



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of the proposed
Sewage Treatment Works, Wakerley Road, Shotley
Northamptonshire
November 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation of the proposed Sewage Treatment Works, Wakerley Road, Shotley, Northamptonshire, November 2011	
Short description	In November 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation by trial trench of the proposed sewage treatment works at Wakerley Road, Shotley, Northamptonshire. The underlying geology of fragmented ironstone was identified, but no archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Wakerley Road	
Easting Northing	SP 9350 9801	
Area (sq m/ha)	0.15 hectares	
Height aOD	c78-81m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council Planning	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water Service Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	02/11/2011	
End date	02/11/2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology Archive Store	None
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation of proposed Sewage Treatment Works, Wakerley Road, Shotley, Northamptonshire, November 2011	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE
PROPOSED SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
WAKERLEY ROAD, SHOTLEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NOVEMBER 2011

Abstract

In November 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation by trial trench of the proposed sewage treatment works at Wakerley Road, Shotley, Northamptonshire. The underlying geology of fragmented ironstone was identified, but no archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on the site for a proposed sewage treatment works at Wakerley Road, Shotley, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 9350 9801; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

The scope of works was outlined in a brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (Mather 2011) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (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

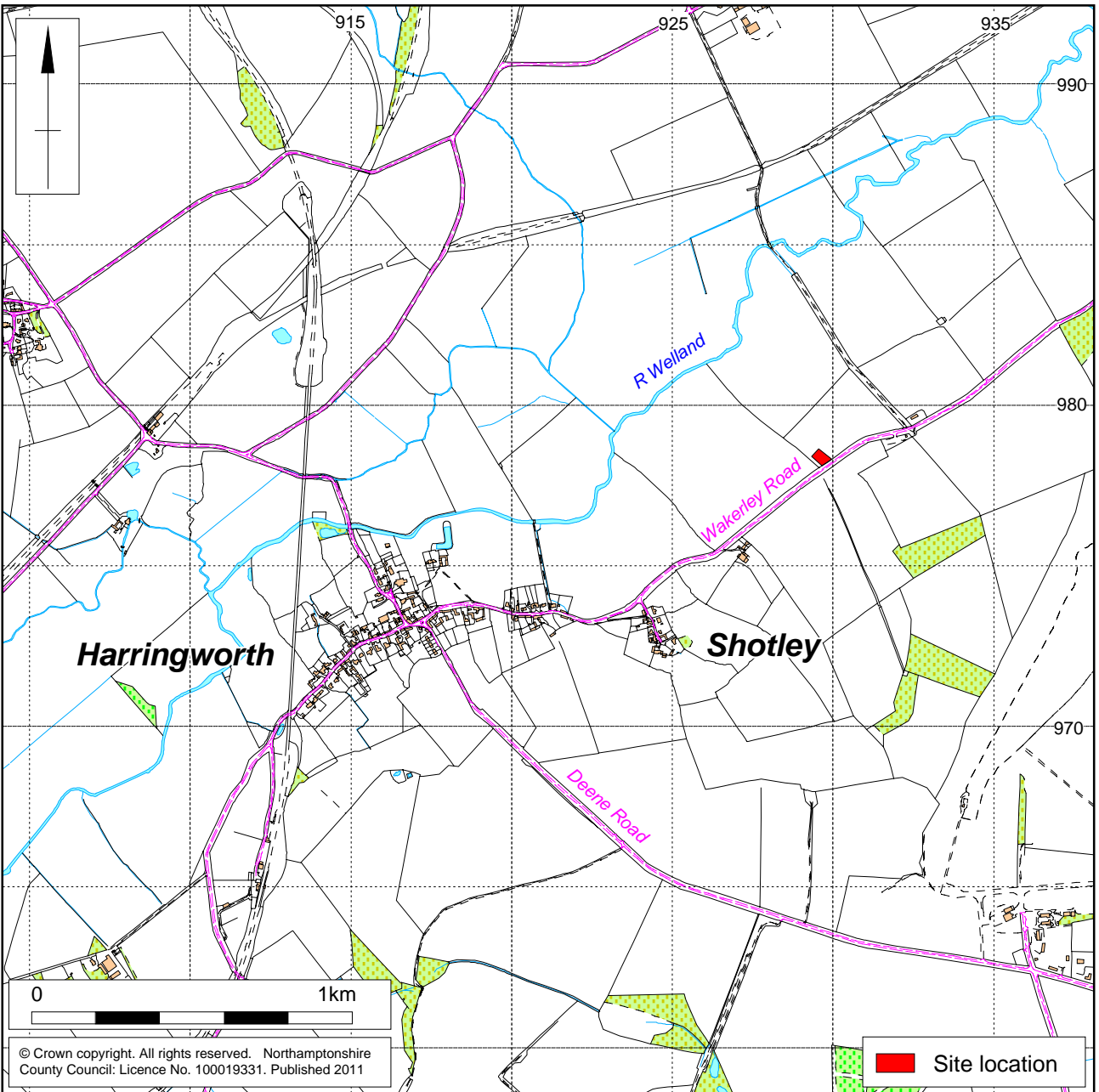
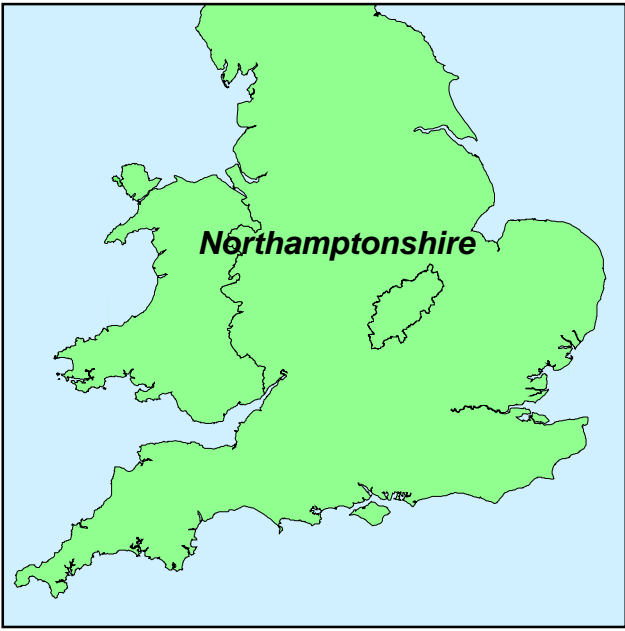
2.1 Location and geology

