



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trenching on land at Stuchbury
Manor Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire
July 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire
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Report 11/151

July 2011



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Stuchbury Manor Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by the Marston St Lawrence Estate to conduct trial trenching on land proposed for development at Stuchbury Manor Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire. The archaeological features comprised two undated ditches, probably relating to peripheral farming or land management.	
Project type	Evaluation- trial trenching	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Butler 2011)	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Undated ditches and a modern infilled dew pond	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Stuchbury Manor Farm, Greatworth	
Post code		
OS co-ordinates	455679 243636	
Area	1.6ha	
Height aOD	165m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council Planning (NCCP)	
Project Design originator	David J Leigh (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Carol Simmonds (NA)	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull and Simon Carlyle (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Marston St Lawrence Estate	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11 th July 2011	
End date	19 th July 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location	Contents
Physical	NA store MFS11	
Paper		Client report, site contexts, registers and permatrace drawings, colours slides and black and white prints and negatives
Digital		Digital version of report, digital photographs, dxf data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological trial trenching at Manor Farm, Stuchbury, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	11/151	
Author(s)	Carol Simmonds	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND AT
STUCHBURY MANOR FARM, GREATWORTH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JULY 2011**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by the Marston St Lawrence Estate to conduct trial trenching on land proposed for development at Stuchbury Manor Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire. The archaeological features comprised two undated ditches, probably relating to peripheral farming or land management.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by the Marston St Lawrence Estate to conduct trial trenching on land proposed for the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility at Stuchbury Manor Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 55679 43636; Fig 1). The trenches targeted possible archaeological features identified by an earlier geophysical survey (Butler 2011) and blank areas. A total of 260 linear metres of trenching was excavated in a 1.6ha area. A brief for archaeological works was issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (Mordue 2011) and a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by NA (Leigh 2011).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development site comprises c 1.6ha of land located on the eastern side of Stuchbury Manor Farm. This is situated approximately 750m north-east of the village of Greatworth, Northamptonshire (Fig 1) to the north of the Welsh Lane B4525. The development area is contained within three pasture or scrub fields immediately east of the farm buildings and slurry pit (Figs 2 and 3). The fields are enclosed by fences and thick hedges with cultivated fields to the east and west.

The site has a gentle slope to the west and lies at c 165m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site slopes down gently towards the Washbrook to the north. The superficial geology consists of boulder clay (BGS <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



General view of Field 1, looking westwards towards the farm Fig 2



General view of Field 2 and Trenches 4 and 5, looking south-west Fig 3

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prior to the fieldwork commencing a search of Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken (Fig 4; Appendix 1). The following summarises the information taken from the HER, selected historic maps and other archaeological reports. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological sites and finds, although there are no known archaeological sites, Scheduled Monuments or other registered sites within the application zone.

There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding area with worked flint scatters to the east of the site (**HER278**; Mordue 2011) and elsewhere (**HER288, 349, 354, 358 359**).

Geophysical survey along the route of an Anglian Water pipeline to the south of the site detected a possible curving segmented ditch (Clements 2007; **HER7881**). The site lies within an area of recorded Roman activity. An archaeological evaluation approximately 1km to the east identified probable enclosures and boundary systems,

as well as a series of quarry pits and the remains of a Romano-British building of modest status (Ottaway 2010; Walker 2011). Pottery associated with the building dated exclusively to the 2nd century, while some of the peripheral activity may have dated to the later Roman period (**HER206**). Indications of other sites of Iron Age and Roman occupation in the vicinity of have been suggested using fieldwalking data (**HER206, 285, 345** and **362**).

