



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trenching on land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester, Northamptonshire  
December 2011



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
County Council

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Report 11/263

January 2012



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological trial trenching on land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester, Northamptonshire, December 2011	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<i>In December 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of the Environmental Dimensions Partnership, on land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester, Northamptonshire. Twenty-three trenches, each 30m long by 2m wide, were excavated on two areas. On site 1, where ten trenches were excavated, there was part of an Iron Age enclosure ditch and two shallow Roman gullies. On site 2, where thirteen trenches were excavated, there were only two shallow gullies, the rest of the possible features related to post-medieval and later quarrying.</i>	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey	
Current Land use	Agricultural land in arable production	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Roman and Medieval	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	Site 1 (4.1ha). Site 2 (3.2ha)	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	NGR 492200 266100	
Height OD	Maximum site height c 80 metres AOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Design originator	Environmental Dimensions Partnership	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	Barwood Strategic Land II LLP	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	01/12/2011	
End date	12/12/2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	1 box of pottery and animal bone
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Site records folder. 2 sheets of sections and plans
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Client report. Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Serial title & volume	11/ 263	
Author(s)	Christopher Jones	
Page numbers	18	
Date	20/01/12	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND WEST OF HIGH STREET  
AND LAND ADJOINING IRCHESTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION, IRCHESTER,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
DECEMBER 2011**

**Abstract**

*In December 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of the Environmental Dimensions Partnership, on land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester, Northamptonshire. Twenty-three trenches, each 30m long by 2m wide, were excavated on two areas. On site 1, where ten trenches were excavated, there was part of an Iron Age enclosure ditch and two shallow Roman gullies. On site 2, where thirteen trenches were excavated, there were only two shallow gullies, the rest of the possible features related to post-medieval and later quarrying.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Barwood Strategic Land II LLP plan to apply for outline planning permission for the construction of residential homes and a sports ground on land west of High Street and land adjoining Irchester Sports Association, Irchester, Northamptonshire (NGR 492200 266100; Fig 1).

The programme of archaeological investigation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation, involved the excavation of twenty-three trenches across the two separate sections of the development areas (NA 2011).

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by the Environmental Dimensions Partnership (EDP), acting on behalf of Barwood Strategic Land II LLP, to undertake the archaeological trial trenching, the results of which are presented in this report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991, appendix 4: assessment report specification) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

This tranche of works follows a detailed geophysical magnetometer survey by Bartlett Clark Consultancy and a desk-based assessment by EDP (Lewis 2011).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location, topography and geology**

The development area comprises two parcels of land situated immediately to the north of the modern town of Irchester, to the west of High Street, and east of Irchester Country Park. The sports development area (site 1) lies off Gipsy Lane to the north of the current recreation ground and comprises 4.1ha of agricultural land. The eastern area (site 2) for residential use, off High Street, comprises 3.2ha of arable land (Fig

1). The topography comprises a rolling landscape overlooking the River Nene valley to the north.

The underlying bedrock comprises limestone of the Great Oolite group (BGS GeolIndex) as well as ironstones. The bedrock is overlain by Diamicton glacial tills.

## 2.2 Archaeological background

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared by EDP (Lewis 2011). This concludes that there are no designated heritage assets, such as Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens and Historic Battlefield sites, within the proposed development area. There are a number of sites listed in Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER), which date from prehistory to the modern period in the surrounding area. The Nene valley has been occupied from at least the late Neolithic to the Iron Age; prehistoric or Roman enclosures are recorded from aerial photographs and from find spots (**HER3126/0/2**). The most notable site is the Scheduled Roman town of Irchester (**HER1641, SAM83**), some 500m to the north of the site. A Roman road probably passed close to site 1 linking Irchester with Kettering to the north and *Magiovinium* (**HER3141/1**) to the south.

In the medieval period there were small settlements at Chester Farm (to the east of the Roman town) and at Knuston. The medieval settlement of Irchester, with St Katherine's church at its northern tip, developed as a linear village. Knuston was enclosed by Parliamentary Inclosure Act in 1766, depopulated and the land emparked. Visible signs of medieval open field cultivation surviving as earthworks around Irchester itself are minimal, with much of the landscape either under plough or subject to extensive ironstone extraction in the post-medieval period. Areas of ironstone quarrying lie to the south of the Roman town and to the west of the proposed development area (**HER5911/1**). The latter site is now the location of Irchester Country Park.

