



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land south of
Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire
Accession Number: X.A1.2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Ian Fisher

Report 11/247

November 2011



STAFF

Project Manager Mark Holmes BA MA

Text Ian Fisher BSc

Fieldwork Ian Fisher, Peter Townend BA MA,
Adam Meadows BSc

Illustration Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	15/11/11
Verified by	Mark Holmes	<i>MH</i>	15/11/11
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	15/11/11

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby Leicestershire November 2011	
Short description	In November 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire for CgMs Consulting. A former field boundary and two land drains were found in the proposed development area. No other features were present.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	Rural	
Previous work	Geophysical survey and Trial Trench Evaluation	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Prehistoric/Roman	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby	
Study area	2ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 659039	
Height OD	121-132mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes (NA), Mike Dawson (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date/end date	November 2011	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
	X.A1.2011	
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Site records, photographic, drawings
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Mapinfo GIS data, photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire November 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 11/247	
Author(s)	Ian Fisher	
Page numbers	14	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Topography and geology	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	5
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
4	METHODOLOGY	6
5	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	6
	5.1 General stratigraphy	7
	5.2 Trench 15	7
	5.3 Trench 16	7
	5.4 Trench 17	7
	5.5 Trench 18	7
	5.6 Trench 19	9
	5.7 Trench 20	9
6	ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	9
7	CONCLUSIONS	9
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
	APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES	

Figures

Cover: General view, looking south-west

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Trench plan showing geophysical survey results

Fig 3: General view, looking north-east

Fig 4: General view, looking south-west

Fig 5: Plan and section, Trench 15, ditch [1504]

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND SOUTH OF UPPINGHAM ROAD,
BUSHBY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

NOVEMBER 2011

ABSTRACT

In November 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire for CgMs Consulting. A former field boundary and two land drains were found in the proposed development area. No other features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2011 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client Pegasus Planning Group, to undertake a further trial trench evaluation of land to the south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 659039, Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) to inform proposals for residential development.

The evaluation was undertaken between 8th November and 9th November 2011 and complied with a Written Scheme of Investigation designed by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011). A total of six trenches were excavated across the proposed development area (Fig 2).

In January 2011, NA excavated a total of fourteen trenches on the western side of the proposed development area (Mason 2011). The trial trench evaluations followed on from geophysical surveys and targeted anomalies identified in those surveys (Walford 2010 & Butler 2011).

The site code BUSH11 was allocated to the project and the site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service (Accession Number: X.A1.2011) within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. An online OASIS form has been completed.