The development area is located to the north-east of Shotley, off the Wakerley Road (NGR SP 9350 9801) comprising an area of approximately 0.15ha. The site is situated within agricultural fields on sloping ground, falling from south-east to north-west (81-78m above Ordnance Datum). The underlying geology is of the Whitby Mudstone formation.

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Historic Environment Record indicates several archaeological data entries located within the development or close by (Fig 2). Fieldwalking to the east has identified sites and flint scatters comprising Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity (HER2142, 9374). Excavations and observations during modern ironstone quarrying (HER8487) recorded late Iron Age and Romano-British iron working areas to the north-east (Jackson 1981, HER3100).

Saxon pottery have been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the site as well as further afield (HER3096). This collection was part of the Rockingham Forest project, conducted under David Hall (Foard *et al* 2003).



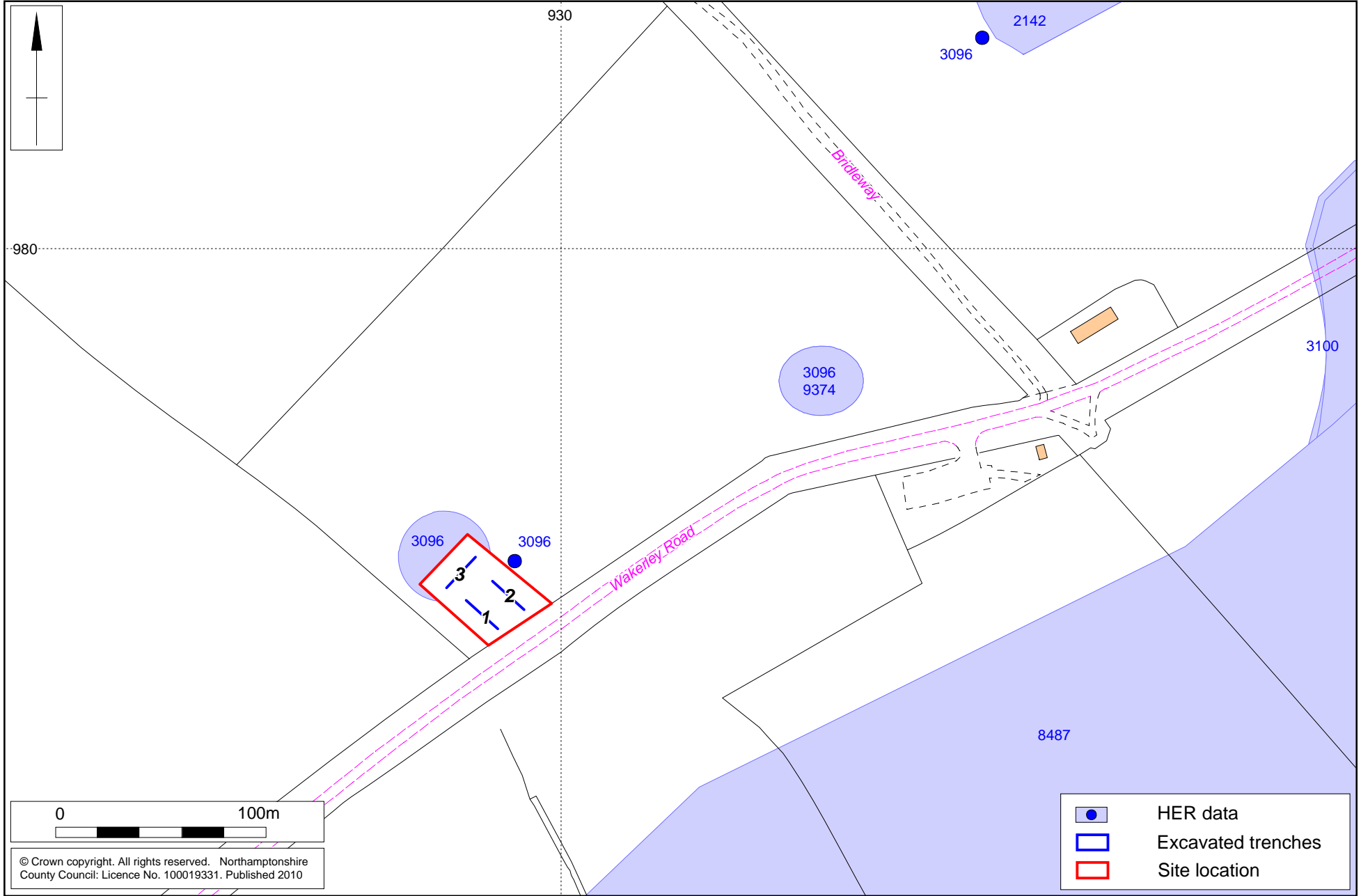
Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2500