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were specified in the WSI (NA 2011):

General aims:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

Site specific aims:

- To clarify the impact of medieval, post-medieval and modern ploughing and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- To clarify the extent, date, character, condition and significance of the linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey;
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric flint within topsoil and subsoil horizons;

- To determine the presence or absence of late prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman settlement remains;
- To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits;
- To establish the potential for archaeological remains.

### 3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the *Written Scheme Of Investigation* (NA 2011), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA 1985, revised 2008).

Twenty-three trenches were excavated, 10 trenches on site 1 and 13 trenches on site 2. All the trenches were 30m long by 2m wide and were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by the planning archaeologist for Northamptonshire County Council and have been related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 1). The work was monitored by the planning archaeologist for Northamptonshire County Council.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal archaeological remains or, where absent, 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 (NA 2006). 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 and related to Ordnance Datum. Archaeological artefacts were recovered from the surface and excavated deposits. Deposits suitable for environmental assessment were sampled when they were encountered. 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. On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### 4.1 Introduction

The 23 trenches were typically aligned approximately north-south or east-west, although a few lay at oblique angles. They were positioned to provide a full coverage of both sites 1 and 2, and to provide more detailed investigation where the geophysical survey had identified possible archaeological features (Fig 2 and Fig 4).

Overlying the limestone natural was subsoil, up to 0.45m thick on site 1, and 0.30m thick on site 2, comprising mid grey-brown clay loam, with an intermittent sand fraction dependant upon the underlying natural. The topsoil was a dark grey-brown clay loam, up to 0.30m thick over both sites.

#### **4.2 Site 1: Sports development area (Fig 2 and Fig 3)**

Ten trenches were excavated on site 1 (trenches 14 to 23). Four of the trenches; 14, 16, 18 and 19; contained archaeological features.

In trench 14, aligned north-west to south-east, there was a single ditch [1404]. This was located several metres to the north of the enclosure shown on the geophysical survey. No other features were present in the trench.

Trench 16, which was aligned north-south, located a possible continuation of the enclosure ditch seen in trench 14. The ditch [1604] was 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep with fills of dark greyish brown silt clay (1605) overlain by a mid brown clay loam (1606), which contained one sherd of Iron Age and one sherd of Roman pottery, and animal bone (Fig 3, section 8).

Trench 17 showed no evidence for the continuation of the enclosure ditch, even though the geophysical survey suggested it should pass through it.

Trench 18, aligned north-east to south-west, contained a single gully [1804], 0.52m wide by 0.16m deep. The fill was a mid brown silt clay with limestone fragments (1803) and contained two sherds of Roman pottery, and animal bone (Fig 3, section 6).

Trench 19, aligned north-east to south-west, contained a single gully [1904] 1.0m wide and 0.11m deep, with a fill of mid brown silt clay (1903) with limestone fragments, one sherd of Roman pottery and animal bone (Fig 3, section 5).

Soil samples were taken from all the features recorded.

#### **4.3 Site 2: Residential development area (Fig 4 and Fig 5)**

Thirteen trenches were excavated on site 2 (trenches 1 to 13). Only two of the trenches; 1 and 13; contained archaeological features.

Trench 1, aligned north-west to south-east, contained a single gully [106], 0.60m wide by 0.15m deep, with a fill of mid brown sand silt (105). No pottery was found, but one sherd of Roman and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil (Fig 5, section 1).

Trench 13, aligned east-west, contained a single gully [1305] 0.65m wide and 0.18m deep with a fill of dark brown silt clay (1304) and limestone fragments. No pottery was recovered (Fig 5, section 3).

Some of the other trenches had possible features, but, when hand excavated, these were shown to be quarry pits or furrows.



## 5 THE FINDS

### 5.1 The pottery by Andy Chapman and Tora Hylton

There is a small assemblage of pottery, comprising eight sherds, weighing 55g. A plain body sherd of hand-built shelly ware from gully [1604] is probably of Iron Age date. From the same feature there is also a plain body sherd of probable late Iron Age or Roman shelly coarseware. Two features, [1804] and [1904], produced three sherds of Roman pottery, including a body sherd of Verulamium white ware, dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and a small body sherd of probable Black-burnished ware 2, dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. The indication is that these features probably date to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, spanning the late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

From the topsoil, (101), there is a further body sherd of Roman shelly coarseware, and two rim sherds of probable medieval shelly coarseware, including an inturned rim. Medieval shelly coarseware is dated to the 12th-13th centuries.

