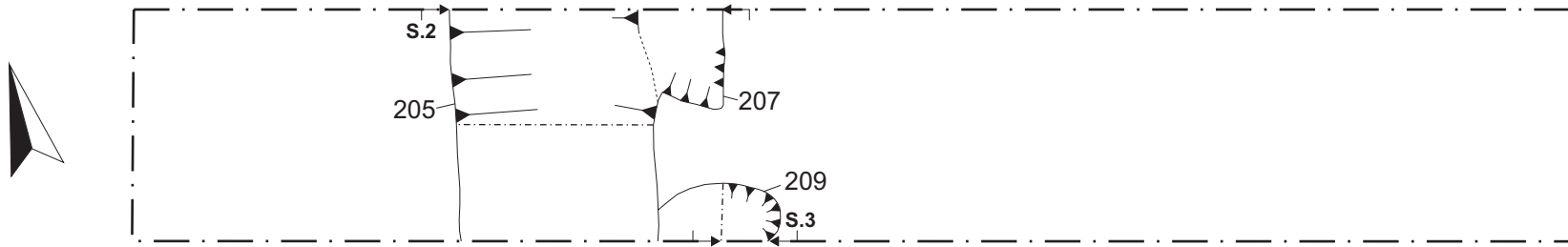
Trench 1, looking west



Scale 1:50

Trench2, plan and view, looking north-west Fig 8

### Trench 2

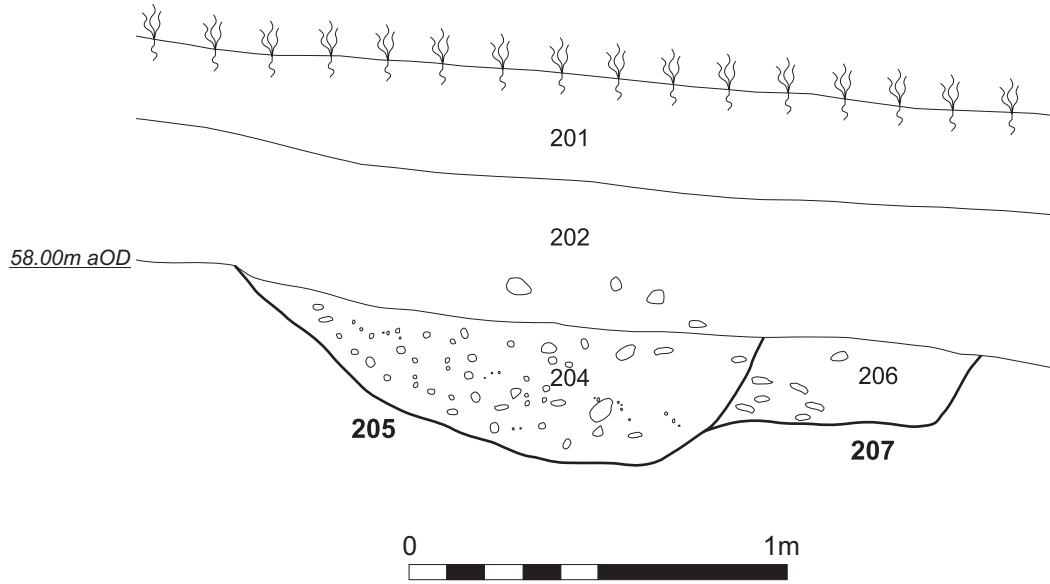


Trench 2, looking north-west

**Section 2**

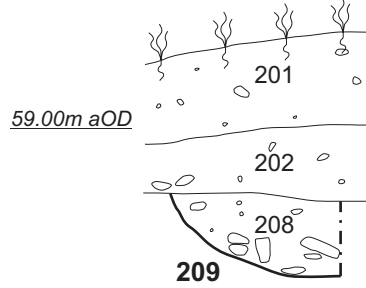
**NW**

**SE**



**Section 3**

**SE NW**





Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council