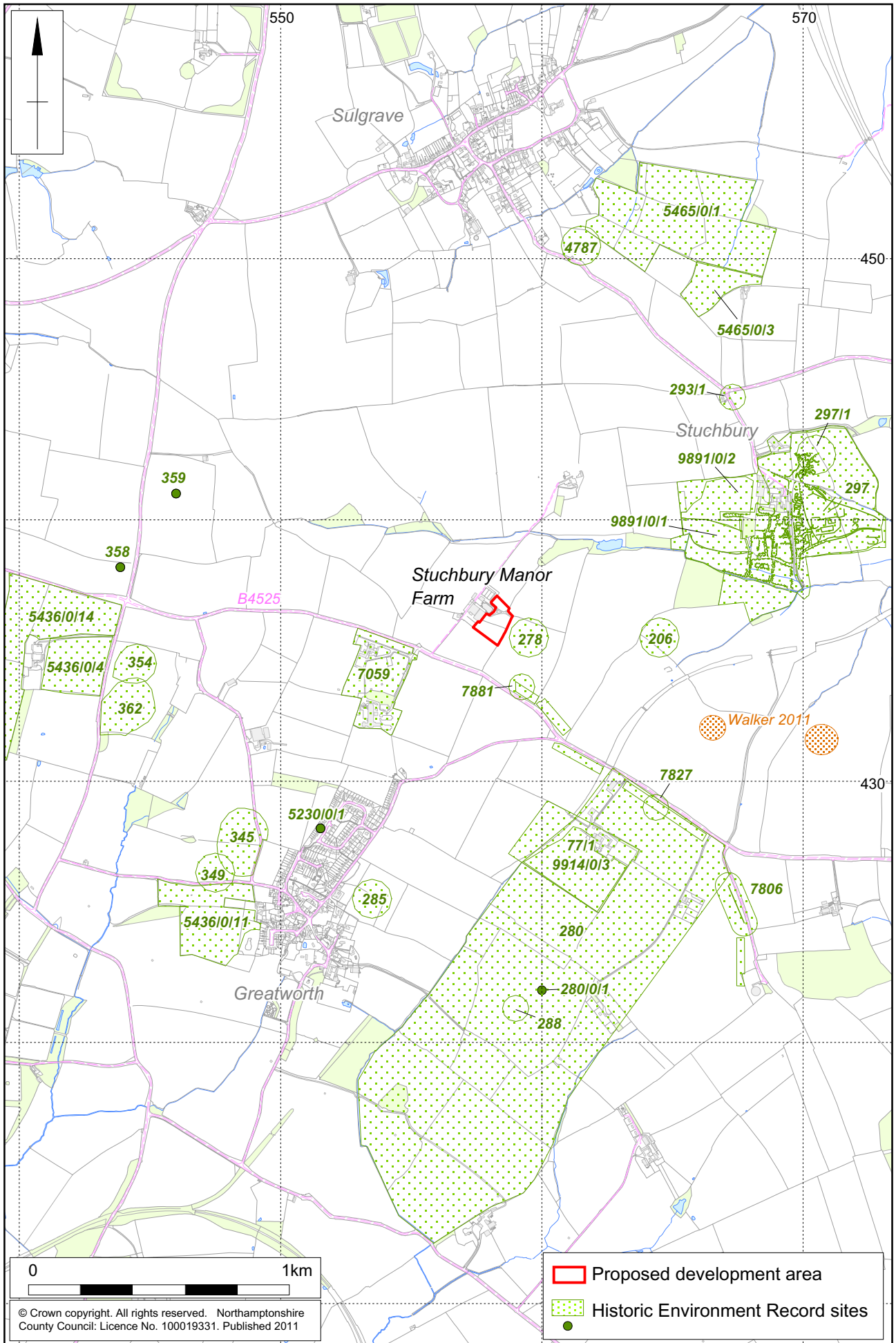
Stuchbury (**HER297**) now comprises the buildings associated with Stuchbury Hall Farm, but in the early medieval period the village encompassed at least 35ha. It is reported as deserted between 1377 and 1547 when it was used for sheep-grazing. Earthworks associated with the village, comprising house sites, hollow ways and closes, survive and have been mapped by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, England (RCHME 1982, 67). There is also documentary evidence for the site of a church dedicated to St John (**HER297/1**), although the precise location is unknown.

The surviving open fields and areas of ridge and furrow around Stuchbury, Greatworth and Sulgrave have been surveyed as part of the Open Fields Survey of Northamptonshire or identified from aerial photographs (**HER9891/0/1, 9891/0/2, 9914/0/3, 280/0/1, 5436/0/4, 5436/0/11, 5436/0/14, 5465/0/1** and **5465/0/3**). The surrounding area was not just used for farming but also for hunting and there is a documented site of a medieval deer park (**HER280**) near Greatworth Hall (**HER77/1**). A medieval droveway (**HER7806**) was identified during excavations of the water pipeline between Thorpe Mandeville and Greatworth (Brown 2011).

The available historic maps for the area around Greatworth and Stuchbury show that there was a series of rectangular shaped fields. The 1880s first edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 5) and the 1950s edition (Fig 6) are similar in depicting the arrangement of fields. Military activity is represented by a possible Second World War Prisoner of War camp (**HER4787**) at Sulgrave and a radio transmission station (**HER7059**) to the south of Welsh Lane.

