



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological earthwork survey and trial
trench evaluation at Tempsford Hall
Tempsford, Bedfordshire
October-November 2011



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Tempsford Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire	
Short description	In October and November 2011, an archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Kier Eastern at their headquarters at Tempsford Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. The earthwork survey succeeded in identifying the extent and form of the earthworks associated with the probable Late Saxon/medieval tenement plots fronting onto Station Road, to the north of the development area and of the moated medieval manor to the west. The trial trench evaluation proved that within the development area there were few archaeological remains outside of these settlement foci.	
Project type	Earthwork Survey and evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Evaluation (Shotliff 1996), Open Area Excavation (Maul and Chapman (2005), Evaluation (BCAS 1998), Desk-based Assessment (Albion Archaeology 2006), Watching Brief (Leigh 2008) and Heritage Assessment (Walker 2011)	
Current Land use	Pasture and garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval	
Significant finds	Medieval moated manor	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Tempsford Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire	
Study area	2.5ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 16650 53520	
Height OD	19m-20m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor	
Project Manager	Anthony Maul	
Sponsor or funding body	Kier Eastern	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	10/2011	
End date	11/2011	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	BEDFM 2011.75	None
Paper	BEDFM 2011.75	Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, colour slides, black and white contact prints, digital photographs, plans and section drawing
Digital	2011.75	Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY AND TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION OF LAND AT TEMPSFORD HALL
TEMPSFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2011**

Abstract

In October and November 2011, an archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Kier Eastern at their headquarters at Tempsford Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. The earthwork survey succeeded in identifying the extent and form of the earthworks associated with the probable Late Saxon/medieval tenement plots fronting onto Station Road, to the north of the development area and of the moated medieval manor to the west. The trial trench evaluation proved that within the development area there were few archaeological remains outside of these settlement foci.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Kier Eastern, to undertake archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation (NGR TL 0600 8790, Fig 1). The works have been required in order to discharge a condition on planning permission for development at the site (Planning Application: CB/11/01833/FULL). The redevelopment will include the construction of an extension to the existing hall, the provision of gym facilities and a trim trail, as well as extended car-parking with associated woodland planting.

The brief, issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, set out a phased approach for a programme of archaeological investigation. The initial phase involved an archaeological earthwork survey and excavation of nine trenches across part of the development area, the results of which are presented in this report. Further phases of investigation will be dependent on the results of this initial stage.

This tranche of works follows a Heritage Assessment (Walker 2011) which identified areas of archaeological potential within the development area.

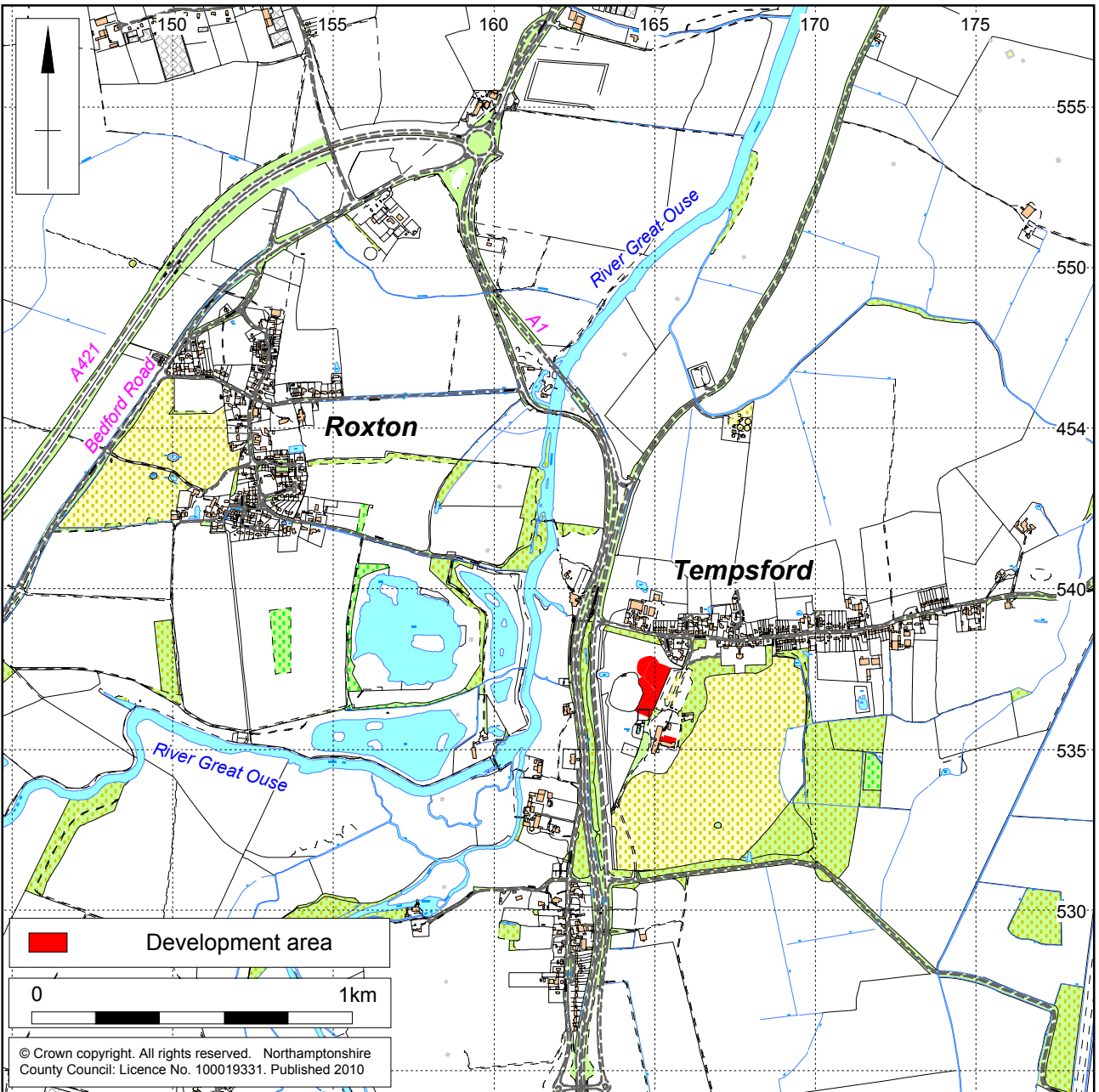
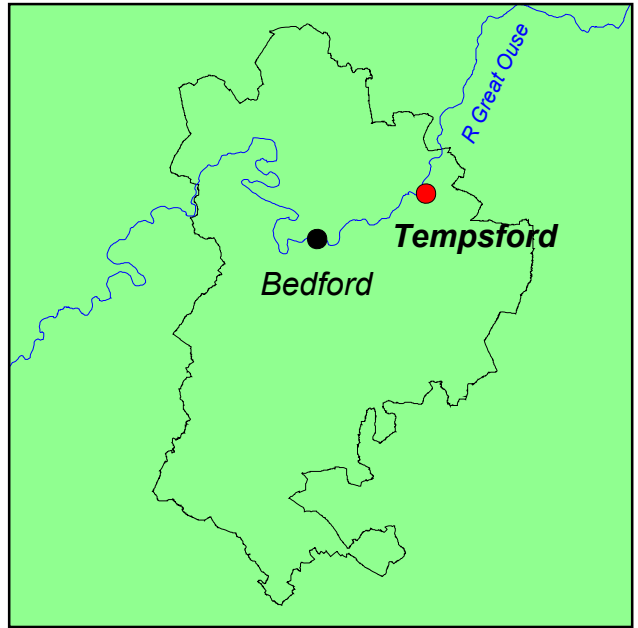
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The site lies on the western side of the River Great Ouse at its confluence with the River Ivel. It lies on a small ridge of land, which rises gently to the south and west up to a maximum of c 25m. The soils are recorded as imperfectly drained gleyed brown earths of the Milton Association (King 1969). The underlying geology is Oxford Clays overlain by localised deposits of Boulder Clays, River Terrace deposits and glacial Till.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The outline development area has been examined by Heritage Assessment (Walker 2011) which collated Historic Environment Record (HER) data and cartographic sources. A Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management (NA 2011) has also been prepared following on from a brief issued by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2011). The following archaeological background is taken from these sources.