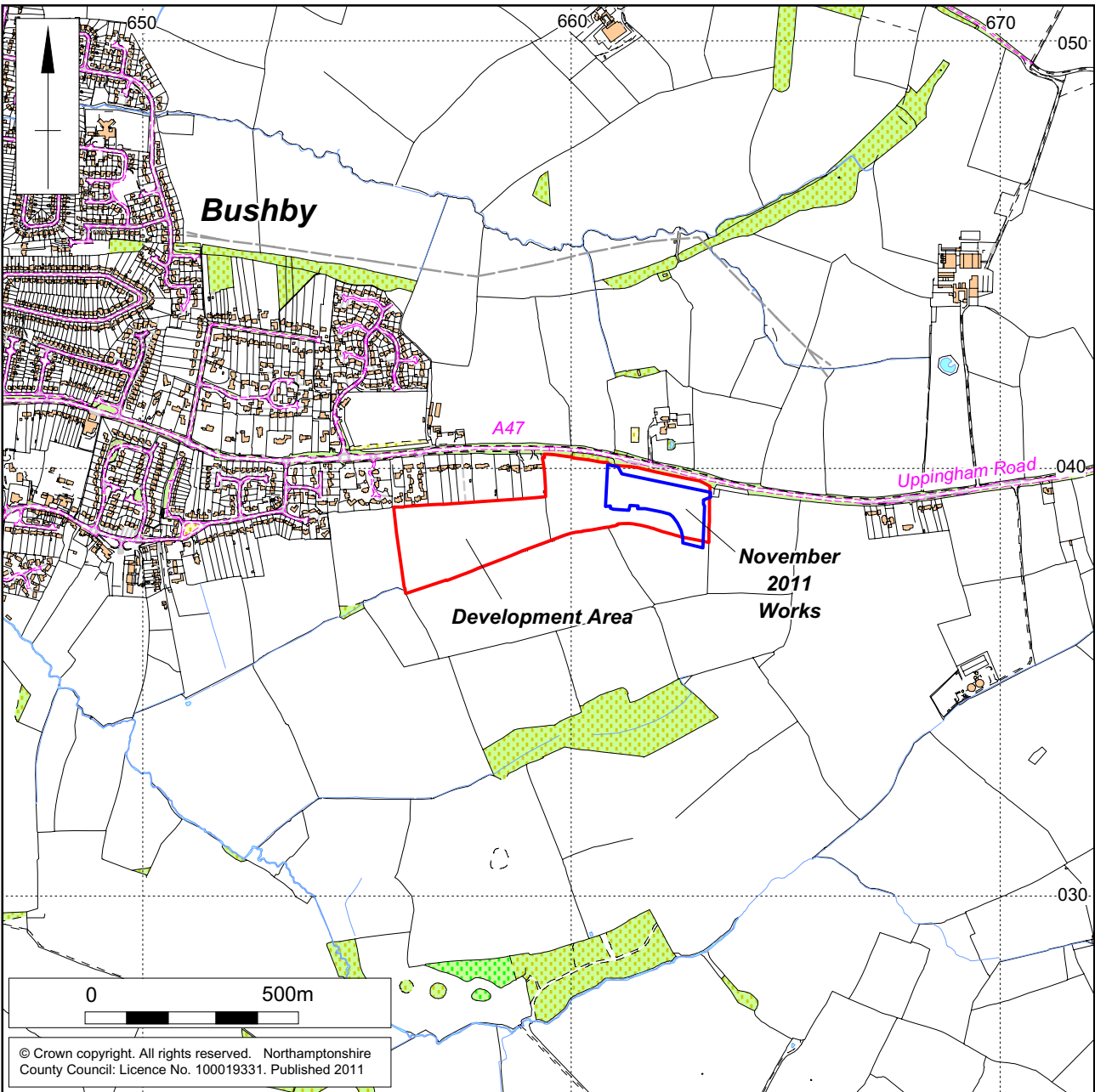
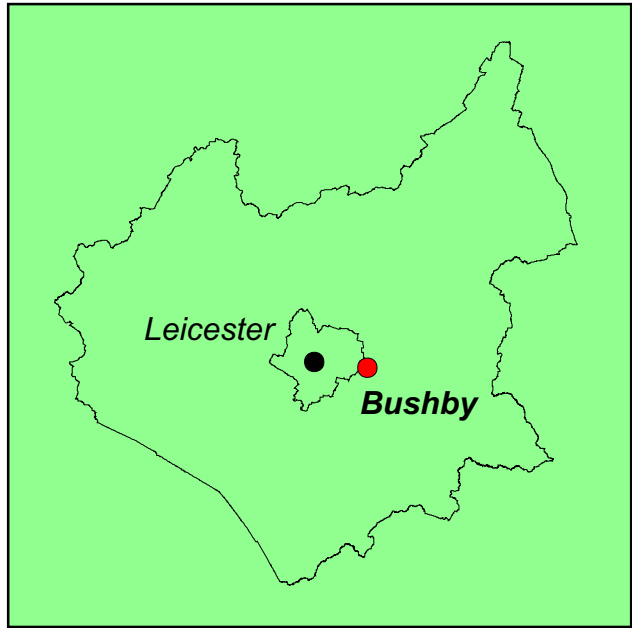
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development area is a 2ha parcel of pastureland (adjacent to previous trial trenches). It lies to the east of the village of Bushby and is bound to the north by the Uppingham Road (A47) and by open fields to the south, east and west.

