Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation
of land to the east of Buntingford
Hertfordshire
May 2012

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM 128036

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation of land to the east of Buntingford, Hertfordshire, May 2012	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the east of Buntingford, Hertfordshire, on behalf of BSA Heritage for Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd. The remains of substantial palaeochannels drained to the west, following the natural topography, and cutting deep channels within the chalk bedrock. Ditches belonging to two enclosures had been previously identified by geophysical survey in the western half of the development area. The pottery from these suggested a late Iron Age to early Roman occupation within the 1st centuries BC to AD. Remnants of ridge and furrow field cultivation were present in the north-east of the site and a single pit was excavated that contained post-medieval pottery.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Late Iron Age to early Roman enclosures	
Significant finds	pottery and nails	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Hertfordshire	
Site address	Hare Street Road, Buntingford	
Easting Northing	centred on TL 3678 2958	
Area (sq m/ha)	c11.7ha	
Height aOD	c100-115m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Ben Stephenson, BSA Heritage	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	15/05//2012	
End date	21/05/2012	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no.)**	**Contents**
Physical	HETFM.2012.23	Pottery, CBM, nails, animal bone
Paper		Context sheets, permatrace plans & sections, site registers, photographic archive, background documents
Digital		Client PDF report and digital images
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE EAST OF BUNTINGFORD HERTFORDSHIRE

MAY 2012

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the east of Buntingford, Hertfordshire, on behalf of BSA Heritage for Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd.

The remains of substantial palaeochannels drained to the west, following the natural topography, and cutting deep channels within the chalk bedrock.

Ditches belonging to two enclosures had been previously identified by geophysical survey in the western half of the development area. The pottery from these suggested a late Iron Age to early Roman occupation within the 1st centuries BC to AD.

Remnants of ridge and furrow field cultivation were present in the north-east of the site and a single pit was excavated that contained post-medieval pottery.

1 INTRODUCTION

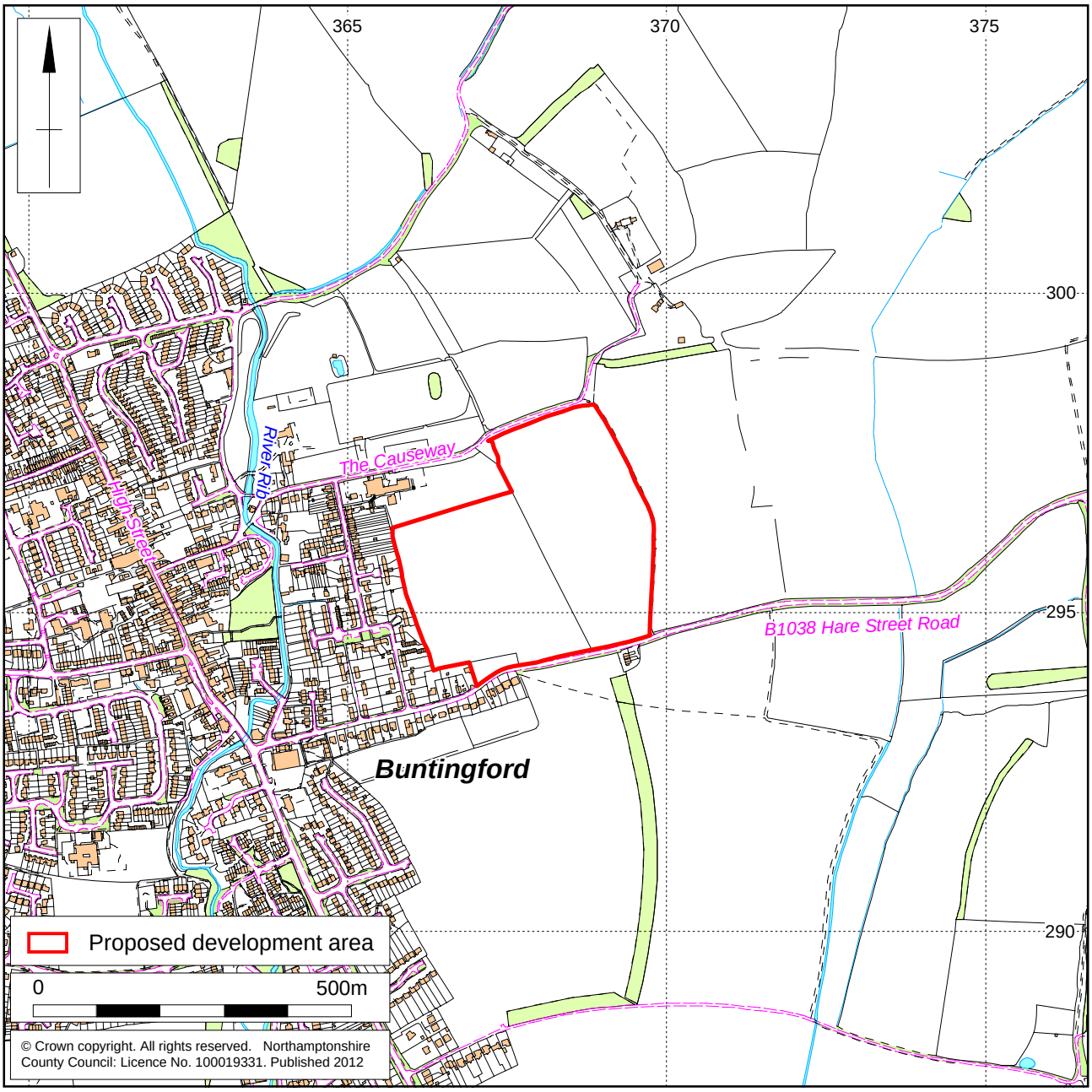
In May 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land to the east of Buntingford, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR: TL 3678 2958; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by BSA Heritage, on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, and was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the proposed residential development of the land.

An Archaeology and Heritage Assessment was conducted by BSA Heritage (Stephenson 2012). This was followed by geophysical survey, using detailed magnetometry, which was conducted by Archaeological Services WYAS. Features were identified that indicated two potential enclosures and a number of other linear magnetic anomalies. Hertfordshire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, required that a further programme of archaeological trial trench excavation be undertaken prior to the planning application. Discussion between BSA Heritage and the Hertfordshire County Council agreed a Project Design, and the scope of these works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Simmonds 2012).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

The Archaeological and Heritage Assessment considered data held by the Historic Environment Record (HER), containing information on both designated and undesignated heritage assets, including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Stephenson 2012). The report also considered the evidence from aerial photographs and historic maps. The work concluded that there were no designated heritage assets or known archaeological sites recorded by the HER within the development area. However, sites were identified in the vicinity.