Trench location plan and Historic Environment Record (HER) data

Fig 2



To the west of the proposed development site, east of Haringworth and south of Shotley, lie the remains of two deserted medieval villages (DMVs), Haringworth: SP 9185 9718 and Shotley: SP 9260 9720 (RCHME 1975, 48-52). The remains comprise low banks and scarps and hollow-ways. Associated with the two DMVs are a fishpond (SP 9180 9757), near the Manor House, and a Deer Park (SP 922 953).

More recent activity is located to the south of the site within an ironstone quarry which was formerly run by Bloxham & Whiston Ironstone Co Ltd and Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd (HER8487).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Three trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (Fig 2).

The trenches measured 20m long by 2m wide, totalling an excavated area of 120m², and were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS. A 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first.

The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of any archaeological features. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

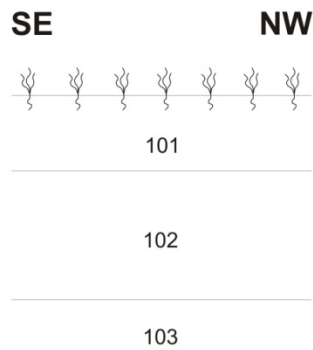
All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The underlying substrate was encountered between 0.27m and 0.35m below the modern ground surface in all three trenches. This occurred as mid to light orange-brown sandy clay and fragmented ironstone with occasional angular to sub-angular limestone fragments.

In Trench 1 the natural lay 0.27-0.35m below the ground surface. The overlying subsoil (102), 0.17m thick, was mid brown-grey sandy loam. The topsoil (101) was mid brown soft loam. Both soils contained occasional ironstone and limestone fragments.

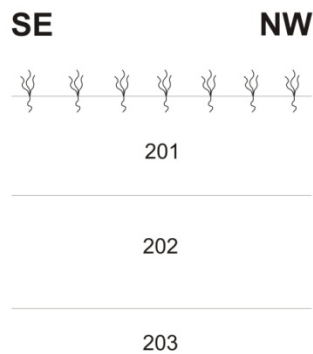
Trench 1



Section of soil deposits in Trench 1 Fig 3

The natural in Trench 2 was 0.30m below the ground surface, overlain by mid brown sandy clay subsoil (202), 0.15m thick. The topsoil, (201) comprised mid brown soft loam.

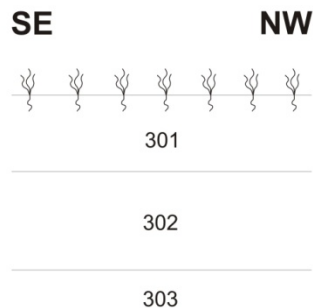
Trench 2



Section of soil deposits in Trench 2 Fig 4

Trench 3 was the shallowest, the natural only 0.28m below the ground surface (Fig 3). The mid brown sandy loam subsoil (302), 0.15m thick, was overlain by mid brown soft loam topsoil (301).

Trench 3



Section of soil deposits in Trench 3 Fig 5

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in any of the trenches and no finds were recovered from the excavated soils.



Trench 1, looking north-west

Fig 6

5 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation identified no archaeological features and no finds were recovered within the development area. The Historic Environment Record shows Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in the vicinity of the development area, but the excavation did not produce any evidence for the presence of features within the development area.

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APPENDIX - CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	20m x 2.0m NW to SE	SP 9295 9783	78m aOD	77.67aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Mid brown soft loam	0.16m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy loam	0.17m	-
103	Natural	Light brown-orange sandy clay, with ironstone inclusions		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	20m x 2.0m NW to SE	SP 9296 9784	78m aOD	77.72 aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Mid brown soft loam	0.13m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	-
203	Natural	Light brown-orange sandy clay with ironstone and limestone inclusions		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	20m x 2.0m E to W	SP 9294 9783	76m aOD	75.73 m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Mid brown soft loam	0.12m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy loam	0.15m thick	-
303	Natural	Light brown-orange sandy clay with ironstone inclusions		-



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