Scale 1:20,000

Site Location Fig 1

The development area and its environs have been subject to extensive previous archaeological investigation comprising archaeological evaluation in 1993 of a medieval moated site immediately to the east of the development area (Shotliff 1996) and subsequent excavation in 1999 (Maull and Chapman 2005) ahead of the A1 overbridge scheme. A further evaluation to the south and east of the moated site was carried out in 1998 (Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service 1998). A desk-based assessment (Albion Archaeology 2006) and watching brief (Leigh 2008) were carried out on land to the east and south of the hall, although no archaeological features were recorded. A Heritage Assessment was carried out for submission with the current planning application, from which the archaeological background below has been taken (Walker 2011).

A substantial assemblage of worked flint was recovered during the 1999 excavation from later features as residual material. The assemblage dated from the early Neolithic to the early Bronze Age and may be a product of accumulated casual loss. However, a large sherd of Neolithic pottery recovered in the excavation may be indicative of more intensive local activity. In the wider area, there are varied heritage assets dating to this period.

There is extensive evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity in the vicinity. Complexes of cropmarks in the area surrounding the park may date this period and include possible ditched trackways and enclosure (HER 627, 16798 and 628).

The 1993 and 1998 evaluations found tentative evidence for Iron Age settlement, including ditches and structural features such as a beam slot, although the dating was largely based on a very few sherds of Iron Age pottery and feature morphology rather than definitive artefactual evidence. However, no Iron Age features or pottery were found during the subsequent excavation in 1999.

Evidence for Roman occupation has been found at the sewage works to the north and may be contemporary with some of the cropmarks, although it is probable that at least some of them predate this phase of occupation. The 1999 excavation found only slight evidence of Roman activity at the southern end of the site; narrow gullies indicating the possible presence of large-scale plots or fields (Maull and Chapman 2005).

The 1993 evaluation found a series of intercutting ditches in Trench 8, thought to be indicative of Saxon activity. The 1998 evaluation found evidence of ditch systems in Trench 5 and possibly Trench 4 (Fig 1); these also possibly date to the Saxon period. The subsequent excavation revealed further remains of middle Saxon settlement, dating from the 8th century (Maull and Chapman 2005). The settlement initially consisted of two large enclosures with an area of domestic settlement between them, although the main focus of occupation was thought to lie to the west or east.

The settlement was re-planned during the late Saxon period, around the late 9th or early 10th century, when a new system of linear ditches probably represented the establishment of an extensive system of linear plots.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Tempsford Manor was held by Eudo Dapifer. Archaeologically, the first evidence for the existence of a manor on the site is in the late 12th century, when the boundary system was redefined, two plots were amalgamated and an aisled hall, kitchen and workshop area were constructed. By the mid 13th century a rectangular moated enclosure had been constructed over the earlier plot system. A new timber manor house, which directly replaced the earlier aisled hall, was situated on the western part of the moat interior and a metalled surface occupied the central area. The eastern side may have held further ancillary buildings. The manor house was refurbished in the late 14th century but appears to have fallen out of use by the mid 15th century and was subsequently demolished.

The manor of Tempsford appears to have been split into two at some time in the 13th century. The moated site is thought to have been the capital messuage of Brayes Manor, which was not thought to be the principal manorial centre for Tempsford and is a fairly typical example of its class.

In a site visit of 1986 the earthworks relating to the moat were described as well as a series of other earthworks to the north-east. These formed a band c 70m wide along the northern edge of the park (HER 9726). The irregular earthworks could not be interpreted as particular features, but the soil was very black and a few sherds of early medieval pottery were collected. Slag was also visible in some areas. Irregular earthworks were also noted in the Heritage Assessment (Walker 2011), although the grass was long and little could be discerned. They appeared to be concentrated in the areas to the north of the current development area and are most likely those noted in the HER record above.

Regular, narrow crofts set along both sides of Station Road are visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1884), the boundaries of some to the east of the village having a distinctive reverse S-shape (HER 17156). This may suggest that the plots were created from former arable fields perhaps during the medieval period as part of a planned settlement. It is possible that the earthworks visible in the park represent a continuation of the former medieval plot system.

Well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks, remnants of the medieval open-field system, still survive in parts of the park, to the east of the hall (HER 3204). There was some evidence of remnant furrows in some of the trenches in the 1998 evaluation.

Tempsford was enclosed in 1778 and on part of the land allotted Sir Gillies Payne built a new hall (HER 3077). When he made his will in 1794, Sir Gillies mentioned his new built house, as well as the old house next to the river.

Tempsford Park (HER 7001) is most probably an 18th-century creation, contemporary with Sir Gillies Payne's hall. There never appears to have been much landscaping within the park apart from tree-planting and the construction of a 'summer-house', called The Elms, to the south of the hall (HER 9866) at some point in the late 19th century.

In 1824, the estate was sold to William Stuart; the sales particulars describe the estate as a modern built mansion house called Tempsford, with suitable attached and detached offices of every description; coach house and stabling; pleasure ground, walled garden, a beautiful paddock and small park of rich grass land, belted with a great variety of fine growing timber.

In about 1876 the house was re-cased but was subsequently gutted by a fire in 1898. The present hall was finished in 1903 when the Stuart family returned to the estate.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aims of the Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management were as follows:

- to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The national framework for research is set out by English Heritage (1997). The broad research frameworks for the eastern counties of England are set out by Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and with revisions, and including Bedfordshire, by Medlycott and Brown (2008); whilst that of Bedfordshire alone is assessed in Oake *et al* (2007). The Research Aims set out in these documents were to be addressed by the project.

Dependent upon the results the need for regional research into the following was to be considered:

- The characterisation of Iron Age and Roman rural settlements and the development of the agrarian landscape (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19 and Oake *et al* 2007, 11);
- The examination of rural Saxon and medieval settlements to examine diversity and characterise settlement forms as described in Wade (2000, 24-25), Oake (2007, 14) and Medlycott and Brown (2008, 96);
- The origins and history of designed landscapes including the identification of their surviving features (Gilman, Gould and Green 2000, 36-39 and Oake *et al* 2007, 15-16).

In addition, site specific aims were to include:

- Defining the extent of the Saxon settlement within the Park;
- The investigation of evidence for continuity between the Late Saxon settlement and medieval moated complex;
- The development of the moated complex and its relationship with the settlement at Langford End;
- Defining and characterising the earthwork remains and their relationship (if any) with the Langford End medieval settlement and the moated complex;
- The identification of features associated with the development of Tempsford Hall and its landscaped gardens.

Dependent on the results of the evaluation further specific research aims may be identified.