*Table 1: Quantification of the pottery*

Fill/cut	sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric/description
101 topsoil	2	20	Medieval shelly coarseware rim (12th-13th centuries)
101 topsoil	1	10	Roman shelly ware
1606/1604	1	10	Hand-built shelly ware, late Iron Age
1606/1604	1	5	Roman shelly ware
1803/1804	1	5	Roman Verulamium-region white ware
1803/1804	1	3	Roman sandy coarseware (1st-2nd century AD)
1903/1904	1	2	Roman sandy ware with mica (BB2?) (2nd-3rd centuries AD)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>55</b>	

## 6 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 The animal bone by Laszlo Lichtenstein

#### *Introduction*

A total of 17 NISP (196g) hand-collected animal bone elements and fragments were analysed from Iron Age-Roman ditch [1604] and two Roman gullies [1804] and [1904]. Employing standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures, 14 specimens (82.4% of the total NISP) were identified to taxa and parts of anatomy, representing at least two mammalian (Bos/cattle; Ovicaprid/sheep or goat) and one avian (Gallus/Domestic fowl) species. No evidence for bone working or pathological signs was observed. No fish, amphibian or small mammalian bones were recovered.

#### *Method*

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 J Boessneck (1964) were used to separate the

two species (where applicable). Ageing data and tooth eruption and wear were categorised according to Hillson (2005).

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.

### ***Taphonomy***

The bones were generally in good condition and the fragmentation was low (Table 2), with the majority (68.7%) being more than 50mm in size. Only low level of surface abrasion was observed. No complete long bones were recorded because the proximal and the distal ends were damaged. Taphonomic factors affecting the material were recorded, including recently broken bones. Some bones showed signs of fresh breaks.

Evidence of butchery was noted on one cattle radius fragment (1808), which was chopped, and on a domestic hen radius fragment (1606), which was knife cut.

There was no evidence for burning or canid gnawing.

*Table 2: Size of the animal bone assemblage (without teeth)*

<b>Size (mm)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<20	-	-
20-50	5	31.3%
50-100	9	56.3%
100-150	2	12.4%

*Table 3: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count*

<b>Species</b>	<b>NISP</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bos taurus L. (Linné 1758)	7	41.3%
Ovicaprid	7	41.3%
Gallus domesticus (Linné 1758)	1	5.8%
Large ungulate size	1	5.8%
Small ungulate size	1	5.8%

### ***Ageing***

Little ageing data was available because of the sheep tooth and the domestic fowl bone fusion. The tooth was part of an adult beast; this animal was mature at death. The domestic fowl radius indicates a juvenile individual.

### ***Discussion***

Unfortunately, not enough bone was presented for full analysis. The fragmentation was moderate. Some bones were smashed recently. Of the assemblage, 88.4% could be identified to species (Table 3). Little can be said of the animal economy of the site due to the paucity of material. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (41.3%) and sheep/goat (41.3%). The species present are typical of those seen from late Iron Age and Roman contexts. The chicken bones present are not unusual from

Roman contexts. The dominance of the sheep and cattle is typical of this period (Table 4). Its presence is the result of domestic waste disposal.

*Table 4: Minimal individuals identified in the animal bone assemblage*

<b>Species/Taxa</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>MNI</b>
Bos taurus L. (Linne 1758)	Cattle	1
Ovicaprid (Ovis aries or Capra hircus Linne 1758)	Sheep or goat	1
Gallus domesticus (Linne 1758)	Domestic hen	1

This very small assemblage of bone fragments is too small to warrant further analysis. The state of preservation for bone on the site in this period was generally good, but the amount of material retrieved was below the level anticipated for a site of domestic occupation.

## 6.2 The plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer

### ***Introduction and method statement***

Samples for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from gully and ditch fills and three were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 5. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

### ***Results***

Cereal grains and chaff were recorded at a low to moderate density within all three assemblages. Preservation was variable, with a number of the grains being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Rounded, hexaploid type wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were predominant, although a very small number of oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were also noted along with bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes. Seeds of common segetal weeds only occurred in sample 1 (gully [1804]), and even then, mostly as single specimens within the assemblage. Taxa noted included stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), grasses (Poaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet was also recorded within the same assemblage. Charcoal/charred wood fragments, some of which were very large (>10mm), were present throughout, but other plant macrofossils were very scarce. The fragments of black porous and tarry material were all probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