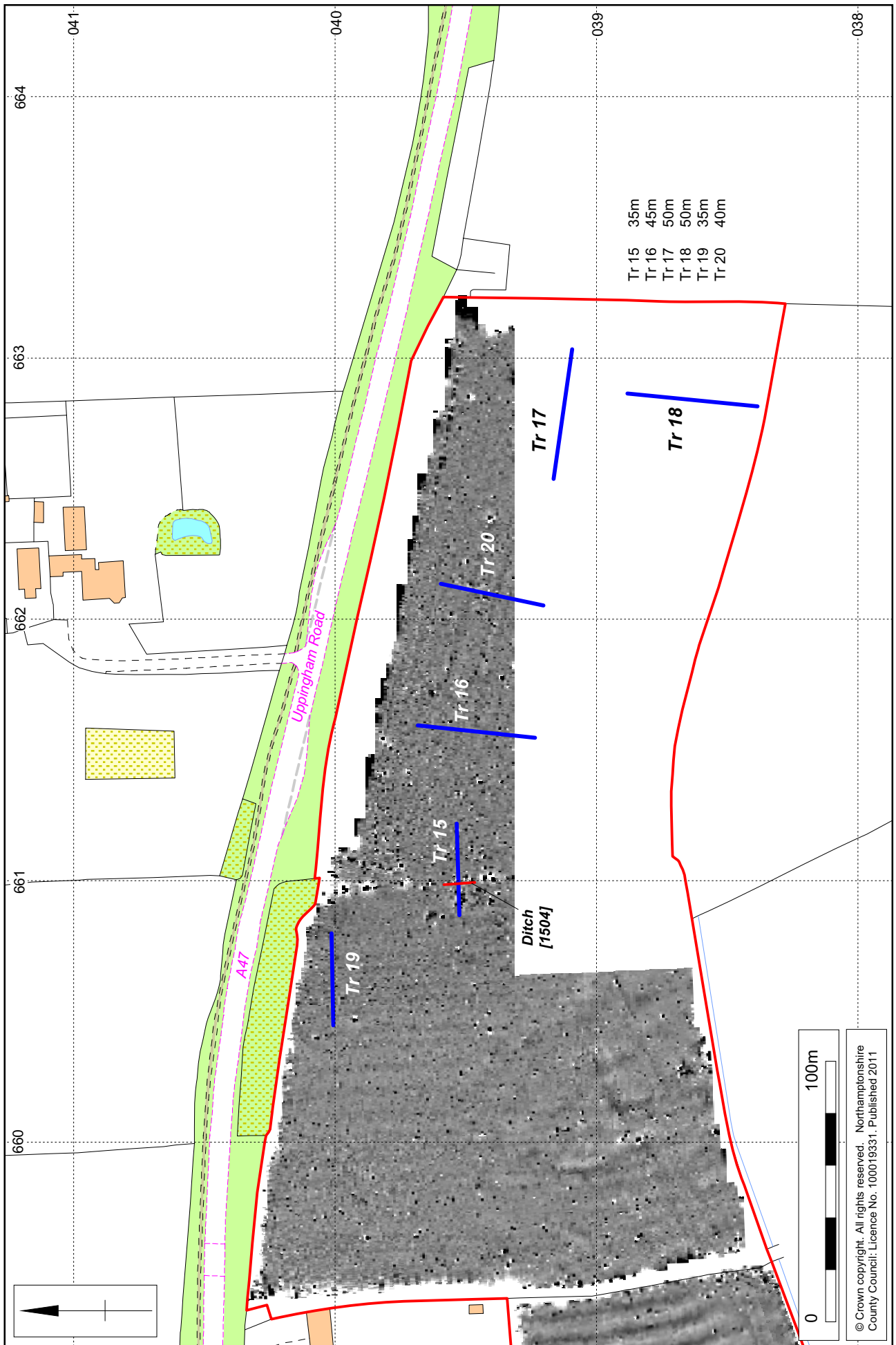
The site occupies a south-facing slope, its highest point marked by a ridge lying at c 132mOD. From here it drops to a valley floor at c 121mOD.

The solid geology comprises Lias Group bedrock (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) overlain by a drift of Boulder Clay (Butler 2011).



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2000

Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results

Fig 2



General view, looking north-east

Fig 3



General view, looking south-west

Fig 4

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the site was the focus of a desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2009). The following summary is paraphrased from that document.

Palaeolithic

No finds or features of this period have been identified within or in close vicinity to the proposed development area.