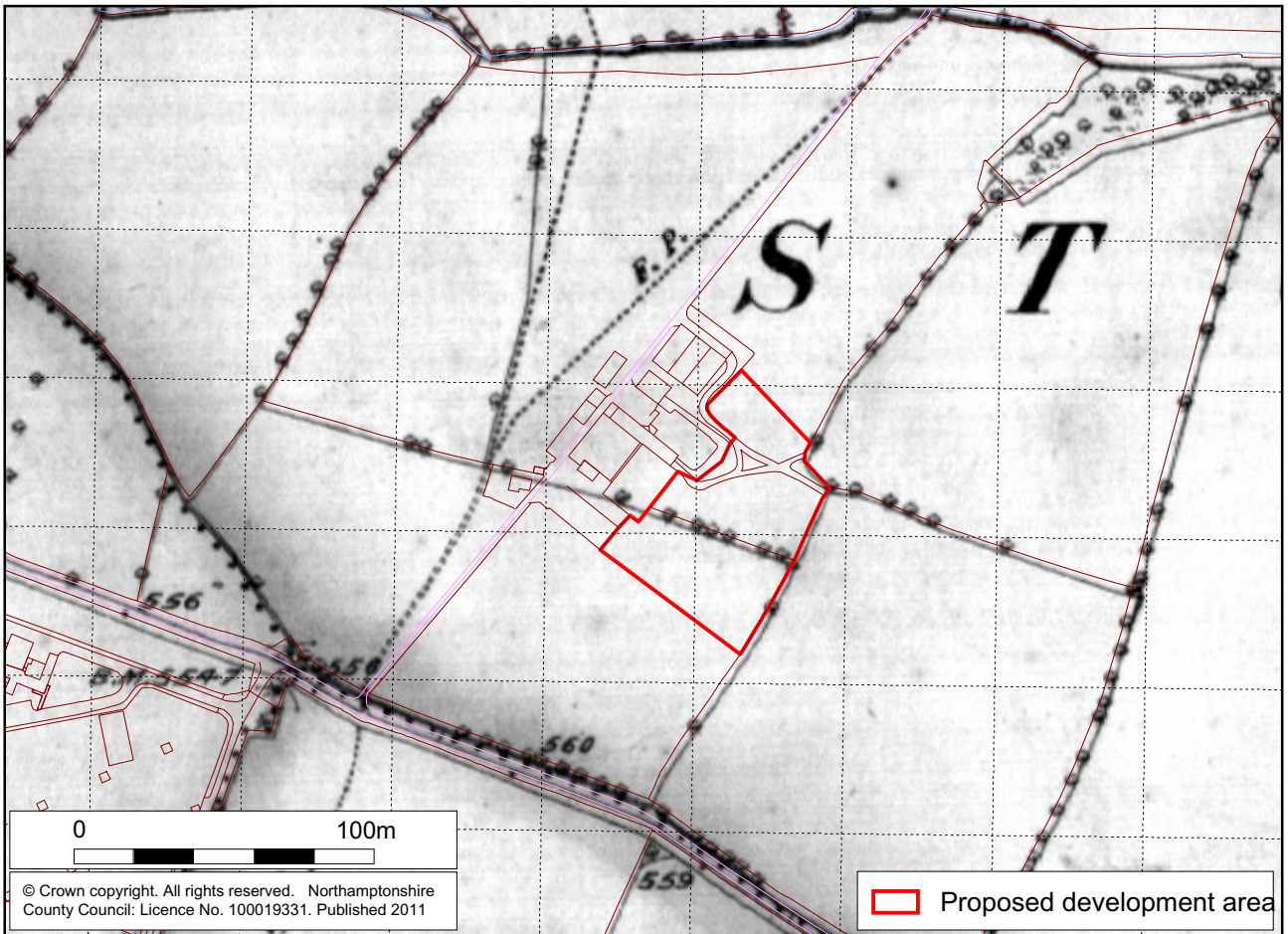
The farmyard adjacent to the site does not appear on any historic maps prior to the 1970s. During the archaeological works it was reported to the field team that Field 2 had always had poor drainage and had consequently been used for the dumping of waste material. A dew pond, not seen on the historic maps, was also identified although there was no indication of this the surface.

The geophysical survey (Butler 2011) did not identify any definitive archaeological features apart from a magnetic linear anomaly in Field 1, interpreted as a ditch. However, there was some disturbance in the form of 'halos' cast from the farm buildings and mixed responses in Field 2 suggesting made ground or dumping. The terrain was also largely unsuitable for survey as parts of it were overgrown.