### ***Conclusions and recommendations for further work***

Although the assemblages are small (<0.1 litres in volume) and somewhat limited in composition, it would appear most likely that all three, and most especially sample 1, are derived from low densities of charred cereal processing and/or storage waste. The weed assemblage within sample 1 appears to indicate that the cereals had been grown on heavier clay soils, some of which may have been newly cultivated. With the

possible exception of sample 1, the primary deposition of material within the ditch and gully fills is not indicated, and it is suggested that most remains are derived from scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

Table 5: Plant taxa by sample and context

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>1903</b>	<b>1606</b>
<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>1604</b>
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Gully</b>	<b>Gully</b>	<b>Ditch</b>
<b>Cereals</b>			
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)	xcf		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis node)	x		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xx	xx	x
(rachis internode)	x		
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis node)	x		x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx	xx	x
<b>Herbs</b>			
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	xx		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	x		
Fabaceae indet.	x		
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love	x		
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	x		
Small Poaceae indet.	x		
Large Poaceae indet.	x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x		
<b>Wetland plants</b>			
<i>Carex</i> sp.	x		
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>			
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xxx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	
Charcoal >10mm	x		
Charred root/stem	x		
Indet.seeds	x	x	
<b>Other remains</b>			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	
Black tarry material	x	x	x
Bone	x		
Burnt/fired clay			x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    xxx = 51 – 100 specimens    xxxx = 100+ specimens  
cf = compare

## 7 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation targeted areas of 'potential', as highlighted by the geophysical survey, and was successful in characterising known archaeological features.

In site 1, the trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, revealing an Iron Age/Roman enclosure ditch, dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

The enclosure ditch was identified in the south of site 1, where it was buried under a deeper layer of subsoil than elsewhere in this area. It is possible that, when the modern recreation ground was landscaped, any unwanted soils were spread across the area to the north.

In site 2, the trenching confirmed that few archaeological features are present. The area of magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey, showing features relating to post-medieval and later quarrying activity, was confirmed by the trenching, with evidence of only two undated gullies recorded in two trenches to the south of this area. It is possible that later ploughing has destroyed any evidence elsewhere, as the topsoil is shallow across the field.

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BGS GeolIndex [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) British Geological Survey

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT LIST**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>30m x 2m, NW-SE</b>	<b>492591/266304</b>	<b>63.74</b>	<b>0.75m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	Medieval and Roman pottery
102	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	
103	Layer	Hill wash:	0.30m thick	
104	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		
105	Fill	Fill of 106		
106	Cut	Cut of gully		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>30m x 2m E-W</b>	<b>492584/266277</b>	<b>64.39</b>	<b>0.32m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
201	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.20m thick	
202	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	
203	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>30m x 2m N-S</b>	<b>492545/266275</b>	<b>65.42</b>	<b>0.46m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
301	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.28m thick	
302	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.18m thick	
303	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	30m x 2m N-S	492514/266296	67.87m	0.45m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
401	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
402	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	
403	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		
404	Fill	Fill of 406		
405	Fill	Fill of 406		
406	Cut	Cut of quarry pit		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	30m x 2m N-S	492536/266367	66.82m	0.40m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
501	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
502	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	
503	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		
504	Fill	Fill of 505		
505	Cut	Cut of furrow		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	30m x 2m NE- SW	492511/266367	68.75m	0.33m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature &amp; type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
601	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.19m thick	
602	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.14m thick	
603	Layer	Natural: Orange sandy clay with limestone		
604	Fill	Fill of 605		
605	Cut	Cut of quarry pit		