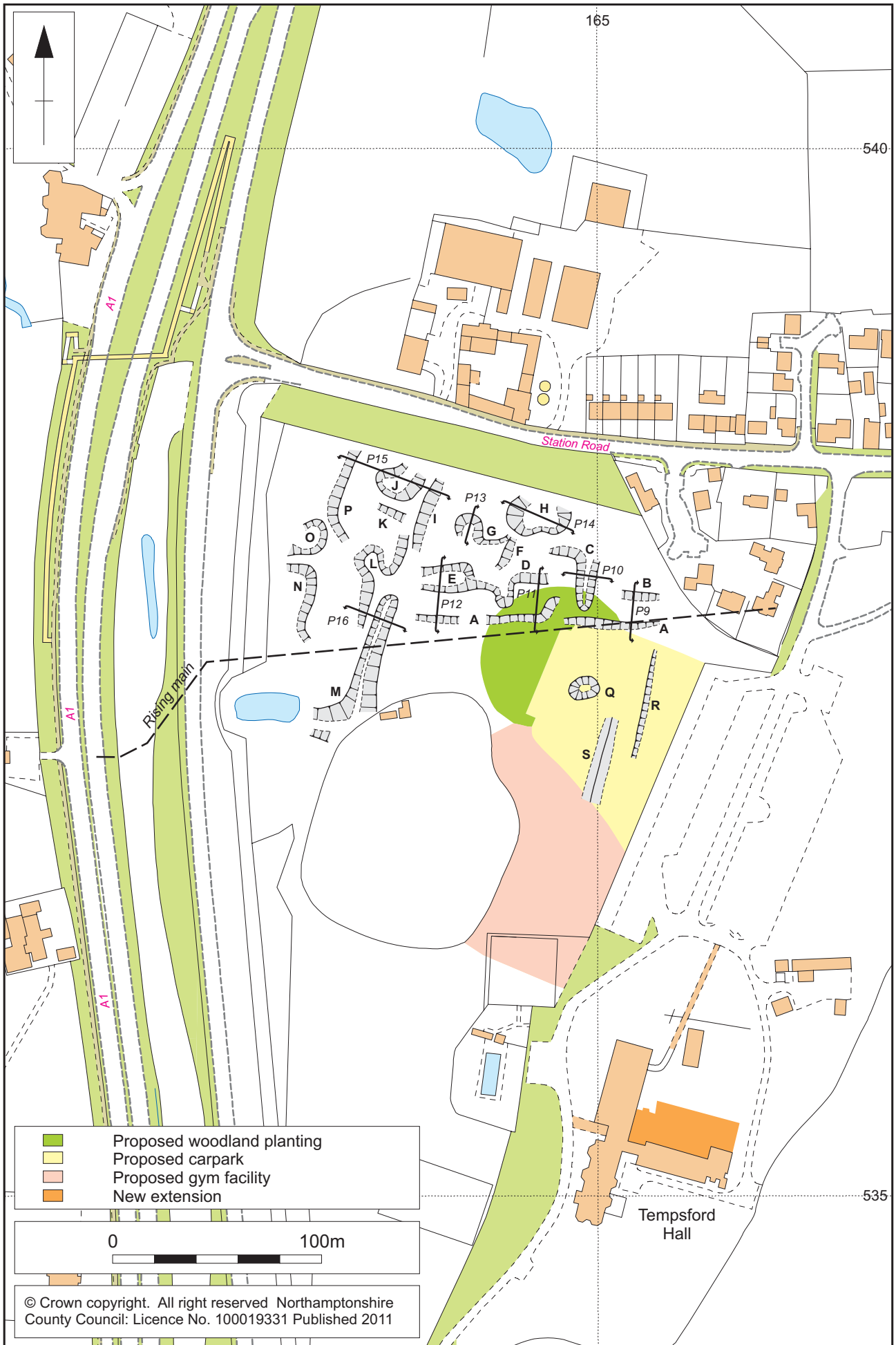
4 THE EARTHWORK SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

The survey examined surviving upstanding earthwork remains within the northern part of the Park, partly extending into the development area (Fig 2). Previously surveyed earthworks associated with Tempsford moat were briefly re-surveyed in order to ensure consistency of approach, even though these lie outside the area of current development. Works were undertaken in October 2011; surveying conditions were moderate to good over the survey zone, with grass cover up to 6-inches (150mm) in height, although visibility was impaired in a few isolated locations by scattered patches of nettles and scrub and a few small trees.

A measured survey of earthworks was undertaken by means of Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) to a 3D accuracy of +/- 0.05m (using SMARTNET real-time corrections). The features were surveyed relative to Ordnance Survey National Grid; levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum. The tops and bottoms of slopes were surveyed in order to define the earthworks. The tops of ridges and bases of furrows were surveyed, together with a series of profiles across the principal features.

GPS survey data was processed through Leica GeoOffice 8.1 and exported via AutoCAD into MapInfo. Data was also imported via MS Excel to generate spot levels and profile data.



Scale 1:2500 (A3)

Earthwork survey results Fig 2

General photographs of the survey area and surveyed features were taken from a variety of directions using a digital camera. A record of photographs taken was entered on a cross-referenced index sheet and plotted onto a site plan.

4.2 The earthworks

Three broad areas of activity were identified within the survey area (Fig 2). Along the northern edge of the site a series of scarps (A to H) define earthworks probably associated with former tenements fronting onto Station Road (Langford End). To the west are ditches and scarps associated with Tempsford moated site (I to P). To the south of the tenements are features probably associated with medieval agriculture (Q to S).

An intermittent east-west aligned scarp **A** (Fig 3, profile 9) appears to mark the southern edge of the tenements, implying that the ground level to the north has been raised or that the gradual natural southward slope deliberately enhanced. To the north of this further east-west aligned scarps (**B** and **D**, Fig 3, profiles 9 and 11) may represent the northern edges of platforms, whose southern edges are defined by **A**. East-west aligned scarp **E** (Fig 3, profile 12) may also form one edge of a platform. Ditch **C** (Fig 3, profile 10) and scarp **F** may be the remnants of plot divisions, whilst irregular earthwork **G** (Fig 3, profile 13) is more enigmatic. Depression **H** (Fig 3, profile 14) does not appear to easily relate to the other earthworks identified and may represent an area of quarrying.