Prehistoric (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age)

No finds or features of this period have been identified within the proposed development area. Assemblages of worked flint and spot finds of flint tools spanning the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods have been found in close vicinity to the site and have been interpreted as evidence of transient activity rather than settlement.

Roman

Although no finds or features of this period have been identified within the proposed development area, evidence for Roman settlement has been found in close vicinity at Bushby Spinney to the south and an Iron Age/Roman cemetery site was discovered at St Lukes Close, c 400m to the west of the proposed development area.

Saxon and medieval

Bushby is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) as part of Stoughton and was probably a small village at this time. There is no evidence for any activity other than farming taking place within the proposed development area during the Saxon and medieval periods.

Post-medieval

The first map to include the proposed development area is the Bushby Estate map of 1775 which shows the area divided into three fields. The ridge and furrow visible in the western field probably dates to this period.

Later post-medieval and modern

A sequence of historic maps shows that the agricultural nature of the proposed development area was maintained throughout this period. Ordnance Survey maps spanning the period 1890-1943 depict the gradual expansion of houses along the Uppingham Road to the north of the site.

Recent archaeological work

Geophysical survey undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology as part of the current scheme of works identified a small number of anomalies in the proposed development area (Walford 2010 & Butler 2011; Fig 2). Trenches were subsequently placed to test these areas of geophysical anomaly and to sample areas where anomalies were absent.

Trial trench evaluation

Trial trench evaluation conducted by Northamptonshire archaeology identified an Iron Age pit, a Roman pit and medieval/post-medieval furrows. The Roman pit and furrows were identified by geophysical survey, whilst the Iron Age pit was not.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2011) defines the aim of the evaluation as follows:

- to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the archaeological mitigation strategy for the site;
- to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area.

Specifically this will:

- establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*;
- identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking ridge and furrow features;
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence;
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

4 METHODOLOGY

Six trenches, varying in length from 35m to 50m, were excavated in pre-agreed positions, their positions having been surveyed in using a Leica System 1200 GPS (Fig 2).

Overburden was removed by JCB fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket to expose the first significant archaeological level, or in the absence of archaeology, the geology. Cleaning of exposed surfaces, hand excavation and recording progressed in accordance with the methodologies set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and in fulfilment of the standards set by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IfA 2008).

Following the completion of the work and after monitoring by LCCHNET, the trenches were backfilled with their up-cast.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology varied from orange-brown clay to light-mid yellow-red clay with occasional limestone and flint inclusions.

The subsoil was light-mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional to frequent limestone inclusions, approximately 0.10m-0.19m thick.

The topsoil was mid-dark brown loamy clay with occasional sub-rounded to rounded stones, approximately 0.19m-0.31m thick.

The identified geophysical anomalies (Fig 2) tested in Trenches 15 and 20, proved to be:

- A former field boundary (Trench 15, north-south anomaly)
- A ceramic field drain (Trench 20, northern anomaly)

A ceramic field drain was also identified in Trench 18. A geophysical anomaly located towards the western end of Trench 15 and interpreted as a possible pit did not equate with any below ground features.

Trench summaries are presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench 15

Trench 15 (35m x 1.8m) was aligned east to west in the western part of the proposed development area (Figs 2 and 5). The orange-brown clay geology (1503) lay c 0.40m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by up to 0.18m of light orange-brown clay subsoil (1502) and 0.31m of brown clay loam topsoil (1501).

Underlying the subsoil towards the western edge of the trench was a boundary ditch [1504] 1.15m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig 2, Fig 5 and Section 4). The fill of dark grey brown clay silt (1505) contained modern scrap iron and glass that were discarded on site and not retained.

No other features were present.

5.3 Trench 16

Trench 16 (45m x 1.8m) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west in the central part of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The light-yellow brown clay geology (1603) lay 0.32-0.40m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by up to 0.17m of mid brown silty clay subsoil (1602) and 0.28m of mid grey-brown clay loam topsoil (1601).

No features were present.