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Site location Fig 1

The area around Buntingford is rich in archaeological remains, with sites and artefacts ranging from the Neolithic to the present day. It should be noted that the focus of settlement has shifted over time with the present settlement aligned along Ermine Street, whilst the medieval focus lies to the north.

- Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts have been recovered nearby, but their exact location is not known (HER219, 220, 6450).

- A late Iron Age enclosure was excavated to the south of the modern village in advance of development by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2010 (HER16661). A Roman cremation burial was also recovered during the work.

- The course of the Roman road, Ermine Street, which lies between London and York, passes through Buntingford to the west of the site (HER4677). Roman pottery and coins were recovered from the fields around Alswick's Hall Farm, to the east (HER995, 1346).

- The site lies on the periphery of the medieval settlement of Buntingford, situated around St Bartholomew's church to the north (HER23, 1011, 16599). The vicinity is likely to have been under plough in the medieval period. Other parts are recorded as common land (HER12383-5). The first edition Ordnance Survey (1877) indicated that remnants of the medieval strip cultivation, on an east to west alignment, existed until the 19th century. This also correlated with an aerial photograph taken in 1987.

- The remnants of a post-medieval field boundary bisected the site, east to west.

- A post-medieval windmill lay immediately to the south of the site, on the opposite side of Hare Street Road, until it burned down in 1889 (HER5984).

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS that identified two possible rectangular enclosures. One enclosure lay on the north perimeter of the site and the other was *c*250m to the south of this. There were other positive magnetic anomalies suggesting linear features of less certain origin within the proposed development area.

2.2 Topography and geology

The area proposed for residential and related development comprises two arable fields, totalling *c*11.7ha*,* which lie to the east of Buntingford, on the east side of the valley of the River Rib. The site is bounded to the south by Hare Street Road and to the north by The Causeway and a school field. The gardens of residential properties lie to the west and there are arable fields to the east. The ground slopes down from the east, forming a natural valley, the base of which lies beyond the western perimeter of the site. Ground level lies between 100-115m above Ordnance Datum.

The solid geology of the site is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) with Superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2012). The soils are of Hanslope association, which consist of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils that have formed above chalky till (LAT 1983).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

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.

The work was carried out with due consideration of the published research priorities for the East of England, where they may be applicable (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott and Brown 2008; Medlycott 2011).

Specific objectives were to identify and characterise the nature of any prehistoric and medieval activity, and to examine the transformation of the landscape through time.

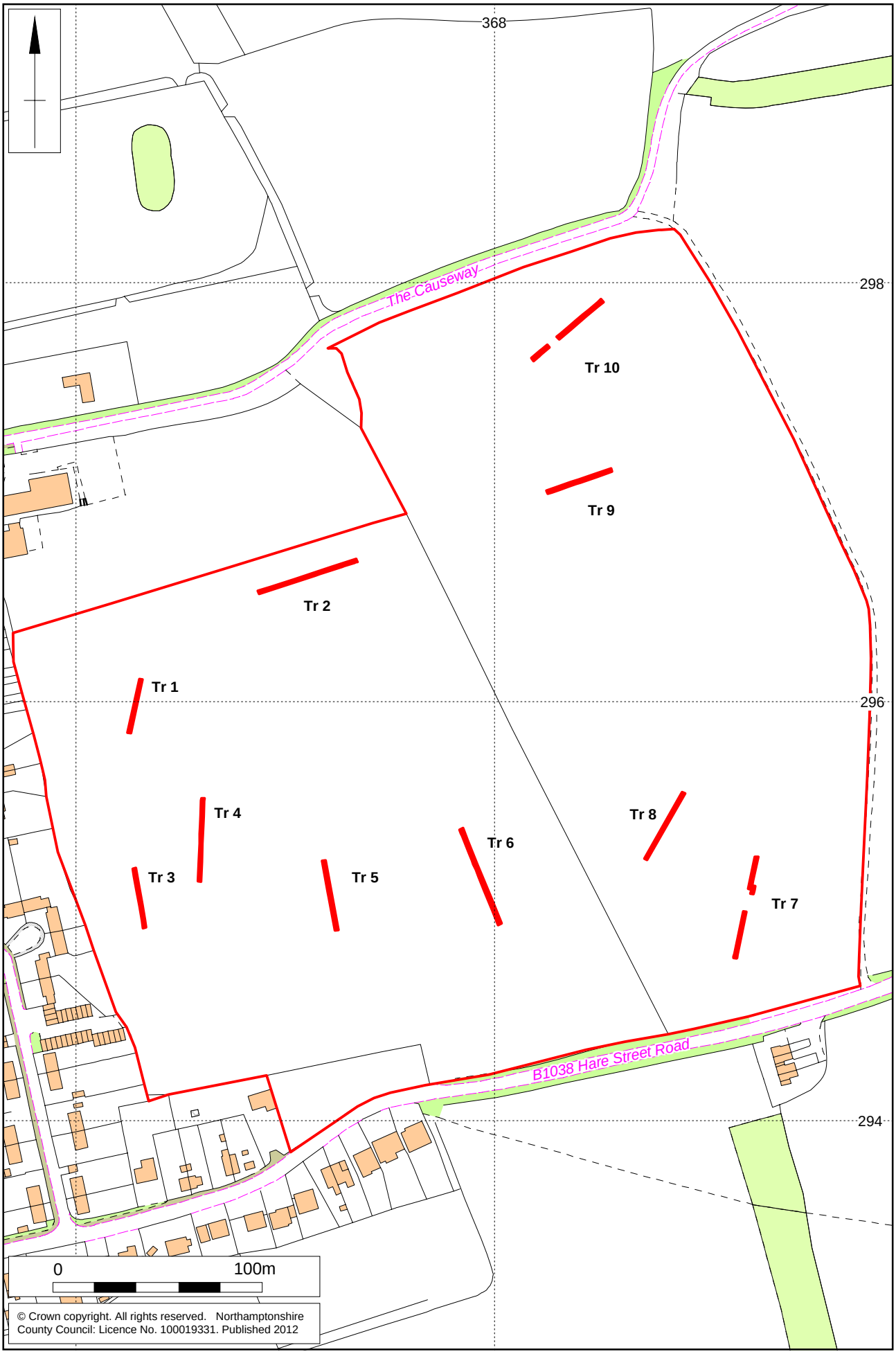
3.2 Methodology

Ten trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by BSA Heritage, targeting the archaeological features identified through geophysical survey, and approved by Alison Tinniswood, Senior Archaeologist, Hertfordshire County Council (Fig 2).