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>30m x 2m NW-SE</b>	<b>492489/266322</b>	<b>69.47m</b>	<b>0.34m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
701	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.24m thick	
702	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	
703	Layer	Natural limestone		
704	Fill	Fill of 705		
705	Cut	Cut of furrow		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>30m x 20m SE-NW</b>	<b>492449/266312</b>	<b>70.84m</b>	<b>0.34m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
801	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.24m thick	
802	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.10m thick	
803	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>492413/266289</b>	<b>73.64m</b>	<b>0.42m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
901	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.24m thick	
902	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.18m thick	
903	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
10	30m x 20m. N-S	492459/266271	70.68m	0.28m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1001	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.28m thick	
1002	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
11	30m x 20m N-S	492490/266270	68.94m	0.48
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1101	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.23m thick	
1102	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed sandy clay and limestone	0.15m thick	
1103	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
12	30m x 20m E-W	492464/266235	71.76m	0.32m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1201	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.26m thick	
1202	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed sandy clay and limestone	0.06m thick	
1203	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
13	30m x 20m E-W	492472/266222	71.48m	0.39m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1301	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.27m thick	
1302	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed sandy clay and limestone	0.12m thick	
1303	Layer	Natural limestone		
1304	Fill	Fill of 1305		
1305	Cut	Cut of gully		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
14	30m x 20m NW-SE	492086/265773	84.43m	0.55m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1401	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
1402	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.30m thick	
1403	Layer	Natural limestone		
1404	Cut	Cut of enclosure ditch		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
15	30m x 20m NE-SW	492063/265816	84.19m	0.50m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1501	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.30m thick	
1502	Layer	Natural limestone	0.20m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>16</b>	<b>30m x 20m N-S</b>	<b>492038/265749</b>	<b>84.83m</b>	<b>0.65m</b>
1601	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.20m thick	
1602	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.45m thick	
1603	Layer	Natural limestone		
1604	Cut	Ditch cut		
1605	Fill	Primary fill of 1604		
1606	Fill	Secondary fill of 1604		IA and Roman pottery, animal bone Sample 3

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>17</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>492001/265746</b>	<b>84.73m</b>	<b>0.55m</b>
1701	Layer	Topsoil; Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
1702	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.30m thick	
1703	Layer	Natural limestone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>18</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>492017/265783</b>	<b>84.60m</b>	<b>0.30m</b>
1801	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.30m thick	
1802	Layer	Natural limestone		
1803	Fill	Fill of 1804		Roman pottery and animal bone Sample 1
1804	Cut	Cut of gully		