5.4 Trench 17

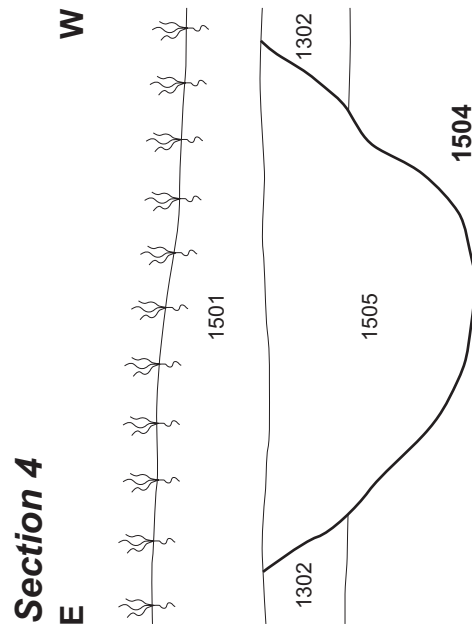
Trench 17 (50m x 1.8m) was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east on the eastern edge of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The orange-brown clay geology (1703) lay 0.38m below the existing ground level. The geology was overlain by up to 0.17m of light brown silty clay subsoil (1702) and 0.22m of mid grey-brown clay loam topsoil (1701).

No features were present.

5.5 Trench 18

Trench 18 (50m x 1.8m) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west in the south eastern corner of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The orange-brown clay geology (1803) lay 0.36-0.41m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by up to 0.19m of orange brown silty clay subsoil (1802) and 0.22m of dark-brown clay loam topsoil (1801).

A single land drain was identified, orientated west-north-west to east-south-east, in the northern part of the trench. No other features were present.



5.6 Trench 19

Trench 19 (35m x 1.8m) was aligned east to west in the north-western corner of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The yellow-red clay geology (1903) lay 0.37-0.47m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by up to 0.19m of mid brown-orange silty clay subsoil (1902) and 0.29m of dark brown clay loam topsoil (1901).

No features were present.

5.7 Trench 20

Trench 20 (40m x 1.8m) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west in the central part of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The orange-brown clay geology (2003) lay 0.38-0.49m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by up to 0.19m of light grey-brown silty clay subsoil (2002) and 0.30m of mid grey-brown clay loam topsoil (2001).

A single land drain was identified, orientated west-north-west to east-south-east, in the northern part of the trench. This was identified, along with two other linear features by the geophysical survey. However, only one of the features (land drain) was visible in trench 20 (Fig 2). No other features were present.

6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

No artefactual or environmental evidence was recovered.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the trial trench evaluation have confirmed those of the earlier geophysical survey. Geophysical anomalies detected and tested in Trenches 15 and 20, proved to be a former field boundary (Trench 15) and modern land drains (Trench 20).

The results of the evaluation are too limited to make any meaningful contribution to local/regional research priorities.

Paper and digital copies of this report will be submitted to Leicestershire Historic Environment Record.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Butler, A, 2011 *Archaeological geophysical survey on land at Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report, **11/1161**

Dawson, M, 2009 *Archaeological desk-based assessment: land at Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, CgMs Consulting Report, **MD/10667**

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Archaeologists

Mason, P, 2011 *Archaeological evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire* Accession Number: X.A1.2011 **11/15**

NA 2011 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land south of Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Walford, J, 2010 *Archaeological geophysical survey on land at Uppingham Road, Bushby, Leicestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report, **10/160**

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No	Length	Contexts	Comments
15	35m	1501 Topsoil: 0.27-0.31m 1502 Subsoil: 0.11m-0.18m 1503 Geology 1504 Ditch 1505 Fill of ditch	Geophysical anomaly is a former field boundary [1504].
16	45m	1601 Topsoil: 0.23m-0.28m 1602 Subsoil: 0.09m-0.17m 1603 Geology	No archaeology.
17	50m	1701 Topsoil: 0.2m-0.22m 1702 Subsoil: 0.12m-0.17m 1703 Geology	No archaeology.
18	50m	1801 Topsoil: 0.19-0.22m 1802 Subsoil: 0.15-0.20m 1803 Geology:	Geophysical anomalies are land drains.
19	30m	1901 Topsoil: 0.24m-0.29m 1902 Subsoil: 0.13-0.19m 1903 Geology:	No archaeology.
20	30m	2001 Topsoil: 0.23-0.30m 2002 Subsoil: 0.15-0.19m 2003 Geology:	A single land drain.



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council