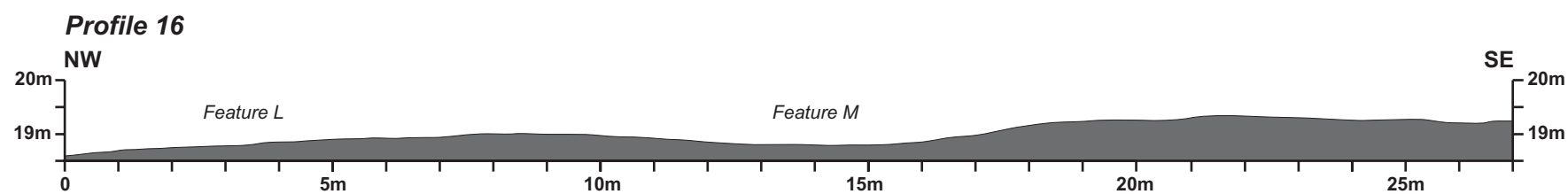
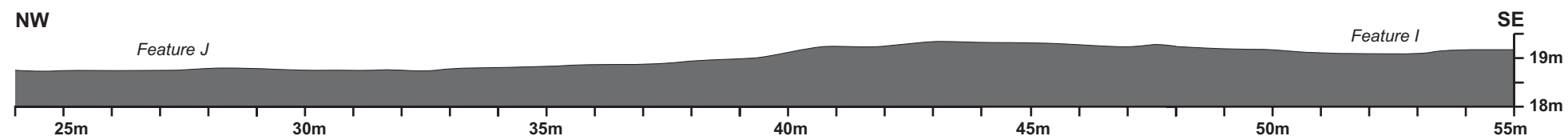
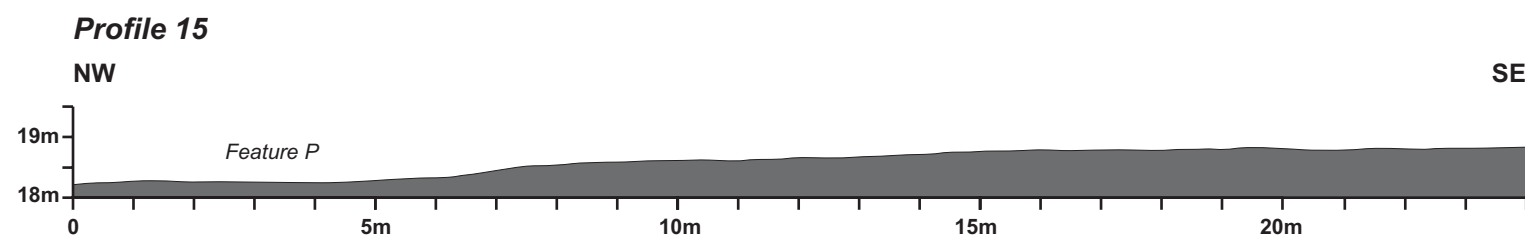
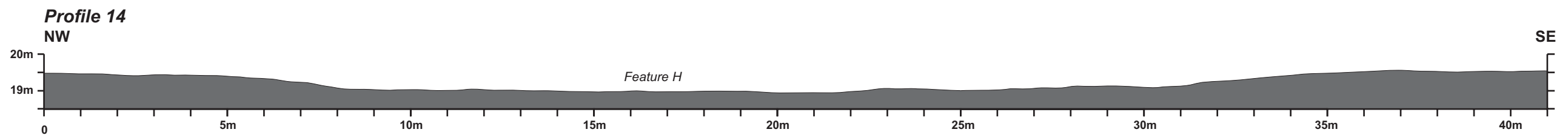
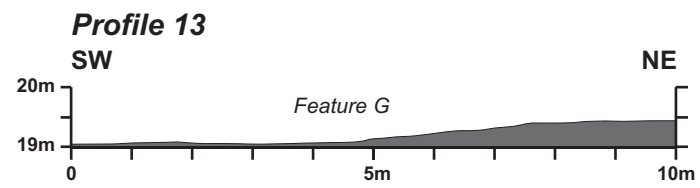
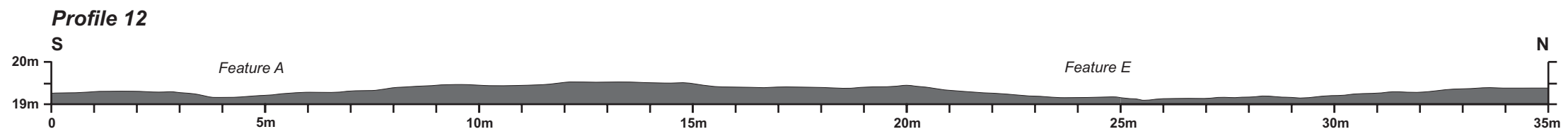
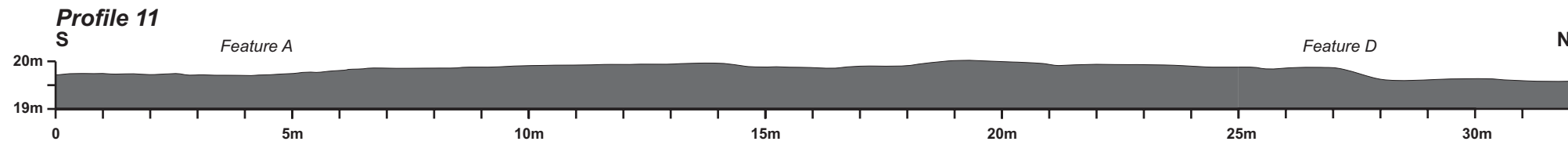
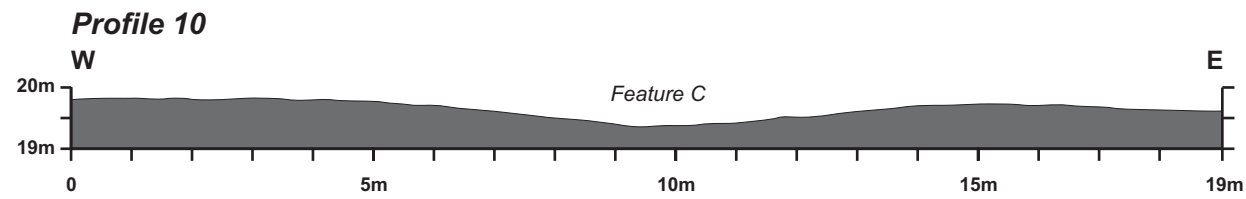
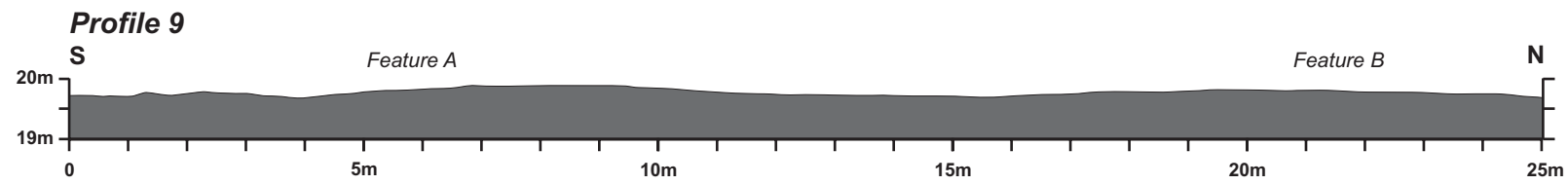
L-shaped ditch **M** (Fig 3, profile 16) is the eastern and southern arm of the moat, although the alignment of this is continued northwards by scarps **I** and **L** and possible ditch **J** (Fig 3, profiles 15 and 16). A series of further depressions and scarps may represent features lying within or associated with the moat (**K**, **N**, **O** and **P**).

To the south of the tenements scarp **R** may be part of a former boundary or a slightly better defined ridge associated with ridge and furrow **S**. An ovoid depression **Q** may be a former pond or small quarry.

4.3 Discussion

The tenements along the northern edge of the site are of uncertain date, although it is likely they are associated with the late Saxon and medieval structured settlement investigated during the excavations to the west (Maull and Chapman 2005), which fronted onto the A1. This settlement originated in the late 9th/early 10th centuries and continued into the 12th century. The moat earthworks date to the 13th/14th centuries and represent a later development within the history of the site. It is noticeable in the current survey that the tenements fronting onto Station Road differ slightly in alignment to the moat earthworks; whose position appears to have been more influenced by the A1 tenements. Similarly, the alignment of the visible ridge and furrow cultivation parallels the eastern edge of the moat, rather than lying at right-angles to the Station Road tenements.