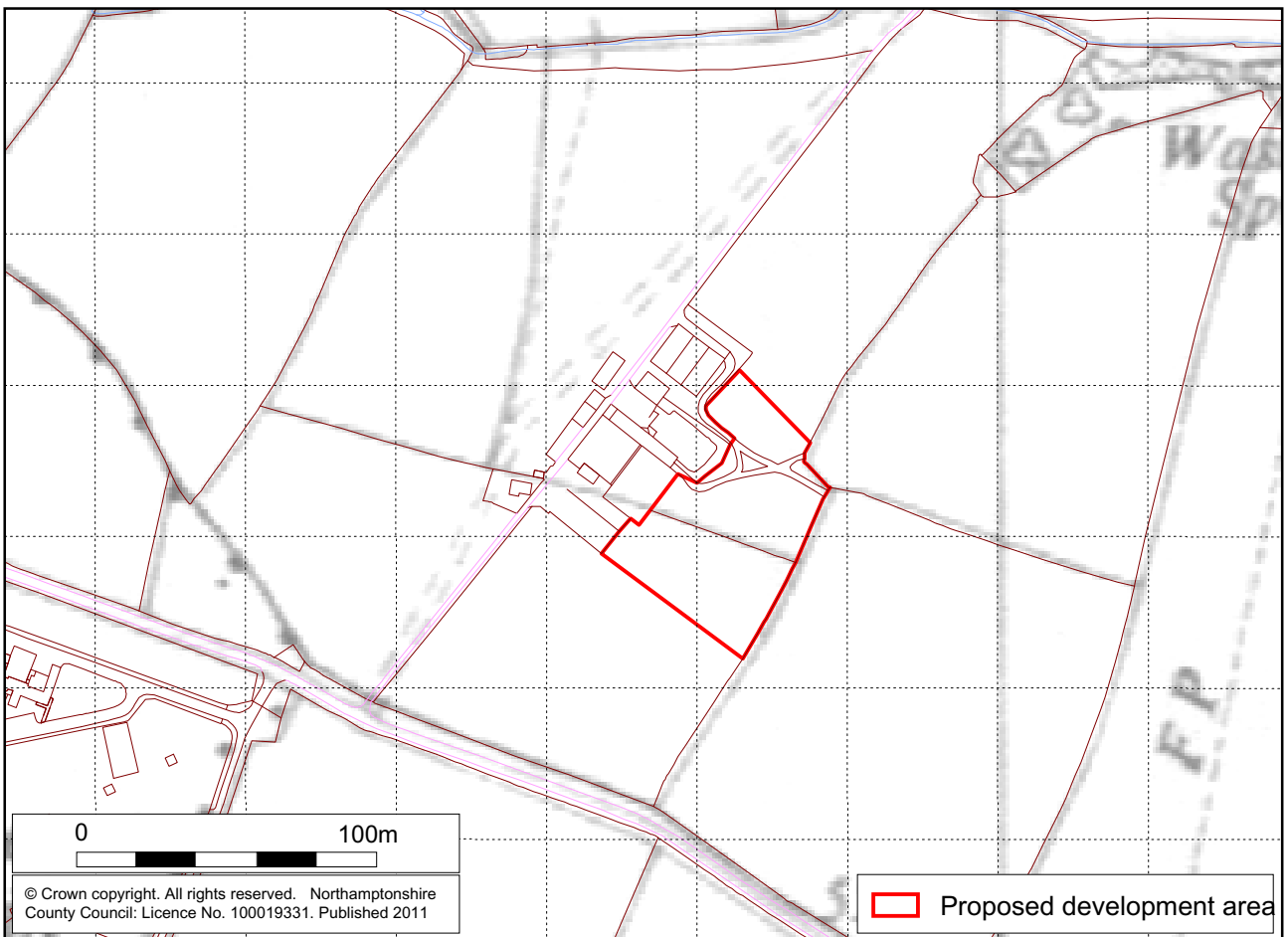
1:20,000

Historic Environment Record sites Fig 4



1:2,500

Detail from Ordnance Survey (first edition) map, 1880s Fig 5



1:2,500

Detail from Ordnance Survey map, 1950s Fig 6

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the field evaluation were to:

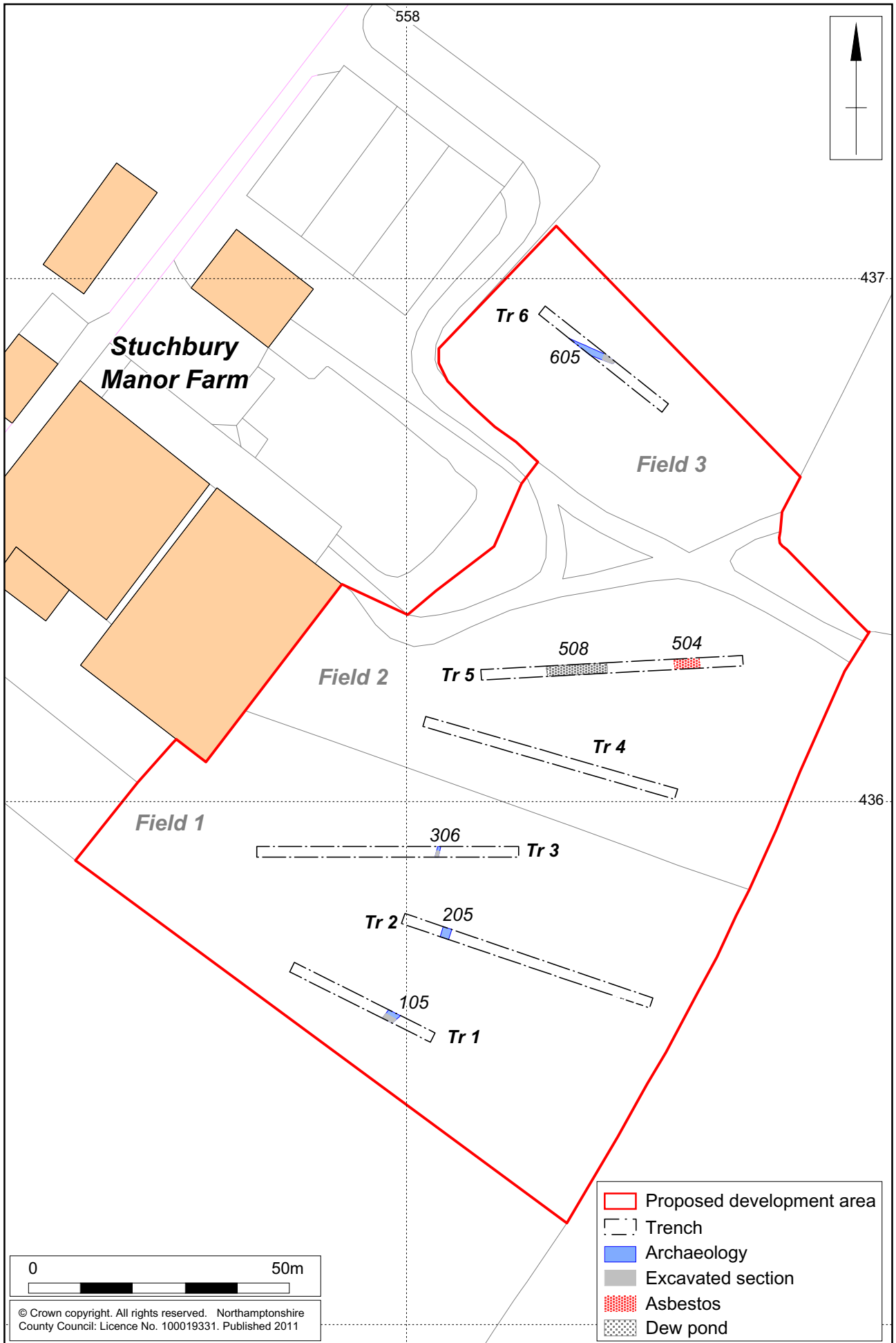
- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the trial trenching evaluation,
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits,
- Provide information as to the archaeological potential within the site, and to provide for further effective archaeological investigation either in advance of, or during early construction phases,
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The archaeological remains within the excavation area have been considered with respect to the presence of Roman enclosures and a building at nearby Spring Farm Ridge (Walker 2011) and the Deserted Medieval Village and open fields of Stuchbury.

The trial trenching comprised the excavation of six trenches, two measuring 30m long and four 50m long (Fig 7). The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2006). The works were monitored by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

Topsoil and subsoil were removed separately by machine using a flat-bladed bucket to reveal underlying archaeological remains or, where absent, the natural substratum under the direct supervision and control of an experienced and qualified archaeologist.

All archaeological features have been related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. Recording followed standard NA procedures (NA 2006). Deposits were described on NA *pro-forma* sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a check-list of associated finds. A indexed photographic record was kept of the excavation, comprising 35mm black and white negatives and colour slides. Digital images were taken to supplement the photographic archive.



