



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Adstone, Wind Turbines Northamptonshire



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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

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Report 12/197
December 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 138432
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Adstone, Wind Turbines, Northamptonshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Natural Resources Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation at Adstone, Northamptonshire, prior to a proposed wind turbine development on the site. The evaluation encountered a field boundary.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current Land use	Arable farmland	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Adstone	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	200sqm	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 58611 50244	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	NCC	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	26/11/12	
End date	26/11/12	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Site file
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Mapinfo plans, Word report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Adstone, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	12/197	
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Page numbers		
Date	November 2012	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
ADSTONE, WIND TURBINES, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2012**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Natural Resources Ltd, to conduct an archaeological evaluation at Adstone, Northamptonshire, prior to a proposed wind turbine development on the site. The only feature present was a post-medieval field boundary.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2012, Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Natural Resources Ltd, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land near Adstone, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 58611 50244; Fig 1). The works were undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

Works were carried out in accordance with the Brief for the works prepared by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012). Works were monitored on site by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor.

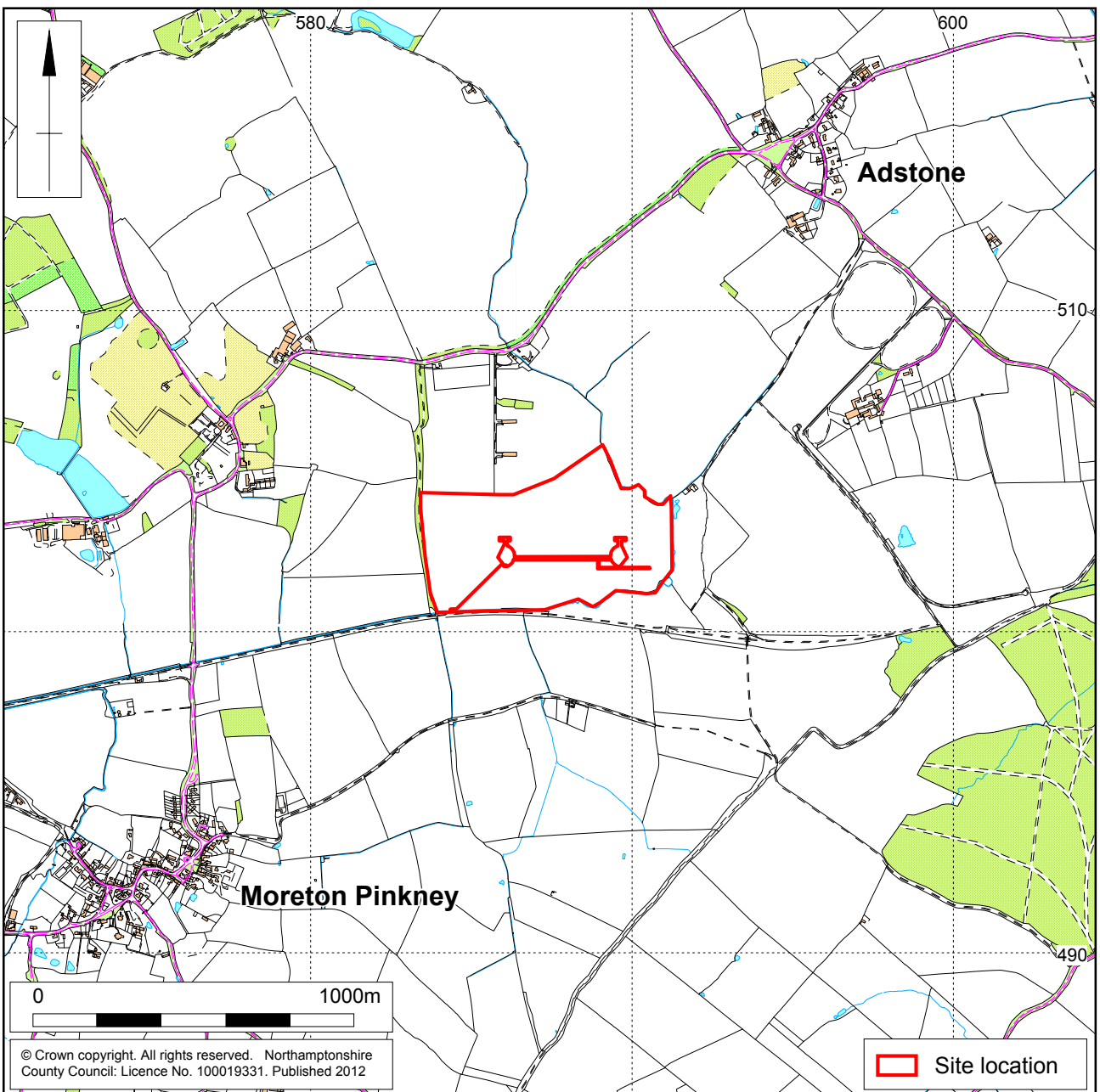
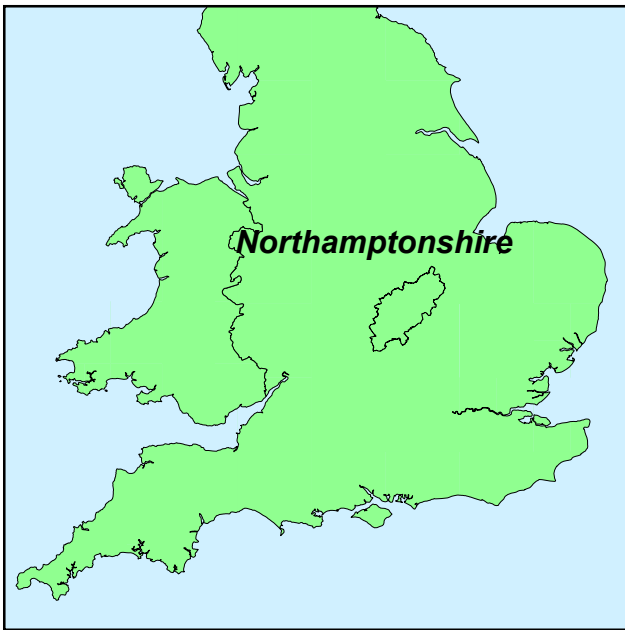
Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation were to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project are to provide further information on the following:

- *The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;*



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

- *The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.*

The evaluation has been carried out within the parameters suggested by the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework, The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006) and the updated *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for The Historic Environment of The East Midlands* (Knight et al 2012).

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The development area lies to the east of the village of Canons Ashby, and north of the line of the former railway from Stratford-on-Avon to Towcester, on land belonging to Manor Farm, Adstone. The parish boundary between Canons Ashby and Adstone runs down the eastern end of the field along the line of a watercourse. The site is centred on SP 58611 50244.

The site is currently under agricultural use. The site slopes down to the south-east. the turbine locations are at an approximate height between 141m and 145m aOD. The solid geology of the site is the Northampton Sand Formation of sandstone, limestone and ironstone (www.bgs.ac.uk).



The site, looking west Fig 2

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

A heritage assessment of the site has previously been undertaken (Dawson 2012). No prehistoric or Roman activity has been identified in the vicinity of the site.

By Domesday, a settlement had been established at Adstone, which is situated to the north-east of the site. The village was a chapelry of Canons Ashby, located c. 1km to the north-west of the site. By the 13th century a charter confirmed that Adstone operated a two-field system, describing a West and South field. The site probably lay in the West field during the medieval period. Although ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded within the parish, none remain with the proposed development area.

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Four trenches were excavated using a 360° track machine fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. All four trenches were 15m long. The trenches were located in the footprints of two proposed turbines and the access road (Fig 3)

Topsoil or archaeological features were present subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to reveal natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

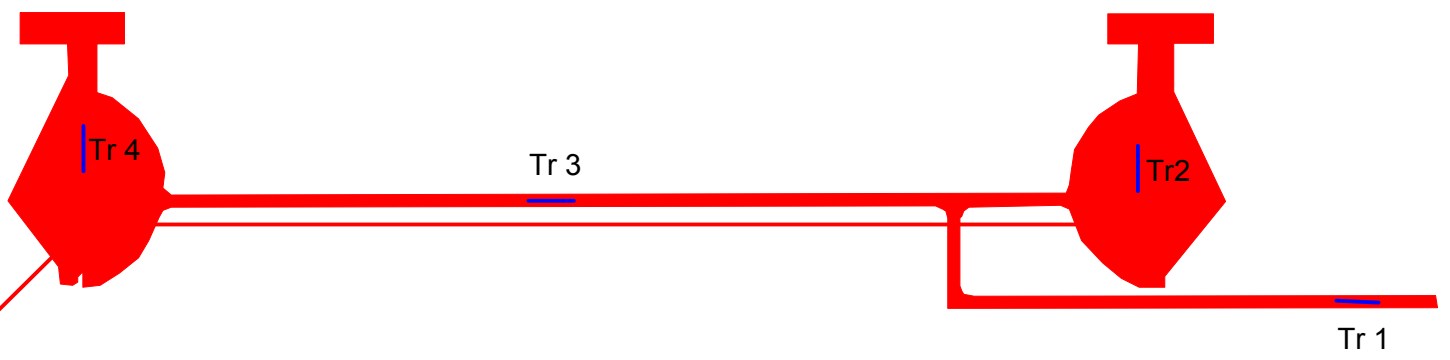
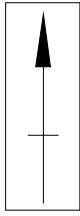
The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard NA procedures (NA 2011). All deposits were given a separate context number, described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