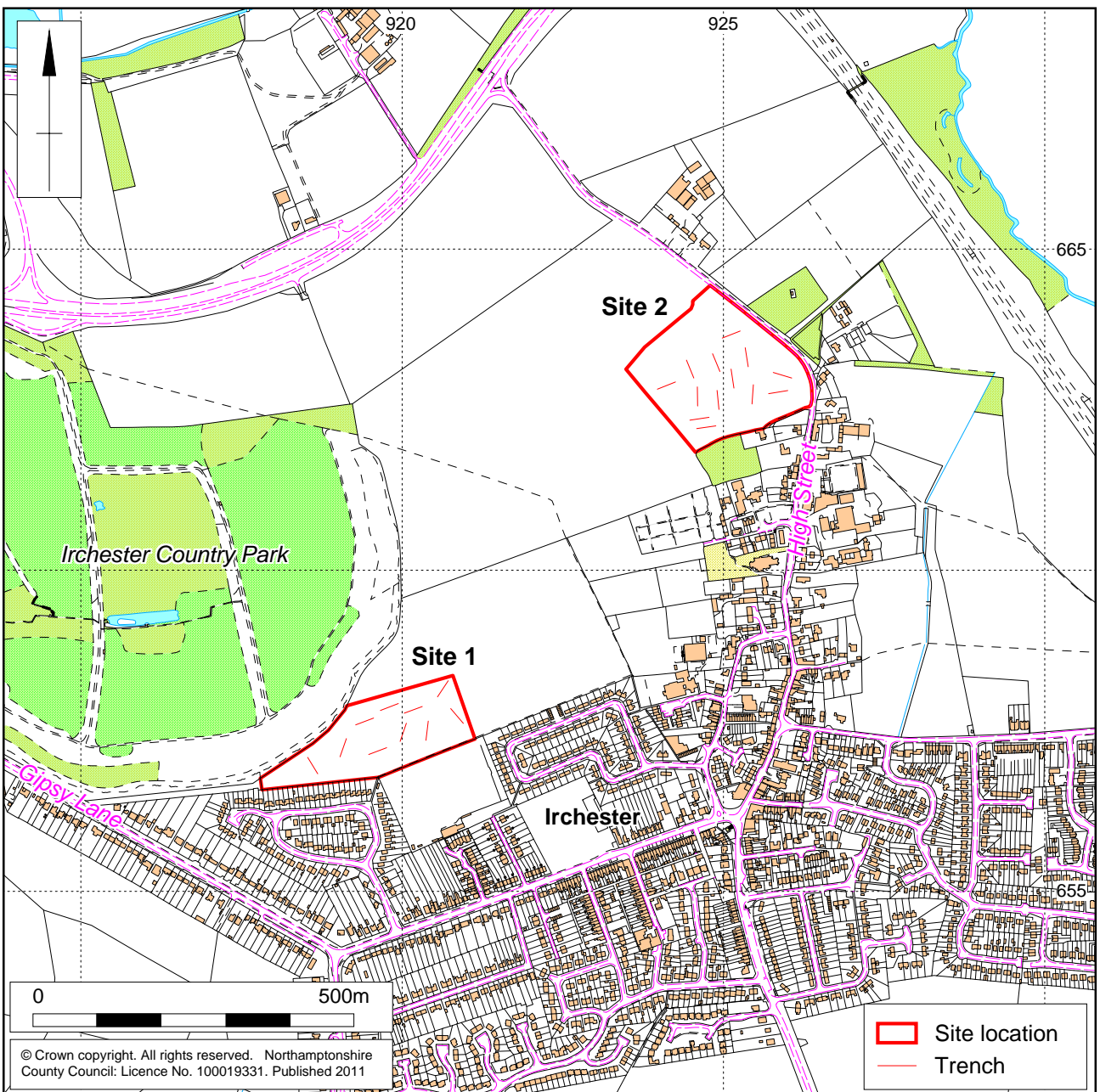
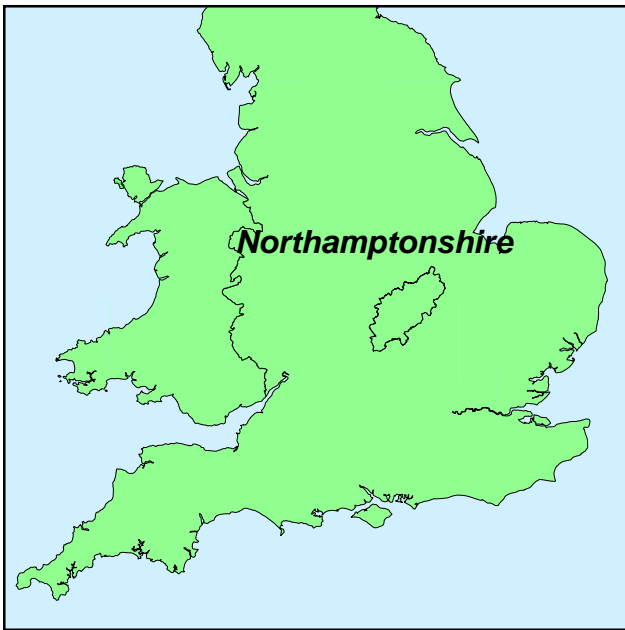
Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>19</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>491979/265786</b>	<b>84.54m</b>	<b>0.30m</b>
1901	Layer	Topsoil; Dark brown loam clay	0.30m thick	
1902	Layer	Natural limestone		
1903	Fill	Fill of 1904		Roman pottery and animal bone Sample 2
1904	Cut	Cut of gully		
1905	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.10m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>20</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>491941/265764</b>	<b>84.71m</b>	<b>0.30m</b>
2001	Layer	Topsoil; Dark brown loam clay	0.30m thick	
2002	Layer	Natural limestone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>21</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>491963/265718</b>	<b>85.25m</b>	<b>0.50m</b>
2101	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
2102	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.25m thick	
2103	Layer	Natural limestone		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
<b>22</b>	<b>30m x 20m NE-SW</b>	<b>491907/265723</b>	<b>85.12m</b>	<b>0.45m</b>
2201	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.25m thick	
2202	Layer	Subsoil: Mixed orange silt clay	0.20m thick	
2203	Layer	Natural limestone		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>30m x 20m NW-SE</b>	<b>491859/265697</b>	<b>85.29m</b>	<b>0.45m</b>
2301	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown loam clay	0.30m thick	
2302	Layer	Subsoil: : Mixed orange silt clay	0.15m thick	
2303	Layer	Natural limestone		