1:1,000

Trench plan showing archaeological features Fig 7

4 RESULTS

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology of the site, comprising orange or brownish-yellow Boulder Clays with patches of grey clays, was encountered between 0.50m-0.57m below the modern ground surface (Fig 8). The natural clays were interspersed with areas of flint, gravel, chalk and manganese flecking. The subsoil comprised sterile brown clay with occasional flint nodules (0.17m to 0.25m thick). The topsoil generally comprised a dark brown clay up to 0.34m thick.



Representative soil profile in Trench 3, looking south Fig 8

Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6 (Fields 1 and 3; Fig 7). The features contained no artefacts and remain undated, and the fills were unsuitable for palaeo-environmental sampling. In general the fills comprised orange-brown clays with manganese flecking.

Modern disturbance comprising hardcore (505) and asbestos (504) and an infilled dew pond [508] were located in Field 2. A number of field drains and irrigation pipes cross the proposed development area, the overwhelming majority of which were encountered in Field 2.

4.2 Field 1, Trenches 1- 3

Two ditches, cutting the subsoil, were recorded in Field 1. The first of these, in Trench 3, was a narrow ditch aligned north-east to south-west [306] (Figs 7 and 9). It measured 0.52m wide by up to 0.27m deep and had a U-shaped profile. It was filled with sterile, diffuse brown clay (305). It did not relate to any features or anomalies identified on the geophysical survey.



Ditch [306] with a stone-filled land drain to the left, looking south-west Fig 9

The second ditch corresponded with the positive magnetic anomaly seen in the geophysical survey results (Butler 2011). It was seen clearly in Trench 1 but was more ephemeral in Trench 2. It was aligned north-east to south-west and was up to 2.3m wide and 0.60m deep. Generally, it had a bowl-shaped profile with a slightly rounded base and gradual sloping sides.

In Trench 1 the ditch [105] had a fill of reddish-brown clay with occasional flint and gravel (106), overlain by a greyish-yellow clay (104) (Fig 10).



Ditch [105], looking south-west Fig 10

By contrast, in Trench 2 the ditch [205] has a fill of single dark brownish-yellow clay (204) with manganese flecks (Fig 11). This was very diffuse and merged with the subsoil.



Ditch [205] seen in section, looking north-east Fig 11

4.3 Field 3, Trench 6

In Trench 6 there was a well defined ditch [605], cutting the natural soils and aligned west to east (Fig 12). It was 0.90m wide and up to 0.32m deep and had a rounded eastern terminal.



Ditch [605], looking north-east Fig 12

It had a bowl-shaped profile and was filled with sterile brown silty clay (604) with chalk pebbles and other small stones.

4.4 Field 2, Trenches 4 and 5 (modern activity)

Much of the modern disturbance was located within Field 2. A infilled dew pond [508] was present in Trench 5 and measured at least 11m wide by 0.31m deep (Figs 7 and 13). It had a fill of greyish-blue silty clay (507) was overlain by dark black-blue silty clay (506).



The infilled dew pond [508], looking east Fig 13

To the east of this was a dump of asbestos and wooden pallets (504). This was backfilled on identification due to the potential health and safety hazards.

5 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation was successful in identifying several features, some of which were recorded during the geophysical survey (Butler 2011). The ditches recorded during the evaluation are likely to have been part of an earlier landscape of enclosures on the periphery of occupation. However, as the features could not be dated firm associations could not be made with either the Roman settlement at Spring Farm (Walker 2011) or the medieval village of Stuchbury. The evaluation did, however, provide indications for past land use, particularly in Field 2, where poor ground conditions had led to its use as a dump for waste material.

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BGS <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>, British Geological Survey