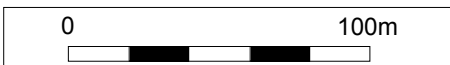
The location of the trench was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012).

Scale 1:2,500 (A4)

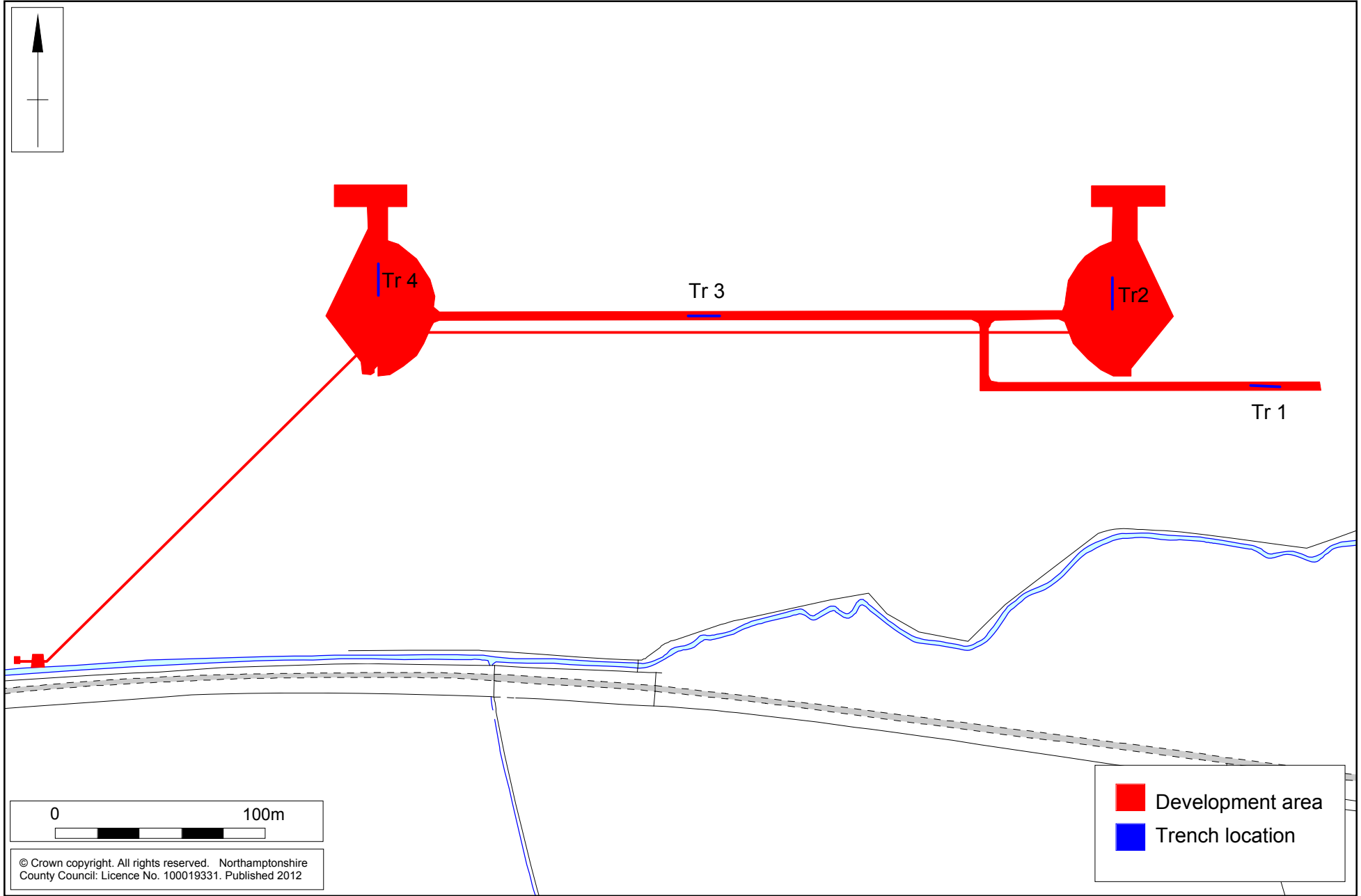


Trench locations Fig 3



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- Development area
- Trench location