The survival of earthworks is generally moderate to good, although is poor in places. There appears to be little evidence for later ploughing having significantly affected the features, perhaps reflecting their situation within a parkland landscape, although isolated impacts may have occurred from quarrying and the construction of a rising main along their southern extremity. The survey has succeeded in identifying the extent and form of the remains as well as giving some possible indications as to their place within the complex history of the site.



5 THE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

5.1 Methodology

The trenches were positioned using a Leica System 1200 GPS and were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. Prior to excavation each trench was scanned with a CAT by Kiers' General Foreman and then every 0.30m in depth during machine excavation by the supervising archaeologist. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Trenches containing archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (e.g. 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20). Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the evaluation, using 35mm black and white negative and colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (UKIC 1998). The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

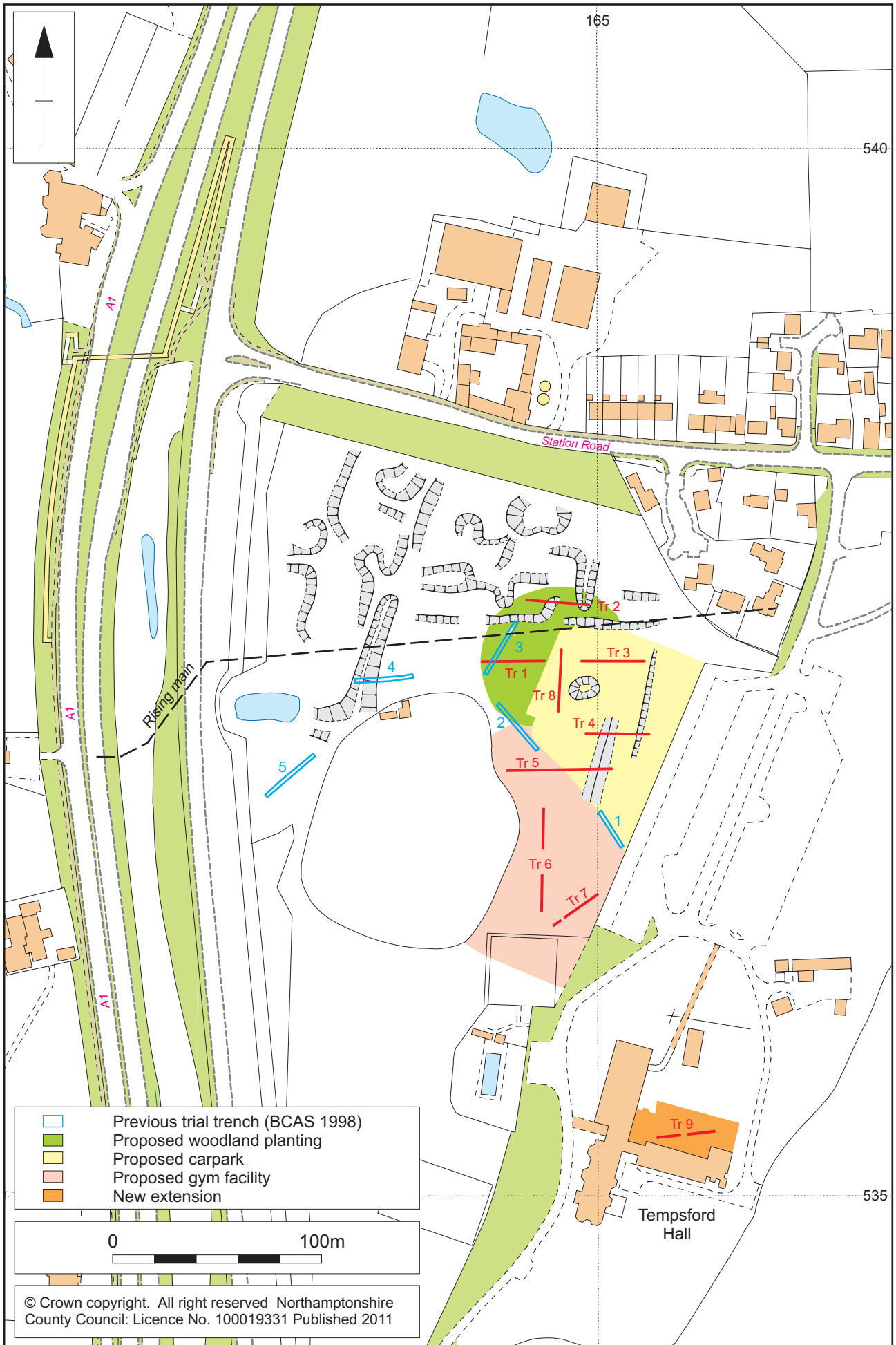
All works were carried out accordance with the Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management prepared by NA (2011), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2002), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology's Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

5.2 The excavated evidence

The evaluation comprised nine trenches (Fig 4), 1.8m wide and of varying lengths. Three of the trenches (4, 7 and 9) had to be shortened to avoid buried services, tree canopies and in the case of Trench 7, a tennis court to the south of the development area.

Trench 2 was originally intended to be 10m long and positioned to investigate a possible archaeological bank detected by the earthwork survey, whilst avoiding a rising water main which crossed the site from south-west to north-east (Fig 4, dashed line). With the agreement of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist this trench was realigned east to west and extended to 30m in length.

The natural substrate, which was encountered between 0.49m and 0.91m below the ground surface, varied from a mid brown-yellow silty clay with frequent gravel patches and flint nodules in the northern part of the development area (trenches 1-8) to a light brown chalky till in the southern part (trench 9).



Scale 1:2500 (A3)

Trial trench locations Fig 4

The natural was generally overlain by up to three layers of firm, well sorted mid to light brown sandy clay subsoil, 0.06m-0.30m thick, which produced finds of flint, tile, pot and lead shot.

The overlying topsoil varied little across the development area, comprising a dark brown sandy loam 0.15m-0.30m thick.

Archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 1-3, 6 and 8. The shallow earthworks S and R were not detected in Trenches 4 and 5. Detailed trench descriptions are included in Appendix 2.

The evaluation produced no faunal remains.

During the course of the evaluation it became apparent that there were discrepancies between some of the reported locations of previous trial trenches, excavated by Bedford County Archaeology Service (BCAS 1998, fig 4) and their actual positions on the ground. Trench 3 of the BCAS evaluation was encountered in the western end of Trench 1 of the current works, some 40m to the south-east of the supposed location. The BCAS Trench 2, which could still be seen as a slight depression in the turf, appeared to be further south than it is shown in figure 4 of the evaluation report (*ibid*). Photographs included in the report also indicate these trenches were not in their reported positions (*ibid*, photographs 2 and 3).

Trench 1

In the western end of the trench there was a circular posthole, [105], which was 0.45m in diameter and 0.32m deep (Figs 5 and 6, section 5). It had steep, almost vertical, sides and a broad concave base. The fill comprised a mottled yellow-brown compact silty sand which contained possible packing stones, single sherd of pottery possibly dating to the Iron Age and was overlain by subsoil.

In the middle of the trench there was an oval pit, [109] (Figs 5 and 6, section 6), of probable post-medieval origin which cut the subsoils. It was at least 1m in diameter by 0.65m deep, with steep sloping, straight sides and a broad flat base. The fills, which comprised dark brown and black sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and ashy inclusions, produced no dating evidence.

Two and half metres from the western end of the trench and aligned north-east to south-west there was a linear trench, 1.6m wide by 0.65m deep which cut the subsoils (Fig 5). With reference to photographs in the BCAS evaluation report of 1998 this feature could be identified as one of the trenches from that evaluation (discussed above).