The original scheme was for all of the trenches to be 50m long by 2m wide, however several of these had to be shortened to protect the landowner's tramlines in the crop and a baulk was left in those trenches that lay directly across such routes. The trenches were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

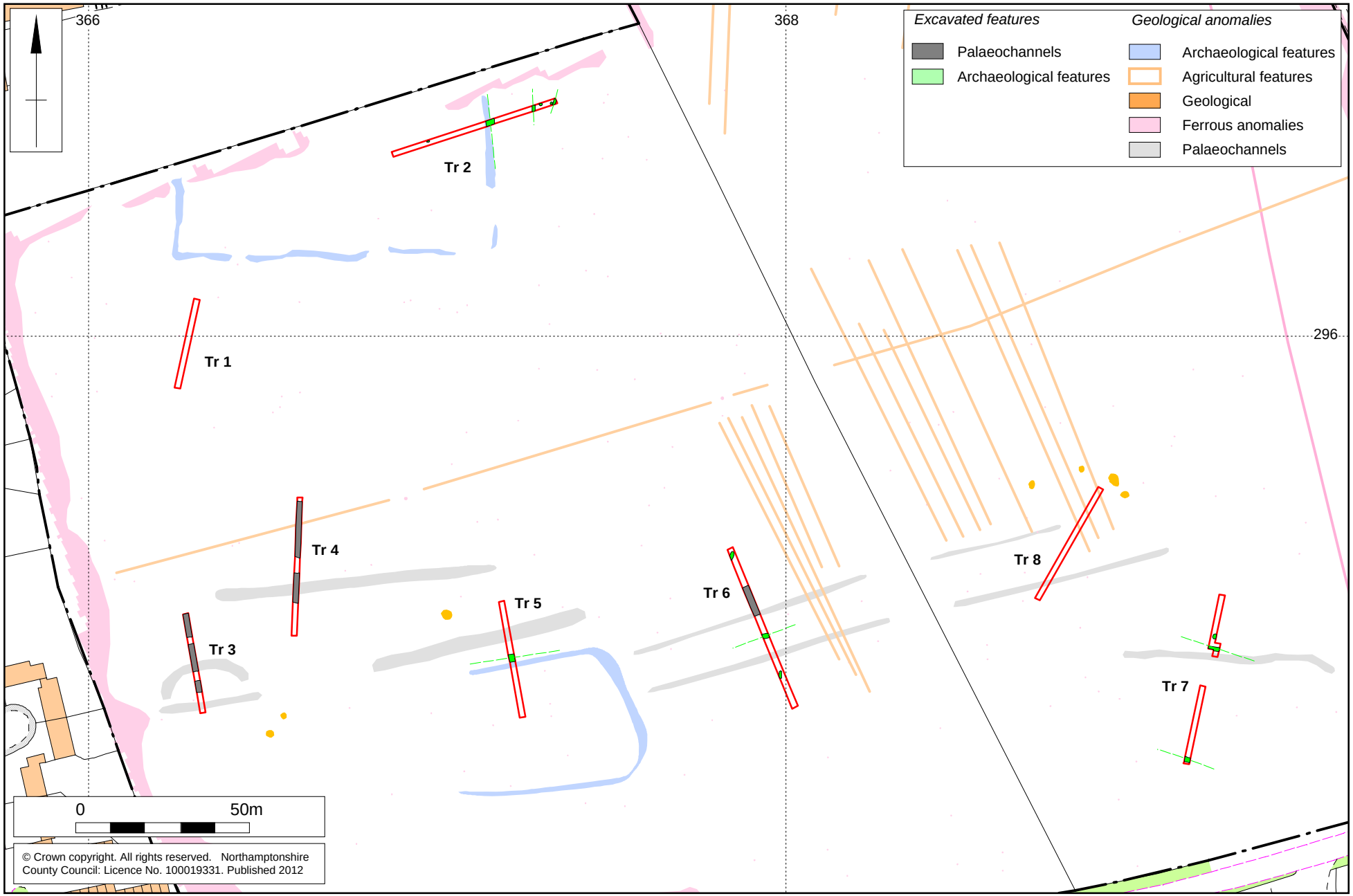
All machine movements took place under the direction of the supervising archaeologist. A 360^{o} tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels, or where this was absent the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first, under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 or 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. 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. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. 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 1994, revised 2008) and complied with the guidelines detailed in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2002). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2006).



Scale 1:2,500

Trial trench locations Fig 2



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Trench locations, southern and central area Fig 3

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The surface of the chalk substrate lay between 0.3-0.6m below the modern ground surface. This occurred with occasional discolouration comprising light yellow brown silty clay with occasional-frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk and flint. The subsoil was dark orange-brown clay loam and the topsoil was dark grey-brown clay loam, both soils contained occasional to frequent sub-rounded chalk and flint. All archaeological features were cut into the natural geology and sealed by the subsoil.

4.2 The trial trenches

The trenches were positioned to investigate two enclosure ditches and other possible linear anomalies identified by the earlier geophysical survey. The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix. Archaeological features were found in five of the ten trenches (Figs 3-4).

Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10 contained ditches and pits/postholes. Features in trenches 2 and 5 corresponded with linear anomalies detected by the geophysical survey, which had suggested that they represented segments of ditch enclosures. The ditch in trench 6 had not previously been identified.

Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were encountered in trenches 2, 9 and 10.

Trenches 3 and 4 contained no archaeological features, but instead exhibited large palaeochannels, with similar deposits exhibited in trenches 6 and 7. In trenches 6 and 8 the geophysical anomalies, interpreted as a possible trackway, were not detected. However, in trench 6, one of the palaeochannels correlated with the linear geophysical anomaly.

4.3 Palaeochannels

Trenches 3 and 4 targeted possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey. However, these were the result of large palaeochannels, which were present as a series of broad braded channels. The three principal channels in trench 3, 305-9, were aligned east to west, and were 6.5-9.3m wide by 0.3-0.6m deep. They were characterised by irregular sides and undulating basal deposits, filled with reddish-brown clay silt (palaeochannel 307; Figs 5 and 8). The two channels in trench 4, 405-7, and also in trench 6, 607, were on the same alignment, exhibiting similar dimensions and identical fill (Fig 5). Narrow, shallow, spurs were evident in trench 8, at the top of the slope, from which the palaeochannels flowed and there were no archaeological features or finds in association with these.

4.4 Late Iron Age to early Roman

Two enclosures, identified by geophysical survey, were targeted by trenches 2 and 5. A ditch, 212, was recorded in the centre of trench 2, and ditch 503 in trench 5. Three pits or postholes that may be associated with the enclosure in trench 2 were also found.

Enclosure ditch 212

Ditch 212, the eastern arm of the targeted enclosure, was aligned north to south, 2.53m wide and 0.94m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Figs 5-7, S.5). The fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay, 405, contained animal bone and eight pottery sherds of pre-Roman date, but of a style that continued into the Roman period.