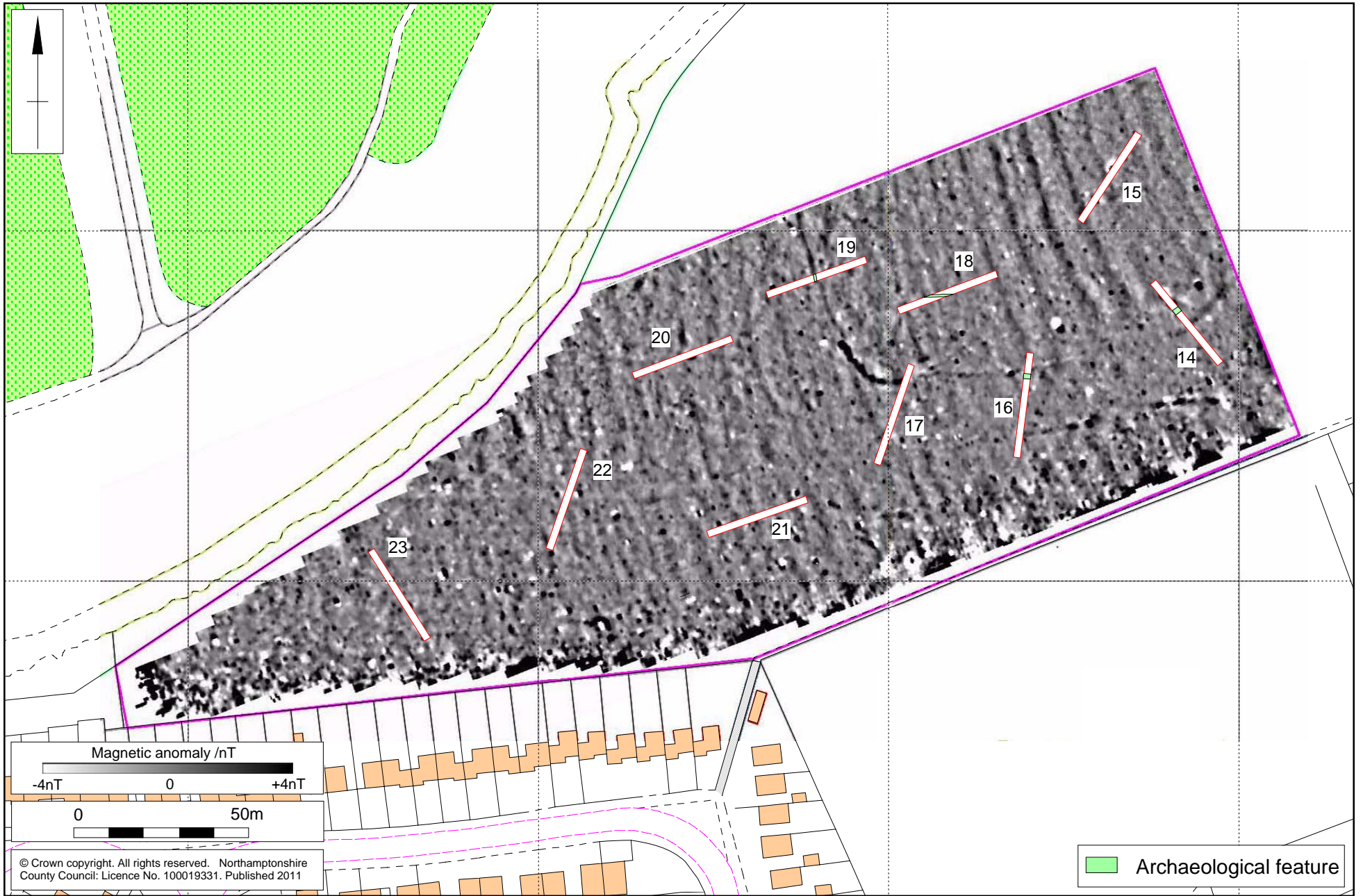
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Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:1500

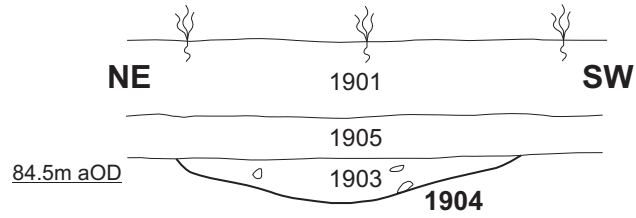
Site 1 trenches, overlaying geophysical survey