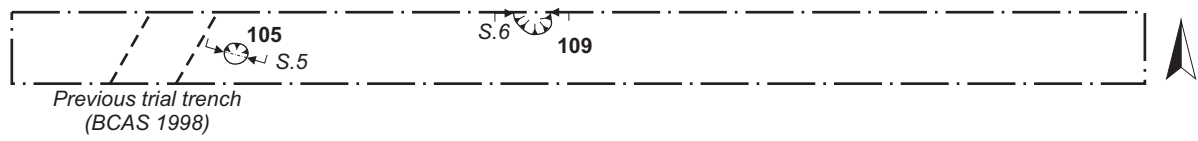
Trench 2

This trench was positioned to investigate a possible archaeological bank, aligned north-east to south-west, identified by the earthwork survey (Figs 4 and 5).

Underlying the bank, 7.5m from the western end of the trench, there was a sub-oval pit, [210], at least 1m in diameter by 0.25m deep. The straight sides sloped c45° to a narrow concave base (Figs 5 and 6, section 4). The dark brown-grey, sandy clay fill produced no finds.

The bank, [208], was found to be 14.5m wide, 0.60m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad, eroded flat top (Figs 5 and 6, section 3). Two layers of bank material were identified. The lower comprised a dark grey-brown, sterile, silty clay-sand, 0.20m-0.25m thick. The upper comprised a similar, slightly lighter brown, material which contained occasional, small chalk pieces and flecks.

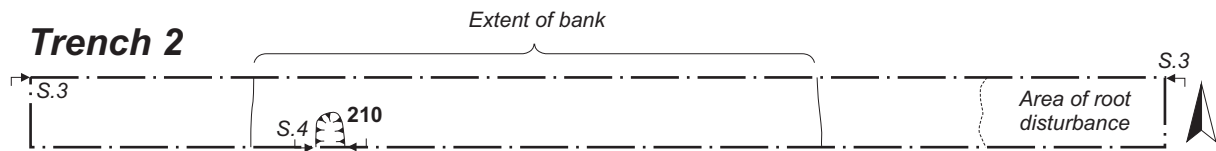
Trench 1



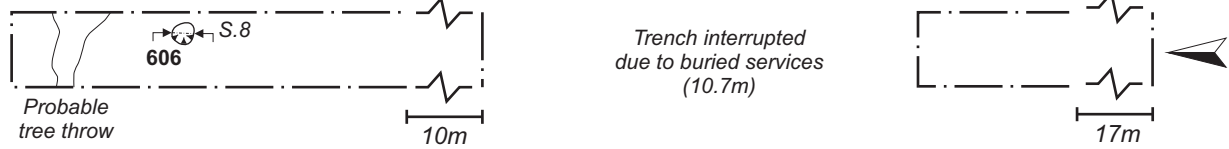
Trench 3



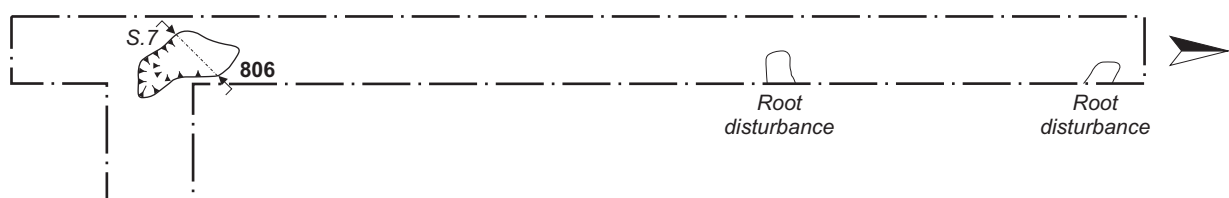
Trench 2



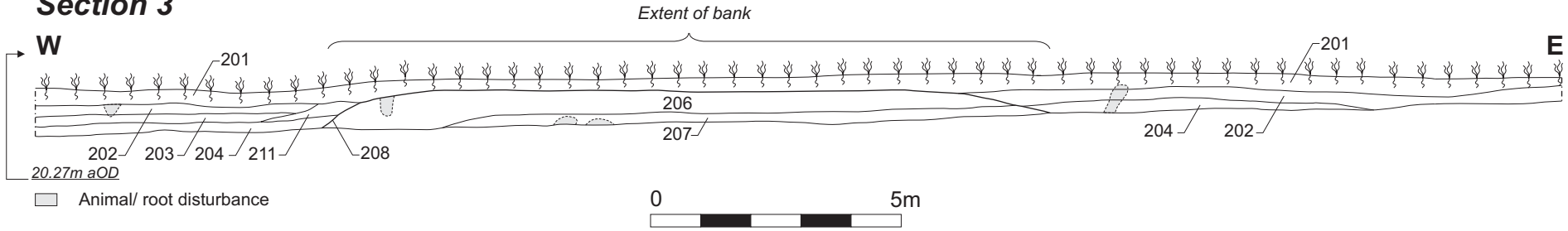
Trench 6



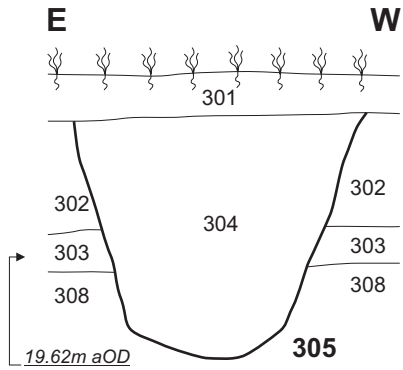
Trench 8



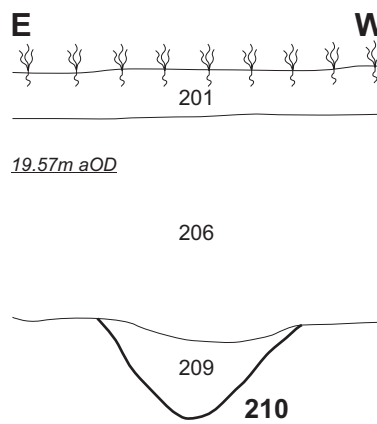
Section 3



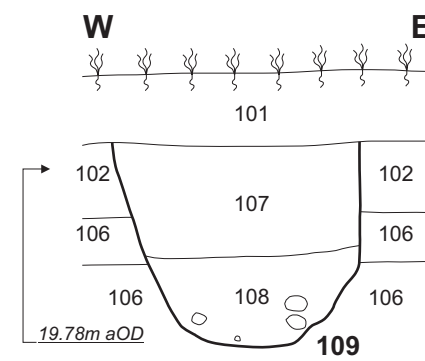
Section 1



Section 4



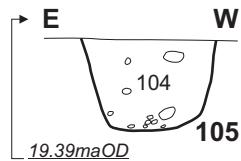
Section 6



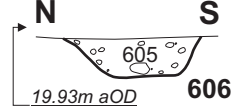
Section 2



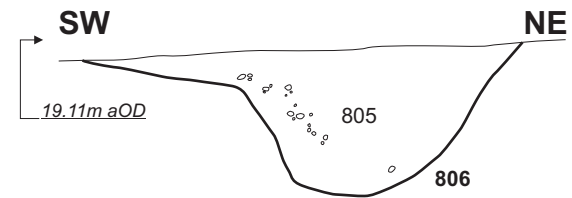
Section 5



Section 8



Section 7



On either side of the bank up to three layers of subsoil, 0.15m-0.20m thick, had accumulated. On the western side, and overlying the first layer of subsoil there was a deposit of probable bank erosion material, (211), 0.25m thick.