Pits associated with enclosure ditch 212

Two pits lay outside the enclosure *c*17m to the east. Pit 206 was 0.82m wide and 0.17m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile, and a fill of mid dark brown silty clay, 205, which contained no finds (Figs 5-7, S.2).

Pit 208 was 0.38m wide and 0.12m deep, had a shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 5-7, S.3). The fill of dark brown silty clay, 207, contained no finds.

Inside the enclosure, pit 214, 0.46m wide and 0.35m deep, had a V-shaped profile and a fill of dark red brown silty clay, 213, which had no finds (Figs 5-7, S.6).

Enclosure ditch 503 and recut 507

Ditch 503 was aligned east to west and formed the northern arm of a D-shaped enclosure that appear open to the west from the geophysical survey results. The ditch was 2.30m wide and 1.01m deep, with a rounded V-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.9). The basal fill of orange-brown silty clay, 504, contained no finds. Above this the orange-brown silty clay, 505, produced fourteen pottery sherds. The uppermost fill of yellow-orange silty/chalky clay, 506, contained no finds. The ditch was recut, 507, 1.48m wide and 0.72m deep, with a rounded U-shaped profile. At the base the orange-brown silty clay, 508, contained no finds. Subsequent deposition of orange-brown silty clay, 509, included four sherds of pottery together with animal bone. The latest fill comprised mid brown silty/chalky clay, 510, with no finds. The pottery is of the same period as that from ditch 212, of pre-Roman date, but of a style that continued into the Roman period.

4.5 Medieval and post-medieval

Furrows

Ridge and furrow plough cultivation had been detected by the geophysical survey and the remnants of their furrows were present in trenches 2, 9 and 10.

Furrows 204 and 210 were aligned north-east to south-west, *c*5m apart, and were 0.62m wide by 0.11m deep, forming broad shallow scoops (Figs 5-7, S.1 and 4). The cultivation soil comprised dark brown silty clay, devoid of finds.

Post-medieval pit 708

A single pit, 708, was 1.70m wide by 0.43m deep with a broad shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.11). The fill comprised dark grey-brown silty loam, 709, which contained pottery and iron nails. Bloom slag was observed during monitoring but was removed from the site by a third party prior to excavation. The pit lay 2.5m north of an undated ditch, 706.

4.6 Undated features

Trench 5

In the northern part of the trench, a thickening of the topsoil was observed in section. This may correlate to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 6

Trench 6 targeted a geophysical anomaly representing a possible trackway. A linear feature with irregular sides and undulating base, 607, was identified as a palaeochannel. On its southern edge was a shallow linear depression that was filled with topsoil and overlapped the geophysical anomaly.

A single ditch, 609, was located towards the centre part of the trench but did not correspond to an anomaly. The ditch was aligned east to west, 1.36m wide and 0.60m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.8). The reddish-brown sandy clay fill, 608, contained animal bone.

Pit 605, at the north-west end of the trench, was 1.11m wide by 0.38m deep, and had a shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.7). The orange-brown clay loam fill, 604, contained no finds.

Trench 7

Ditch 706, was located towards the centre of the trench and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. The ditch was 1.50m wide by 0.64m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.10). The dark grey-brown silty loam fill, 707, contained no finds.

A further possible linear feature lay at the south end of the trench. Feature 704 was 1.60m wide by 0.38m deep, aligned down slope, north-east to south-west and had fairly steep, although somewhat irregular sides. The fill comprised orange-brown silty clay loam, 705, similar to palaeochannel deposits.

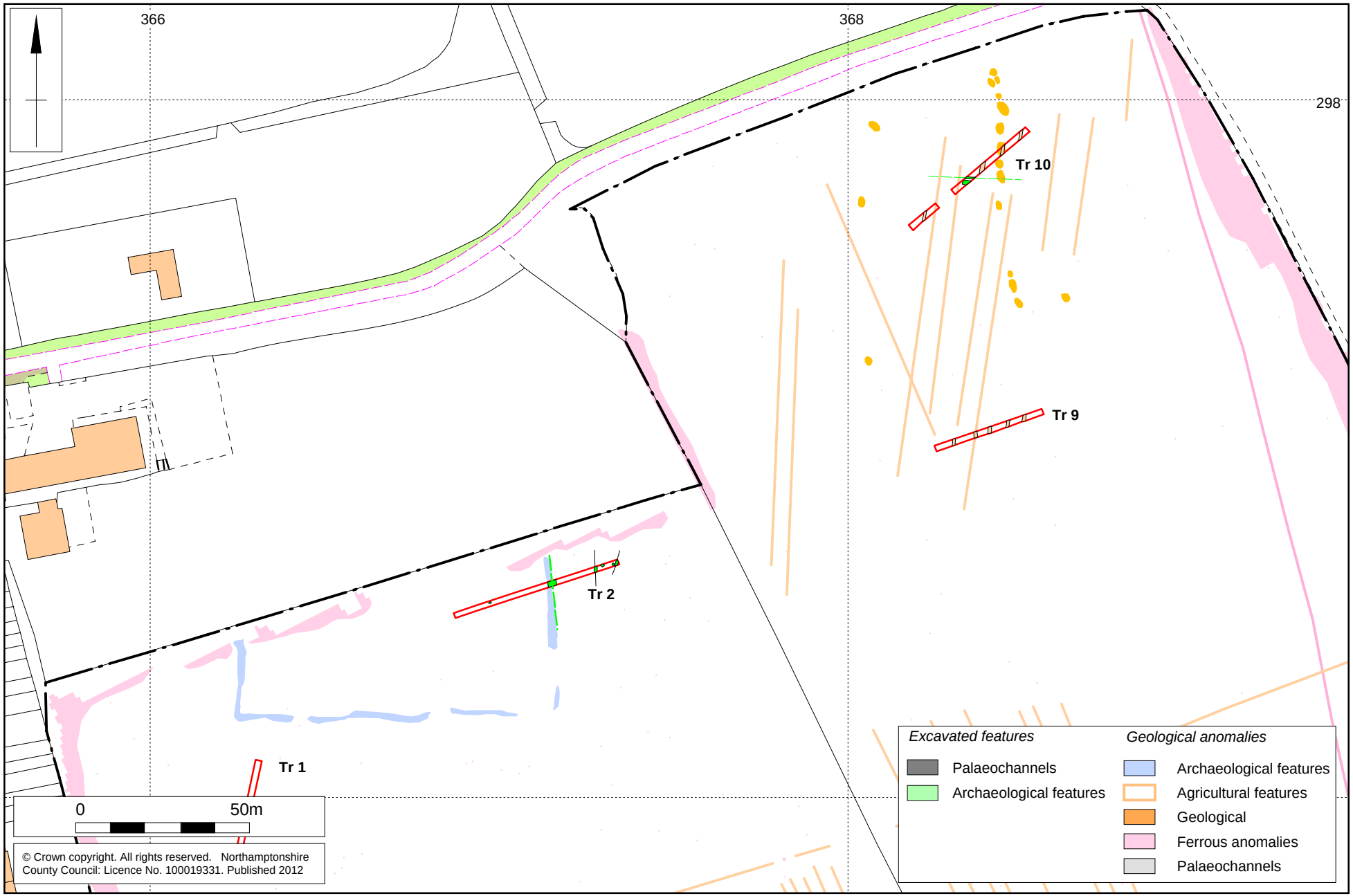
Trench 8

There was no evidence of a feature associated with the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 10

This trench targeted linear geophysical anomalies. A ditch and a gully, 1004 and 1006, lay in the centre of the trench but were not features shown on the geophysical survey. Neither feature contained finds.