Fig 2

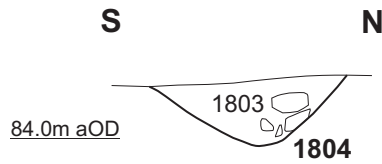




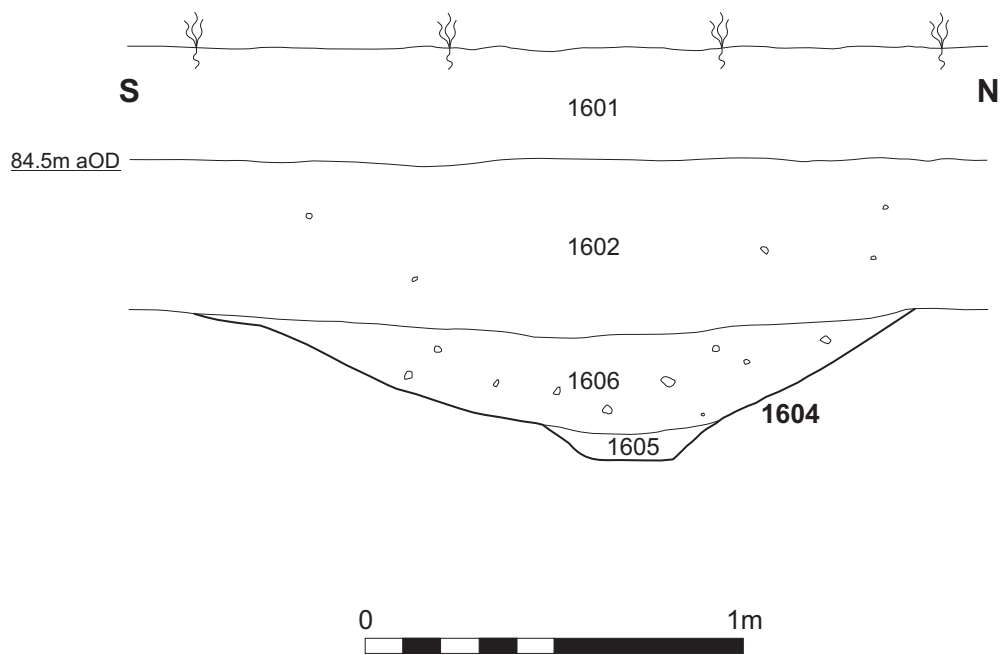
**Section 5**



**Section 6**



**Section 8**



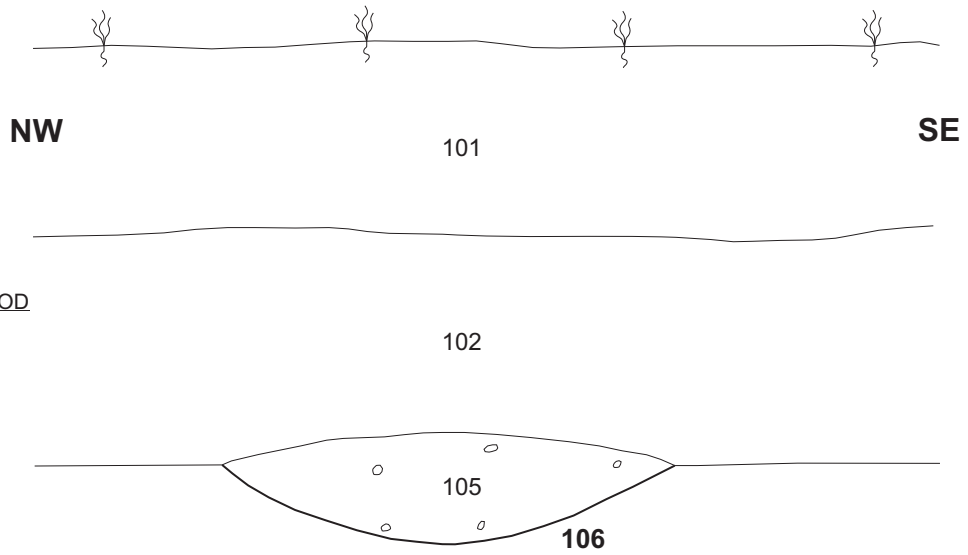
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Site 2 trenches, overlaying geophysical survey

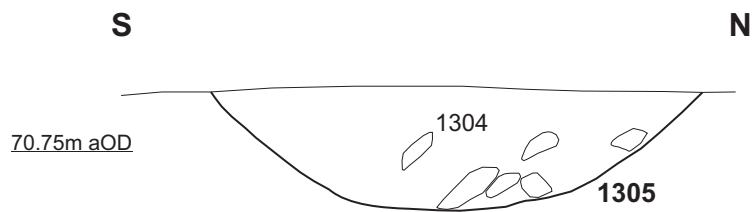
Fig 4



**Section 1**



**Section 3**





Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology



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