Trench 3

A gully terminal or possible natural feature, [307], was located 6m from the eastern end of the trench. It was 1m wide, at least 1.30m long by 0.25m deep. The profile was irregular and the mid brown sandy clay fill was overlain by subsoil (Figs 5 and 6, section 2).

To the west of this feature and 12m away there was a second linear gully of probable post-medieval origin, [305], which was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.90m wide, at least 1.90m long and 0.80m deep (Figs 5 and 6, section 1). The steep sides cut the subsoil and the mid grey silty clay produced no finds.

Trench 6

At the northern end of the trench there was a shallow posthole, [606], which was 0.45m in diameter and 0.14m deep. It had steep sloping sides, a flat base and the dark grey sandy clay, which fill produced no finds, was overlain by subsoil (Figs 5 and 6, section 8).

Trench 8

A large sub crescent-shaped tree hole was present in the southern end of the trench (Figs 5 and 6, section 7). Initially, the nature of the feature was not clear but further machine excavation at the request of the Central Bedford Council Archaeologist revealed its shape in plan. It was 3m long, 1.50m wide by 0.50m deep with an irregular profile which often undercut the natural substrate. The dark brown compact silty sand fill contained patches of redeposited natural gravel and produced a fragment of flint blade, part of a retouched flake and pottery of possible Neolithic date.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The worked flint by Andy Chapman

The trial trenching produced a total of 15 flints; eight came from the subsoil (204), (502), (503) and (802) in trenches 2, 5 and 8, and a further seven came for the fill (805) of a tree hole [806] in trench 8 (Table 1).

The flints are typically fresh, comprising vitreous flint, from translucent to opaque, of good quality varying from light brown, through grey-brown to grey in colour. The cortex, when present, is cream to light brown.

Table 1: The worked flint

Fill/feature (type)	Number	Description
204 (subsoil)	2	Flakes
502 (subsoil)	1	Blade
503 (subsoil)	3	Flakes
802 (subsoil)	2	Flakes
805/[806] (tree hole)	5	Flakes
805/[806] (tree hole)	1	Blade
805/[806] (tree hole)	1	Retouched flake
Totals	15	

The group comprises 12 flakes of miscellaneous irregular shapes, sometimes squat and typically hard hammer struck.

Part of a blade, from the subsoil (502) in trench 5, is 38mm long (broken) by 27mm wide and has been struck from a prepared blade core. One edge has irregular damage while the other edge has heavily worn flake scars, indicating extensive use as a cutting edge. It may have been a serrated blade, but the edge is too worn to be certain. There is part of another blade, 24mm long (broken) by 19mm wide, also struck from a prepared core and with damage to both edges from use, from the fill (805) of a tree hole [806]. From the same feature, there is part of a large flake with edge retouch (with much of the retouched edge missing) that was probably used as a knife.

Given the small size of the group, the flints can only be broadly dated to the Neolithic to early Bronze Age, but the blade and knife from the tree hole [806] are more likely to be of early to middle Neolithic date. The presence of seven flints in this single feature may suggest that it is of prehistoric date. The much larger assemblage of 194 flints recovered from the excavations in 1999 were also broadly Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date, but contained an element of specifically early to middle Neolithic types (Chapman 2005a, 49-51).

6.2 The prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

Of the total of 14 sherds of pottery, from a maximum of eight vessels, weighing 45g; there are seven sherds from the subsoil (204), (502) and (503) in trenches 2 and 5, a single sherd from a posthole [105] in trench 1, and six sherds from a single vessel in tree hole [806] (Table 2).

The pottery all comprises small plain body sherds with no diagnostic features. With a single exception, the sherds are from hand-built vessels of prehistoric date, in a variety of fabrics, with the body and surface colours ranging from brown to grey.

From the tree hole [806] there are sherds containing large pieces of angular flint. In the excavations of 1999, there were sherds from a Neolithic Mortlake bowl in a similar fabric (Chapman 2005b, 40-50). This sherd, together with the small flint assemblage, might indicate a middle Neolithic date for tree hole [806].

The sherd from posthole [105] contains dense small quartz inclusions, and is most similar to three sherds from the subsoil (503) in trench 5, although in these the quartz grains are smaller. These sherds could all be of Iron Age date, along with the other sherds in fine sandy and shelly fabrics. In addition, there is a single small sherd from the subsoil (502) in a soft orange fabric of Romano-British date.

Table 2: The prehistoric pottery

Fill/cut (type)	Sherds	Vessel families	Weight (g)	Fabric inclusions
104/[105] (posthole)	1	1	4	Sandy (small quartz)
204 (subsoil)	2	2	11	1 Shelly 1 Sandy (v fine quartz)
502 (subsoil)	4	3	9	3 sandy (small quartz) 1 RB
503 (subsoil)	1	1	3	Voids (leached shell?)
805/[806] (tree hole)	6	1	18	Angular flint
Total	14	8	45	

6.3 The tile by Pat Chapman

There are nine small sherds of roof tile, weighing 254g. Two come from subsoil (202), one from subsoil (203) and six from topsoil (501). They are all 15mm thick. Eight of the sherds are made from hard slightly coarse orange-brown sandy clay with gravel and flint inclusions up to 12mm long. These are sherds of medieval or post-medieval roof tile. One sherd which could be Roman, from topsoil (501), is made from fine, slightly soft silty pale orange clay.

6.4 The lead shot by Tora Hylton

There are five spherical balls of lead, these would have been used as shot and fired from hand-held weapons. Four of the balls were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trenches 1 and 5 and one was recovered from the backfill of Trench 2. The shot ranges in size from 10-14mm in diameter, suggesting that they would have been used for pistols rather than muskets. Four preserve vestiges of a ridge around the circumference, indicating that they were made in two-piece moulds. Three of the balls are slightly flattened, these may be impact marks or just indicate that the shot had been dropped.

7 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation detected few archaeological remains within the proposed development area suggesting that it lies mostly outside of the foci of Saxon and medieval activity. These results reflect those of the previous evaluation (BCAS 1998) which revealed little evidence of settlement beyond the southern boundary of the probable Saxon plots to the north or outside of the limits of the medieval moated manor to the west.

Trench 2, located at the northern edge of the development area, revealed a bank which may have been associated with the earthwork ditch **C** (Fig 4). The top of the bank was directly overlain by 0.25m of top soil and lay within an area of proposed woodland planting.

Trench 9 was located within the footprint of the proposed extension to Tempsford Hall to the south of the main group of trenches. This revealed a similarly truncated natural substrate to that encountered during the watching brief of previous construction works in the immediate vicinity (Leigh 2008). This disturbance is likely to have occurred during the construction of the existing modern extension and associated landscaping.