Ditch terminal 1001 was aligned north-west to south-east, 1.20m wide by 0.52m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.12). The ditch contained mid orange-brown silty clay, 1005. Immediately parallel, *c*1.0m to the north, was gully 1006, 0.46m wide by 0.19m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 5-8, S.13). The gully was filled by mid brown silty clay 1007.



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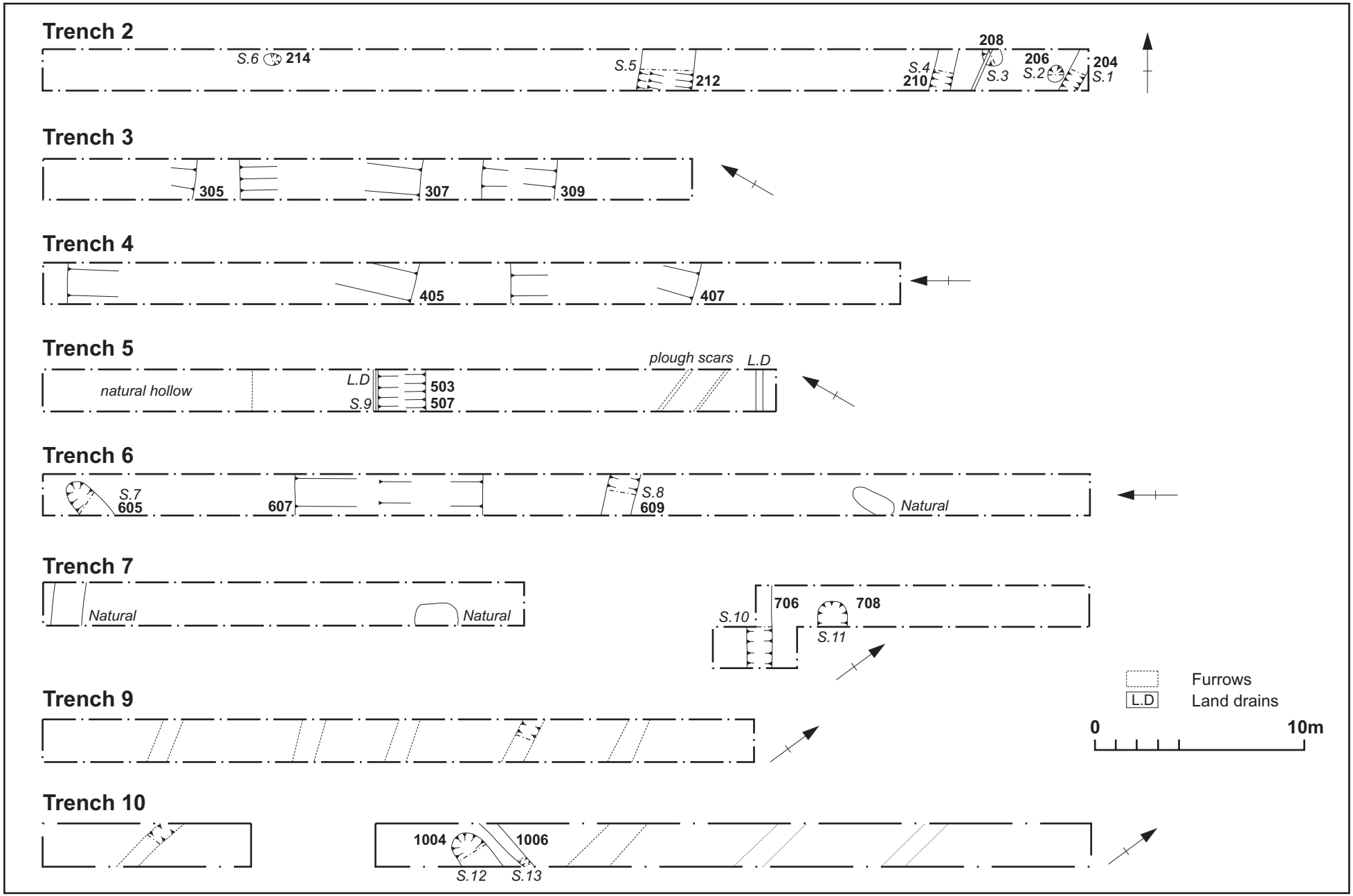
Trench locations, north-east area Fig 4