All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical digger.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

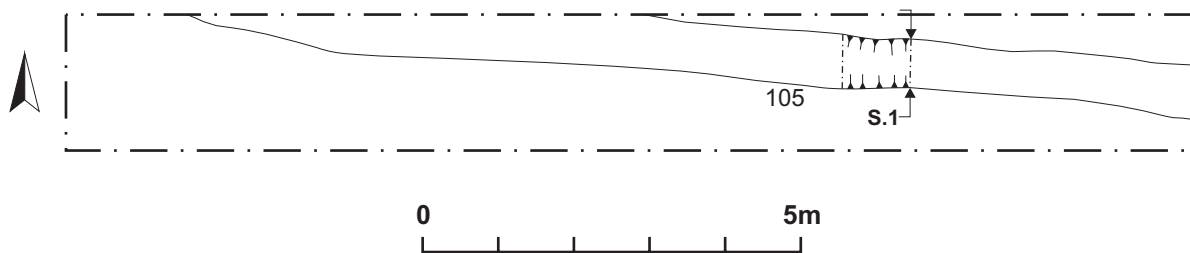
The natural substrate consisted of light orange-brown sandy clay. The overlaying topsoil was mid grey-brown clay loam. In Trenches 1 a field boundary ditch was uncovered.

Trench 1 was 14.5m long by 1.6m, and was aligned east-west. A linear ditch [105] ran most of the length of the Trench, and has been identified as a former field boundary ditch. The ditch was 0.71m wide and 0.25m deep. A silting layer of mid grey-brown clay silt (104), was overlain by dark brown- grey silty clay (103). There were no finds.

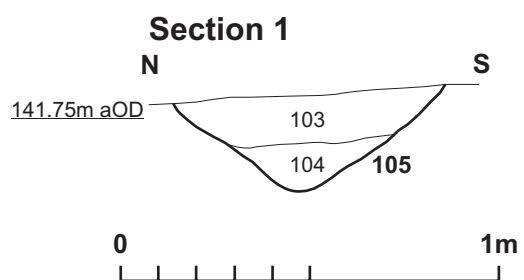
6 DISCUSSION

An undated ditch was encountered in Trench 1. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the field was divided into several smaller fields, which are still present on the 1950 map. The current farmer recalled that the previous owner had taken the hedges out, removed the wooded area, and backfilled the ditches sometime in the 1960s or 1970s (*pers comm.* 26.11.2012). The ditch in Trench 1 corresponds with the south-western field boundary visible on the OS map (Fig 5).