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APPENDIX 1: INDEX OF EARTHWORKS

Feature	Dimensions	Condition	Vegetation	Description
A	117m long, up to 5m wide and 0.15m high	Medium	Grass, occasional trees	East-west aligned scarp, breaks occurring along its length, particularly where trees have been planted. Appears to form the southern edge of the earthworks
B	17m long, up to 4.8m wide and 0.09m high	Poor	Grass tree	East-west aligned scarp, forms the northern edge of a rectangular platform the southern edge of which is defined by A
C	29m long, up to 9.7m wide and 0.36m deep	Good	Grass	North-south aligned depression, western side continues westwards at its northern end as a shallow scarp, may be remnants of a ditch forming a plot or other division, the scarp at its northern end perhaps forming part of a platform to its west
D	62m long, up to 4.8m wide and 0.17m high	Moderate	Grass	East-west aligned irregular scarp, appears to form the northern edge of rectangular platform(s), whose southern edge is defined by A. An indentation along its length may signify a former plot division or gap between platforms
E	24m long, up to 3m wide and 0.19m high	Moderate	Grass	East-west aligned scarp, turns southwards at eastern end to meet D, forms the northern side of a flat-based depression whose southern side is formed by D
F	15m long, up to 4.8m wide and 0.13m high	Moderate	Grass	North-east to south-west aligned scarp, perhaps forming one side of a plot division
G	32m long, up to 4.9m wide and 0.18m high	Moderate	Grass	Irregular scarp of uncertain purpose
H	40m long, up to 18m wide and up to 0.4m deep	Good	Grass	Flat-based irregular depression defined by irregular scarp. Does not appear to resemble other earthworks on site and may represent an area of former quarrying
I	36m long, up to 6.2m wide and 0.18m high	Moderate	Grass, nettles and scrub, occasional trees	North-east to south-west aligned scarp forming part of eastern edge of moat complex

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Feature	Dimensions	Condition	Vegetation	Description
J	18m long, up to 20m wide and up to 0.28m deep	Moderate	Grass, nettles and scrub, occasional trees	Round-ended depression cut into natural slope, perhaps forming terminal of ditch associated with moat complex
K	12m long, up to 3.4m wide and 0.1m high	Poor	Grass	Short stretch of scarp, probably associated with moat complex
L	37m long, up to 3.4m wide and 0.17m high	Poor	Grass, scrub and trees	Irregular scarp forming part of eastern edge of moat complex
M	83m long, up to 9.8m wide and up to 0.43m deep	Good	Grass, scrub, nettles and trees	L-shaped depression formed by ditch marking eastern and part of southern edge of moat complex
N	43m long, up to 4m wide and 0.14m high	Moderate	Grass	L-shaped curving scarp within the interior of the moat
O	18m long, 13m wide up to 0.12m deep	Poor	Grass, scrub	Shallow depression formed by curving scarp within interior of moat complex
P	45m long, up to 5.3m wide and 0.36m high	Moderate	Grass, trees, scrub	Pronounced curving scarp probably associated with moat complex
Q	15m long, 10m wide up to 0.3m deep	Moderate	Grass	Ovoid depression perhaps a small pond or quarry
R	54m long, up to 2.5m wide and 0.1m high	Moderate	Grass, trees, scrub	Shallow scarp, perhaps representing former boundary or agricultural feature
S	61m long, up to 10m wide and 0.05m m high	Poor	Grass	Shallow corrugation representing survival of ridge and furrow, barely visible

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m x 1.8m E-W	516460/253755	19.84m aOD	0.58m, 19.26m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.21-0.30m thick	Lead shot x 1
102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.18m-	-
103	Natural	Yellow-brown silty sand with gravel patches	-	-
104	Fill 105	Mottled yellow-brown silty sand, possible packing stones	0.32m thick	Pottery, prehistoric, Iron Age
105	Posthole	Circular, steep-sided	0.45mØ, 0.32m deep	-
106	Subsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.15m thick	-
107	Fill of 109	Compact, grey-brown silty sand	0.37m thick	-
108	Fill 109	Dark grey silty sand, charcoal flecks, ash	0.30m thick	-
109	Pit	Oval, deep. Steep sides, flat base	0.80mØ, 0.70m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 1.8m E-W	516482/253783	19.94m aOD	0.50m, 19.44m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Friable mid-grey brown sandy loam	0.20m-0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m-0.30m thick	Tile, medieval/post-medieval
203	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	0.19m thick	Tile, medieval/post-medieval
204	Subsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.15m-0.28m thick	Flint, Pottery, prehistoric
205	Natural	Yellow-brown silty sand with gravel patches	-	-
206	Bank material	Upper bank material, grey-brown silty sandy clay, occasional chalk pieces	0.30m-0.50m thick	-
207	Bank material	Lower bank material, dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.15m-0.20m thick	-
208	Bank	Gradual sloping sides, broad, eroded flat top.	14.5m wide, 0.50m deep	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 1.8m E-W	516482/253783	19.94m aOD	0.50m, 19.44m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
209	Fill of 210	Firm grey-brown silty sandy clay	0.32m thick	-
210	Pit	Oval, steep-sided	0.65m Ø, 0.32m deep	-
211	Bank material	Bank erosion material. Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	30 x 1.8m E-W	516509/253755	19.83m aOD	0.60m, 19.23m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.20m-0.25m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	-
303	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange sandy clay	0.10m thick	-
304	Fill	Mid grey silty clay occasional charcoal flecks	0.90m wide, 0.80m thick	-
305	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, steep sides, concave base	0.90m wide 0.80m deep	-
306	Fill of 307	Mid brown sandy clay	1.0m wide 0.25m thick	-
307	Gully	Linear, N-S, steep straight west edge, gradual, concave east edge	1.0m wide 0.25m deep	-
308	Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	30m x 1.8m E-W	516511/2533720	20.17m aOD	0.55m, 19.62m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.15m-0.24m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.19m-0.20m thick	-
403	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange sandy clay	0.20m-0.21m thick	-
404	Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel patches	-	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m x 1.8m E-W	516480/253703	20.07m aOD	0.66m, 19.41m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.28m-0.32m thick	Tile, possible Roman, lead shot x 2
502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.20m-0.24m thick	Flint, pottery, prehistoric and Roman
503	Subsoil	Mid brown/orange sandy clay	0.13m-0.20m thick	Flint, pottery, prehistoric
504	Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	38.5m x 1.8m N-S	516473/253663	20.51m aOD	0.59m, 19.92m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.22m-0.36m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.17m-0.25m thick	-
603	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange sandy clay	0.13m-0.17m thick	-
604	Natural	Reddish-brown sandy clay with frequent gravel patches and flint nodules	-	-
605	Fill of 606	Dark grey sandy clay	0.45m Ø, 0.14m thick	-
606	Posthole	Sub circular, steep sides, flat base	0.45m Ø, 0.14m deep	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	25m x 1.8m NE-SW	516490/253637	21.88m aOD	0.46m, 21.42m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
701	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.16m-0.22m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.11m-0.15m thick	-
703	Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay	0.10m-0.15m thick	-
704	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange sandy clay	0.06m-0.11m thick	-
705	Natural	Yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	30m x 1.8m NE-SW	516481/253747	19.77m aOD	0.59m, 19.18m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.28m-0.30m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.10m-0.16m thick	Flint
803	Subsoil	Mid brown/orange sandy clay	0.15m-0.20m thick	-
804	Natural	Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel patches	-	-
805	Fill of 806	Dark brown, compact silty sand with patches of redeposited natural gravel	3m long, 1.50m wide, 0.50m thick	Flint, pottery, prehistoric
806	Cut of tree bole	Sub-crescent, irregular steep sides, concave base	3.0m long, 1.50m wide, 0.50m deep	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	19 x 1.8m NE-SW	516543/253529	25.57m aOD	0.50m 25.07m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy loam	0.20m-0.22m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Grey-brown silty clay, frequent bricks, slate, breeze block, plastic	0.29m-0.40m thick	-
903	Natural	Light brown chalky clay till	-	-



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