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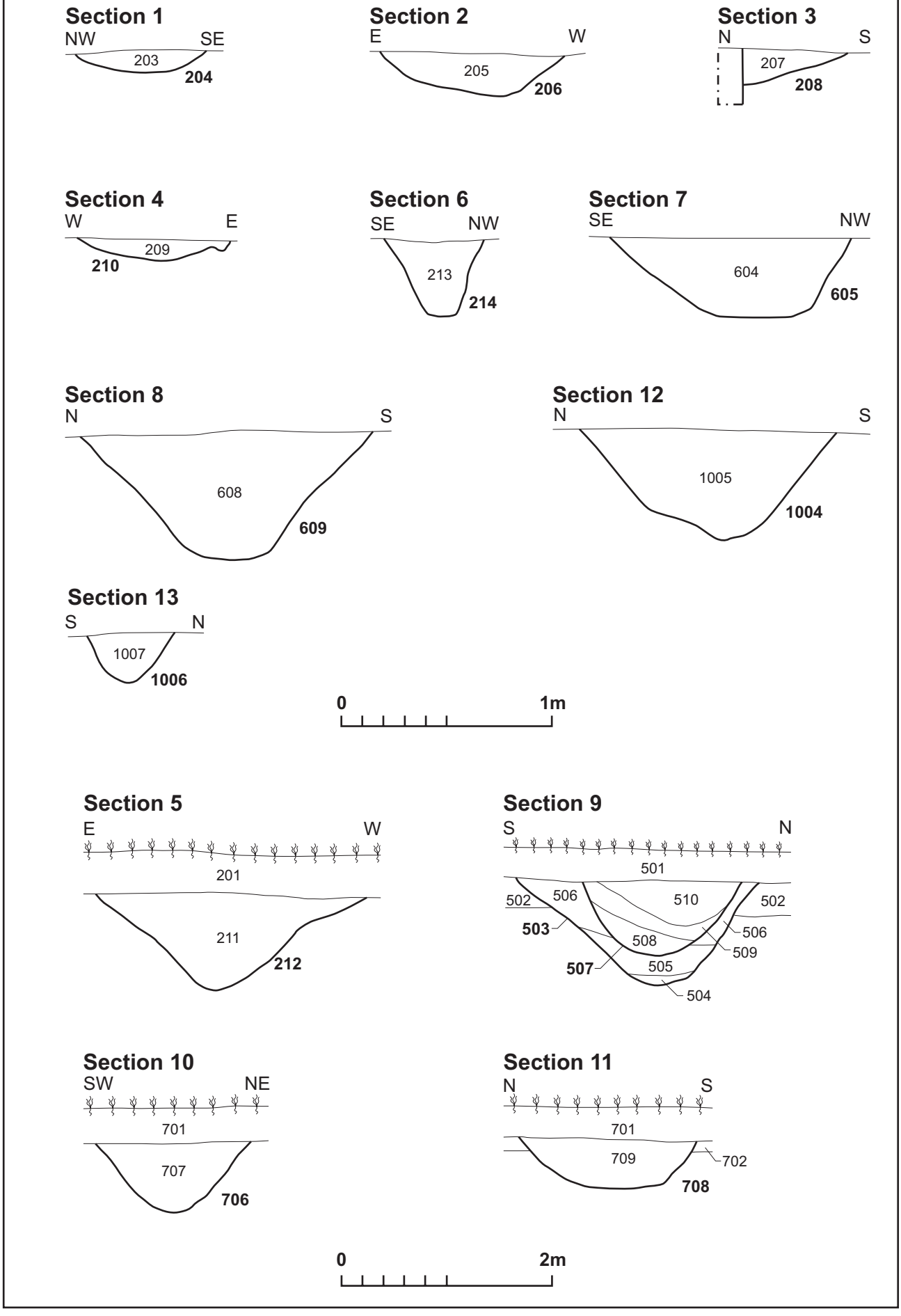
Plans of trenches 2-10 Fig 5



Scales 1:25 & 1:50 (A4)

The excavated sections, 1-13 Fig 6

Trench 2, Furrow 204, Section 1

Trench 2, Pit 206, Section 2

Trench 2, Pit 208,Section 3

Trench 2, Furrow 210, Section 4

Trench 2, Ditch 212, Section 5

Trench 2, Pit 214, Section 6

Views of sections 1-6 Fig 7

Trench 6, Pit 605, Section 7

Trench 6, Ditch 609, Section 8

Trench 5, Ditches 503 & 507, Section 9

Trench 7, Ditch 706, Section 10

Trench 7, Pit 708, Section 11

Trench 10, Ditch 1004, Section 12

Trench 10, Gully 1006, Section 13

Trench 3, Palaeochannel 307

Views of sections 7-13 Fig 8

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The Roman pottery by Rob Perrin

A very small assemblage of 26 sherds, weighing 253g, was recovered from ditch fills 211, 505 and 509 (Fig 9). The fills were from enclosure ditches 212, 503 and 507.

There are two main fabrics, distinguished by the size of the inclusions, comprising a fine quartz sandy ware and a coarse quartz sandy ware. Both fabrics contain mica and pieces of grog and the coarser variety also has some flint.

There are possibly six vessels represented. Four thick sherds are from two large vessels, probably jars or bowls, with incised close-set grooves (Fig 9, fills 211 and 509). Another sherd is also from either a large jar or bowl and has an incised horizontal wavy line (fill 509). Fifteen sherds are from a globular jar with a bead rim, neck cordons and burnished surfaces; the fabric of this vessel is rather soft and is laminating (Fig 10, fills 505 and 509). It is not possible to determine the forms of the vessels from which the other sherds derive.

Pottery from fill 509 of ditch 507, Trench 5 Fig 9

The Buntingford vessels are paralleled at Puckeridge and Braughing, located less than 10km to the south-east, and Baldock, *c*12km to the north-west. Incised grooves, either vertical, diagonal or horizontal, are a common form of decoration (cf Partridge 1979, fig 15, 31-7; Partridge 1981, fig 30, 103; fig 48, 88-90; Stead and Rigby 1986, fig 108, 56; fig 110, 80; fig 120, 199; fig 122, 219), while incised wavy lines occur on numerous vessels (cf Partridge 1979, fig 15, 38-40; fig 19, 64-8; Stead and Rigby 1986, fig 112, 106; Witherington and Trow 1988, fig 50, 69; fig 52, 118, 122-3; fig 53, 138). The globular jar or bowl is also a common vessel form (cf Partridge 1979, fig.13, 9-10, 12-15; Partridge 1981, fig 41, 3-5; Stead and Rigby 1986, fig 114, 122-3; fig 127, 264-7). These parallels are from mainly pre-conquest contexts. The incised decoration originated earlier, but was still in use in the Roman period. Similarly, the globular vessel

is a form which originated in the pre-conquest period but continued in manufacture and use into the Roman period.

Pottery from fill 505 of ditch 503, Trench 5 Fig 10

The pottery is likely to have been manufactured locally. The assemblage is too small to draw any conclusions as to the nature and status of activity on the site, although it does include both utilitarian and finer vessels. The absence of any imported samian or Gallo-Belgic wares may be significant as these were well represented at Puckeridge, Braughing and Baldock.

The assemblage hints at activity in the pre- and possibly post-conquest period. It is of local significance as little is known, or has been previously investigated or published, from the Buntingford area. A larger assemblage would provide parallels with the occupation at sites such as those excavated at Puckeridge, Braughing, Baldock and Stevenage.

5.2 The post-medieval pottery by Tora Hylton

There are four sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 0.69g from two deposits. Three sherds originate from the same vessel found in pit 708. The vessel, a large deep storage jar in glazed red earthenware, dates to the 19th century. The rim is flat-topped and displays signs of excessive wear, indicating that a lid had been placed on top and that it had been in use for a long period of time. The dimensions suggest that the vessel would have measured *c*470mm in diameter.
A single small body sherd from a flower pot is unglazed red earthenware from the topsoil overlying trench 6.

5.3 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Most of the brick and roof tile is likely to be late medieval to late post-medieval, the sherd from ditch 212 is probably intrusive, but may be earlier.