Trench 1



Ditch 105, looking west

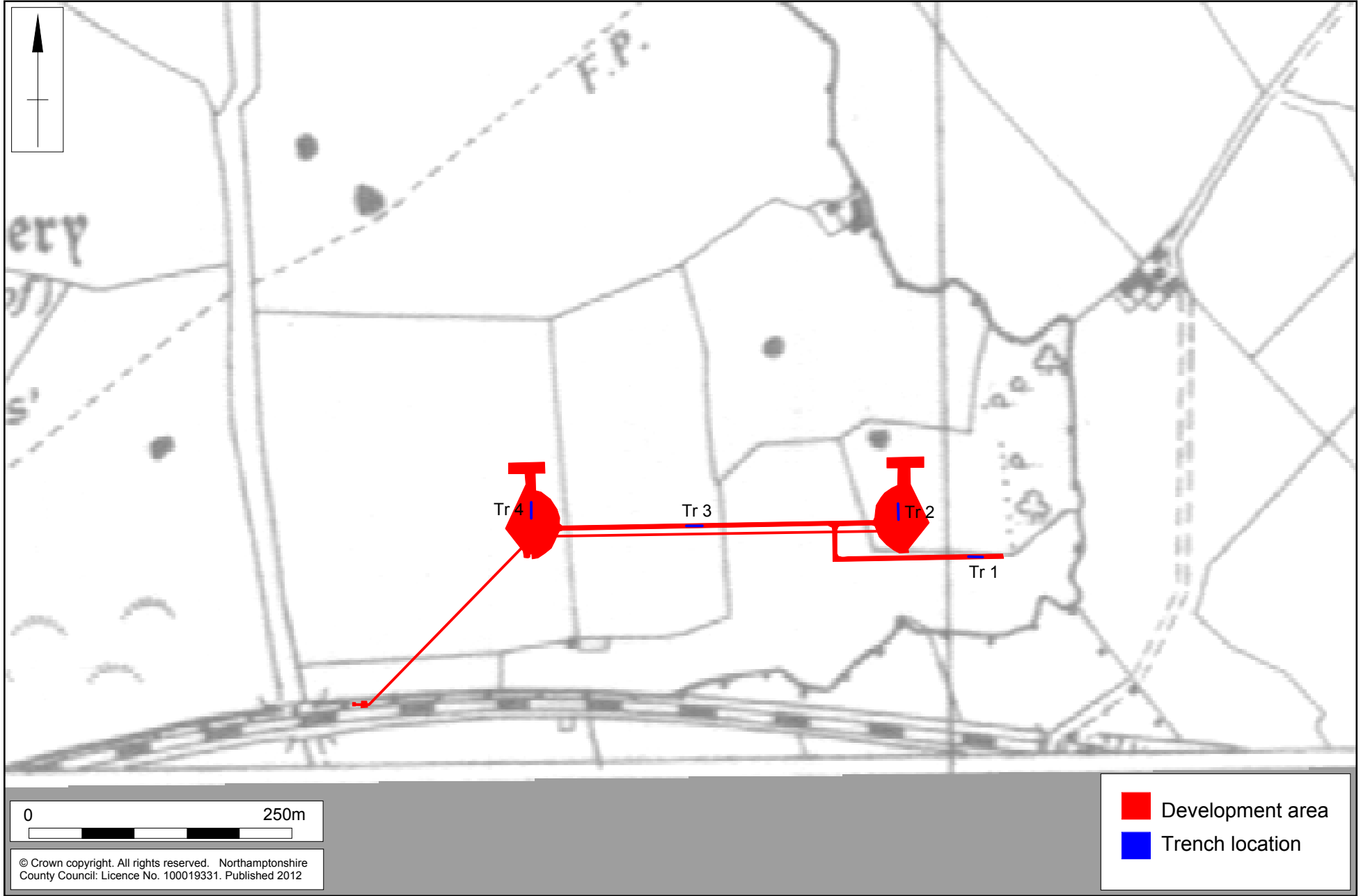


Ditch 105, looking east

Scale 1:5,000 (A4)

Location of trenches overlying 1950s Ordnance Survey map

Fig 5



0 250m

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Development area
Trench location

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NCC 2012 *Brief for the archaeological field evaluation of Land south of Banbury Road, Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

WEBSITES

www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1	Length, width & alignment 15m x 1.8m E-W		Surface height 141.85 OD	Depth & height of natural 141.59m OD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts /Samples
101	Topsoil	Soft (water-logged) mid grey-brown loam clay, occasional to moderate flint and chalk inclusions	0.26m depth	-
102	Natural	Firm light orange-brown clay with frequent small to large flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
103	Fill of [105]	Soft dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional small angular flint and charcoal inclusion	0.14m depth	-
104	Fill of [105]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate small to medium flint and chalk inclusions	0.11m depth	-
105	Cut	Ditch sloping edges and concave base	0.71m wide 0.25m deep	

Trench 2	Length, width & alignment 15m x 1.8m N-S		Surface height 144.14m OD	Depth & height of natural 143.8 OD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts /Samples
201	Topsoil	Soft (water-logged) mid grey-brown loam clay, occasional to moderate flint and chalk inclusions	0.26m depth	-
202	Natural	Firm light orange-brown clay with frequent small to large flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 3	Length, width & alignment 15m x 1.8m E-W		Surface height 146.62m	Depth & height of natural 146.53m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts /Samples
301	Topsoil	Soft (water-logged) mid grey-brown loam clay, occasional to moderate flint and chalk inclusions	0.29m depth	-
302	Natural	Firm light orange-brown clay with frequent small to large flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 4	Length, width & alignment 15m x 1.8m N-S		Surface height 144.15m	Depth & height of natural 143.88m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts /Samples
401	Topsoil	Soft (water-logged) mid grey-brown loam clay, occasional to moderate flint and chalk inclusions	0.27m depth	-
402	Natural	Firm light orange-brown clay with frequent small to large flint and chalk inclusions	-	-



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