Maps

Ordnance Survey (first edition) map, 1880s sheet 59NW

Ordnance Survey map, 1950s, sheet SP54

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21st July 2011

STUCHBURY MANOR FARM

APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

NHER	Name	Period	Type	NGR
206	Uncertain, undated activity	Undated	Survey	456400 243500
278	Possible Romano-British Settlement	Roman	Field walking	455900 243500
280	Possible medieval deer park	Medieval	Documentary survey	456007 242140
280/0/1	Ridge and Furrow possibly within Halse Park	Medieval to post medieval	Documentary survey	456000 244200
285	Possible Romano-British Settlement	Roman	Field walking	455300 242500
288	Possible Neolithic/ Bronze Age Occupation	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	Field walking	455900 242130
293/1	Possible medieval/ post medieval windmill	Medieval to post medieval	Earthwork survey	456730 244470
297	Stuchbury	Early Saxon late medieval	RCHME, observation, metal detecting	456930 244020
297/1	Parish church of St John (Stuchbury)	Medieval	Documentary, RCHME	457050 244250
345	Romano-British and possible Saxon Settlement	Roman to Saxon	Field walking	454850 242760
349	Possible Neolithic/ Bronze Age Occupation	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	Field walking	454700 242600
354	Possible prehistoric activity	Prehistoric	Field walking	454450 243450
358	Possible Neolithic activity	Neolithic	Field walking	454390 243820
359	Possible Neolithic/ Bronze Age Occupation	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	Field walking	453600 244100
362	Romano-British Settlement	Roman	Field walking	454410 243280
4787	Possible WWII Prisoner of War Camp	Modern	Survey	453100 245000
5230/0/1	Undated inhumation	Undated	Building development	455150 242810
5436/0/4	Open Fields Project: areas of survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	Midland Open Field Project	454220 243439
5436/0/11	Medieval/ post medieval ridge and furrow	Medieval to post medieval	Aerial	454727 242460
5436/0/14	Medieval/ post medieval ridge and furrow	Medieval to post medieval	Aerial	453962 243478

STUCHBURY MANOR FARM

NHER	Name	Period	Type	NGR
5465/0/1	Open Fields Project: areas of survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	RCHME, Midland Open Field Project	456688 244885
5465/0/3	Open Fields Project: areas of survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	RCHME, Open Fields Project	456688 244885
7059	RAF Greatworth Military Communications (Wireless Transmission Station)	Modern	Survey	455370 243400
77/1	Greatworth Hall	Post medieval to modern	Listed Buildings Survey	456123 242710
7827	Possible Iron Age/ Romano-British Settlement	Iron Age- Roman	Excavation (AWS Thorpe Mandeville to Greatworth pipeline)	456430 242900
7806	Possible medieval communications (droveway)	Medieval	Excavation (AWS Thorpe Mandeville to Greatworth pipeline)	456740 242520
7881	Possible site of undated activity (curving ditch)	Undated	Excavation (AWS Thorpe Mandeville to Greatworth pipeline)	455920 243360
9891/0/1	Open Fields Project: areas of survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	RCHME, Open Fields Project	456665 243942
9891/0/2	Survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	RCHME	456671 244064
9914/0/3	Open Fields Project: areas of survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval	Midland Open Field Project	456092 242670

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m, 2m, NW-SE	455791/ 243561	162m	0.55m & 161.50m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Compact dark greyish-brown clay, rare small angular stones	0.30m thick	
102	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-brown clay	0.25m thick	
103	Natural	Firm yellowish-brown clay, flint gravel patches, manganese flecks		
104	Upper fill of 105	Compact dark greyish-yellow clay, flint gravel, manganese flecks	2.30m wide 0.42m thick	
105	Ditch Filled by 104, 106	Linear gully aligned north to south, gradual breaks of slope, 45° sloping sides, slightly rounded base	2.30m wide 0.60m deep	
106	Lower fill of 105	Compact reddish-brown clay, occasional flint and gravel, manganese flecking	1.20m wide 0.18m thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m, 2m, WNW- ESE	455823/ 243569	162m	0.50m & 161.50m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Compact dark yellowish-brown clay, rare small flint nodules	0.33m thick	
202	Subsoil	Compact dark brownish-yellow clay, few small flint nodules	0.17m thick	
203	Natural	Compact orangey-yellow clay mottled with grey clay, manganese flecks, flint		
204	Fill of 205	Compact dark brownish-yellow clay, manganese flecks, flint nodules, poorly defined	1.20m wide 0.40m thick	
205	Ditch Filled by 204	Linear aligned north-east to south-west, bowl-shaped profile	1.20m wide 0.50m deep	

STUCHBURY MANOR FARM

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	50m, 2m, W-E	455796/ 243590	162m	0.50m & 161.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Compact dark brown clay, rare small flint nodules	0.39m thick	
302	Subsoil	Compact dark brownish-orange clay, few small flint nodules	0.20m thick	
303	Natural	Located at the western end of the trench. Compact orangey-grey clay with high coarse rounded gravel content		
304	Natural	Compact brownish-orange clay with dark grey clay patches, manganese flecks, flint nodules		
305	Fill of 306	Compact brown clay with manganese flecks, disturbed by root action, diffuse boundaries	At least 2m long, 0.52m wide 0.27m thick	
306	Gully cut	Linear aligned north-east to south-east, steep sided U-shaped profile	At least 2m long, 0.52m wide 0.27m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	50m, 2m	455827/ 243608	160m	0.50m & 159.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish-black silty loam, occasional small to medium sized stones, modern rubble and dumping	0.30m thick	
402	Subsoil	Firm orangey-yellow brown clay, rare small stones	0.20m thick	
403	Natural	Firm mid orangey-yellow mottled grey clay		