Roof tile

Twelve small sherds of plain flat roof tiles, weighing 363g, comprise this assemblage. The ten sherds from topsoil overlying trench 6 are 12mm thick, all made from hard fine sandy orange or red-brown clay. One sherd, from the top edge of a roof tile, has two remnant pegholes that are 15mm in diameter. The sherd from pit 708, and the sherd from ditch 212 are 15m thick and made from hard fine sandy orange clay.

Brick

There are six small and eroded fragments, weighing 169g, from the topsoil overlying trench 6. They are made from hard fine sandy clay, orange to orange-brown and one dark reddish-brown fabric. One fragment has the vestigial remnants of mortar on one surface.

5.4 Iron nails by Tora Hylton

Ten iron nails and one curved fragment were recovered from the fill of post-medieval pit 708, together with part of a glazed red earthenware vessel. Five of the nails are complete, they have tapered, square-sectioned shanks and they range in recorded length from *c*19-52mm. The smallest nail has a flat sub-circular head and displays similarities to a furniture tack. The largest nail has no distinct head; it would have been hammered in until it was flush with the surface. Finally there is a small circular-sectioned fragment with curved profile, which may be part of a suspension ring/loop or similar object.

6 THE ANIMAL BONE by Laszlo Lichtenstein

There are 17 (NISP) animal bone elements and fragments from fills of late Iron Age or early Roman ditches, weighing 212g. Following cleaning and drying all fragments of animal bone were analysed and recorded, using standard zooarchaeological methods.

The animal bone was identified using Northamptonshire Archaeology's and the author'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 Boessneck (1969) were used to separate the two species.

All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, anatomical element, fragmentation, side, zone and fusion. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal. All fragments were recorded.

Results

The 17 specimens (100% of the total NISP) represent cattle and ovicaprid (sheep or goat) species (Table 1). The majority of bones came from cattle (64%) and the remaining came from sheep/goat (36%).

Table 1: Species present in the animal bone assemblage by fragment count (including teeth)

Species	NISP	Percentage (%)
Bos taurus L. (Linne 1758)	11	64
Ovis aries L. (Linne 1758)	1	6.4
Ovicaprid	5	29.6
Total	**17**	**100.0**

Taphonomy

The fragmentation and surface abrasion was high (Table 2), 50% of the bones being less than 50mm in size. No complete long bones were recorded. The bone was generally in bad condition. All of the bone surfaces were abraded, sometimes severely and distorted by acidic soils. The high degree of surface erosion exhibited by these bones suggests that they may have been exposed for some time before burial.

No evidence for canid gnawing, burning, butchery, bone working or pathological signs were observed.

Table 2: Size of the animal bone assemblage (excluding tooth)

Size (mm)	Count	Percentage (%)
<20	-	-
20-50	8	50.0
50-100	6	37.5
100-150	2	12.5
Total	**16**	**100.0**

Summary

Not enough bone was presented for greater analysis. The fragmentation was high and many bones were smashed but all bone could be identified to species.

Little can be said of the animal economy of the site due to the paucity of material. The assemblage is dominated by cattle (64%) with a lower number of sheep/goat (36%). The species present are typical of those seen from Iron Age/Roman sites.

A greater assemblage of animal bone would provide information on the animal husbandry and economy of the site.

7 DISCUSSION

Trial trench excavation has demonstrated that the results of the geophysical survey correlate with a number of subsurface features, but that not all of these represent archaeological features. A number of palaeochannels flowed east towards the river, they were characterised by irregular, broad, shallow braded channels that were filled with silt washed off the hillside.

The evaluation identified the ditches of two enclosures, both in the western half of the development area. The pottery from both enclosure ditches suggests a late Iron Age to early Roman period of occupation that probably lay within the 1st centuries BC to AD. The quantities of finds suggest that the domestic focus was probably elsewhere and that these fields may be more closely related to agricultural practises.

Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were confirmed in the north-east of the site, closest to St Bartholomew's church and the focus of the medieval settlement. It also likely that some of the undated features can be attributed to post-medieval activity.

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APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
1	**27m x 2m N-S**	**TL 3662 259**		**0.38-0.54m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
101	topsoil	dark brown clay loam, moderate flint nodules, occ limestone and chalk fragments	0.33m thick	-
102	natural	yellowish-brown silty clay, v frequent chalk parches, moderate flint, some large flint nodules	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	**50m x 2m W-E**	**TL 3671 2966**		**0.37-0.55m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
201	topsoil	dark brown-black clay loam, v frequent flint	0.30m thick	-
202	natural	light brown silty clay with flint and chalk	-	-
203	fill of 204	dark brown silty clay, occ flint	0.11m thick	-
204	plough furrow	linear feature, shallow, sloping sides, aligned south-west to north-east	0.62m wide by 0.11m deep	-
205	fill of 206	dark brown silty clay, occ flint	0.17m thick	-
206	pit	subcircular, shallow bowl-shaped profile	0.82m wide by 0.17m deep	-
207	fill of 208	dark brown silty clay, v occ tiny flint and chalk	0.12m thick	-
208	pit	subcircular, shallow, bowl-shaped profile, cut by modern land drain	0.38m wide by 0.12m deep	-
209	fill of 210	dark brown silty clay, occ flint	0.11m thick	-
210	plough furrow	linear feature, shallow, sloping sides, aligned south-west to north-east	0.62m wide by 0.11m deep	-
211	fill of 212	mid brown silty clay, moderate small/medium flint	0..94m thick	Roman pottery, animal bone, ceramic tile
212	ditch	linear feature aligned north to south, v-shaped profile	2.53m wide by 0.94m deep	-
213	fill of 214	dark reddish-brown silty clay, v occ flint	0.35 thick	-
214	posthole	subcircular, steep-sided, v-shaped profile to point	0.46m wide by 0.35m deep	-

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
3	**30m x 2m NW-SE**	**TL 3662 2950**		**0.90m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	topsoil	dark brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.40m to 0.30m thick	-
302	subsoil	dark orange-brown clay loam, occ flint	0.5m NW to 0.2m SE	-
303	natural	light yellow-brown silty clay, v frequent chalk, occ small flint	-	-
304	fill of 305	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.60m thick	-
305	palaeochannel	very irregular undulating linear cut, possibly aligned e-w	8.0m wide and 0.60m deep	-
306	fill of 307	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.80m thick	-
307	palaeochannel	irregular undulating possibly linear cut, aligned e-w	9.3m wide by 0.80m deep	-
308	fill of 309	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.30m thick	-
309	palaeochannel	irregular undulating possibly linear cut, aligned e-w	6.5m wide by 0.30m deep	-