STUCHBURY MANOR FARM

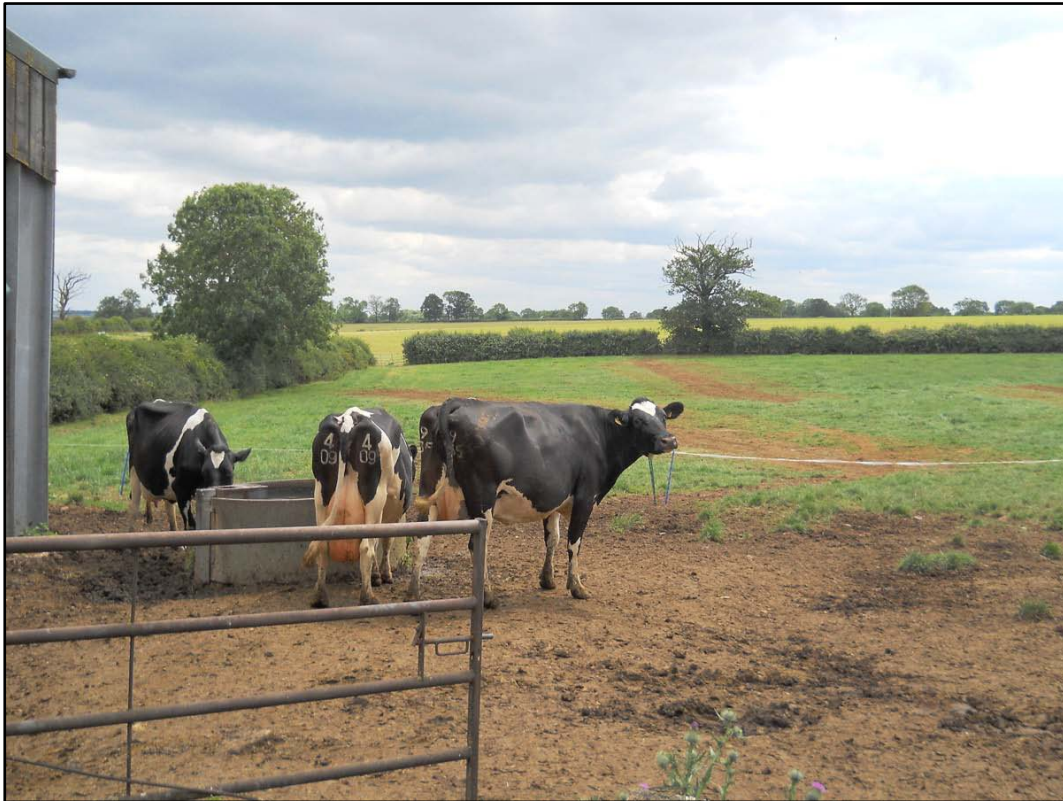
Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m, 2m	455839/ 243625	159m	0.57m & 158.43m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Compact dark brown clay, flint nodules	0.34m thick	
102	Subsoil	Compact brown clay	0.23m thick	
503	Natural	Compact orange mottled with grey clay		
504	Asbestos layer	Asbestos dump with wooden pallet	Approximately 5m wide	
505	Hardcore layer	Gravel hardcore layer covering 506	0.20m thick	
506	Upper fill pond 508	Compact very dark black-blue silty clays	7.20m wide At least 0.31m thick	
507	Lower fill pond 508	Compact greyish-blue silty clays	3.50m wide, At least 0.20m thick	
508	Pond 508 Filled by 506, 507	Gradual sloping sides, unexcavated	At least 11m wide and 0.31m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	30m, 2m	455837/ 243684	158m	0.55m & 157.45m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Firm dark greyish-brown sandy loam, rare small stones	0.35m thick	
602	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-brown clay, rare small stones	0.20m thick	
603	Natural	Firm brownish-yellow clay, frequent chalk		
604	Fill of ditch 605	Compact brown silty clay, occasional small stones and chalk	At least 6.5m long 0.90m wide 0.32m thick	
605	Ditch cut Filled by 604	Linear ditch aligned east to west, terminating at the eastern end, bowl-shaped profile comprising slightly rounded base and gradual sloping sides	At least 6.5m long 0.90m wide 0.32m deep	



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