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
4	**40m x 2m NE-SW**	**TL 3665 2953**		**0.80m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
401	topsoil	dark brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.25-0.30m thick	-
402	subsoil	dark orange-brown clay loam, occ large and small flint	0.50-0.90m thick	-
403	natural	light yellow-brown silty clay, v frequent chalk, occ flint	-	-
404	fill of 405	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	0.70m thick	-
405	palaeochannel	irregular undulating possibly linear cut, aligned e-w	8.0m wide by 0.70m deep	-
406	fill of 407	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint and chalk	unknown depth	-
407	palaeochannel	irregular undulating possibly linear cut, aligned e-w	9.m wide, depth not known as too dangerous to fully excavate	-

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
5	**35m x 2m N-S**	**TL 3672 2950**		**0.45-0.72m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
501	topsoil	dark brown-black silty loam, frequent chalk and flint	0.50-0.30m deep	-
502	natural	yellow-orange silty clay, frequent chalk and large flint	-	-
503	ditch	linear cut aligned e-w, rounded v-shaped profile	2.30m wide by 1.01m deep	-
504	primary fill of 503	orange-brown silty clay, frequent small chalk and flint	0.65m wide by 0.09m thick	-
505	secondary fill of 503	orange-brown very silty clay, occ flint and chalk	1.28m wide by 0.30m thick	Roman pottery
506	top fill of 503	yellow-orange silty chalky clay, frequent medium chalk and flint	0.44m thick	-
507	recut of ditch 503	linear cut aligned e-w, steep-sided u-shaped profile	1.48m wide by 0.72m deep	-
508	primary fill of 507	orange-brown silty clay, occ small chalk and flint	0.98m wide by 0.26m thick	-
509	secondary fill of 507	orange-brown silty clay, frequent flint and chalk	1.35m wide by 0,23m thick	Roman pottery, animal bone
510	top fill of 507	mid brown silty clay, frequent chalk and flint	0.42m deep	-

Trench No	**Length, width & alignment**	**NGR**	**Surface height**	**Depth & height of natural**
6	**50m x 2m SE-NW**	**TL 3679 2951**		**0.40-0.50m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
601	topsoil	dark grey-brown clay loam, moderate small-med flint and chalk	0.40m thick	Brick and ceramic tile
602	not used	-	-	-
603	natural	yellow-brown clay, occ medium flint	-	-
604	fill of 605	orange-brown clay loam, v occ small flint	0.38m thick	-
605	pit	asymmetrical u-shaped profile	1.11m wide by 0.38m deep	-
606	fill of 607	reddish-brown clay loam, occ small flint	1.1m thick	-
607	palaeochannel	irregular undulating possibly linear cut, aligned e-w	5.3m wide and 1.1 deep	-
608	fill of 609	reddish-brown clay loam, moderate chalk and flint	0.60m thick	Animal bone
609	ditch	linear cut aligned e-w, v-shaped profile, flat base	1.36m wide by 0.60m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	**40m x 2m SW-NE**	**TL 3692 2949**		**0.50-0.96m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
701	topsoil	dark brown to dark grey clay loam, occ to moderate flint and chalk	0.20-0.36m thick	-
702	subsoil	dark orange-brown clay loam, occ flint and chalk	0.20m thick, not in SW	-
703	natural	yellow-brown clay, moderate chalk, occ flint	-	-
704	palaeochannel	irregular undulating linear feature aligned e-w	1.60m wide by 0.38m deep	-
705	fill of 704	loose, friable orange-brown very silty loam, rare small chalk and flint	0.38m thick	-
706	ditch	linear cut, aligned e-w, steep-sided u-shaped profile	1.5m wide by 0.64m deep	-
707	fill of 707	loose, friable dark brown silty loam, occ flint and chalk	0.64m deep	-
708	pit or ditch terminal	shallow-sided, irregular to flat base, possibly aligned e-w	1.70m wide by 0.43m deep	-
709	fill of 708	loose, friable dark brown silty loam, occ flint and chalk	0.43m deep	Post-medieval pottery, ceramic tile, iron nails

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	**37m x 2m SW-NE**	**TL 3688 2953**		**0.50-0.70m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
801	topsoil	dark brown-grey clay loam, occ chalk and flint	0.25-0.34m thick	-
802	subsoil	none	-	-
803	natural	yellow-brown clay, frequent chalk and moderate flint	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	**34m x 2m SSW-ESE**	**TL 3684 2970**		**0.447-0.54m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
901	topsoil	dark brown-grey clay loam, moderate chalk and flint	0.34-0.37m thick	-
902	subsoil	not whole trench; light brown to light grey clay loam, occ flint and chalk	0.08-0.13m thick	-
903	natural	yellow-brown clay, frequent chalk, occ flint	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	**39m x 2m SW-NE**	**TL 3683 2977**		**0.30-0.45m**
Context	***Context type Feature & type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1001	topsoil	dark brown to dark grey clay loam, frequent small flint and chalk	0.30-0.33m thick	-
1002	subsoil	none	-	-
1003	natural	yellow-brown clay, moderate flint and chalk	-	-
1004	pit or ditch terminal	v-shaped profile, possibly aligned e-w	1.20m wide by 0.52m deep	-
1005	fill of 1004	mid brown-orange silty clay, occ flint and chalk	0.52m thick	-
1006	gully	linear cut aligned ne-sw, bowl-shaped profile	0.46m wide by 0.19m deep	-
1007	fill of 1006	mid brown very silty clay, occ chalk and flint	0.19m thick	-

APPENDIX 2: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site name and address: land east of Buntingford Hare Street Road Buntingford		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Buntingford	Parish: Buntingford	
Planning application reference: n/a		
HER Enquiry reference: 288/11		
Funding source: Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd		
Nature of application: Residential development		
Present land use: Arable farmland		
Size of application area: *c*11.7ha	Size of area investigated: 764 sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): centred on NGR TL 3678 2958		
Site code (if applicable): HETFM.2012.23		
Site director/Organization: Ian Fisher, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Type of work: Trial trench excavation		
Date of work: May 2012	Start: 15/5/12	Finish: 21/5/12
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertford Museum HETFM.2012.23		
Related HER No's:	Periods represented: Late Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment by BSA Heritage (Stephenson 2012) and Geophysical Survey by Archaeological Services WYAS		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the east of Buntingford, Hertfordshire, on behalf of BSA Heritage for Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd. The remains of substantial palaeochannels drained to the west, following the natural topography, and cutting deep channels within the chalk bedrock. Ditches belonging to two enclosures had been previously identified by geophysical survey in the western half of the development area. The pottery from these suggested a late Iron Age to early Roman occupation within the 1st centuries BC to AD. Remnants of ridge and furrow field cultivation were present in the north-east of the site and a single pit was excavated that contained post-medieval pottery.		
Author of summary: Ian Fisher	Date of summary: 21/6/12	

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