



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at
Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road
Denton, Northamptonshire
December 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire
County Council

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Report 13/05

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SITE NAME: Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton,
Northamptonshire
NATIONAL GRID REF: SP 8320 55635
CLIENT: MABER Associates Limited
CONTRACTOR: Northamptonshire Archaeology
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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
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OASIS Report Form

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 141074
Project title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road, Denton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated two 20m long trial trenches within the footprint of the proposed new building at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	No archaeology present	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road, Denton	
Easting Northing	SP 8320 55635	
Area ha/ sq m	2.8 ha	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Ian Meadows	
Sponsor or funding body	MABER Associates Limited	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	17th December 2012	
End date	17th December 2012	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench evaluation at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road, Denton, Northamptonshire	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
YARDLEY CHASE CADET TRAINING CENTRE
DENTON ROAD, DENTON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
DECEMBER 2012**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated two 20m long trial trenches within the footprint of the proposed new building, at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

The work was undertaken in compliance with the briefs issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2012) and the subsequent WSI prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012).

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by MABER Associates Limited to carry out archaeological trial trenching on the proposed development site on land at the Yardley Chase, Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road, Denton, Northamptonshire (Fig 1). The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council identified that the application area was potentially archaeologically sensitive and would benefit from evaluation. The application did not provide sufficient archaeological information in which to assess the impact of the application. A series of appropriate techniques was required in order to assess the archaeological potential. In this case the further information was obtained by trial trenching (Fig 2).

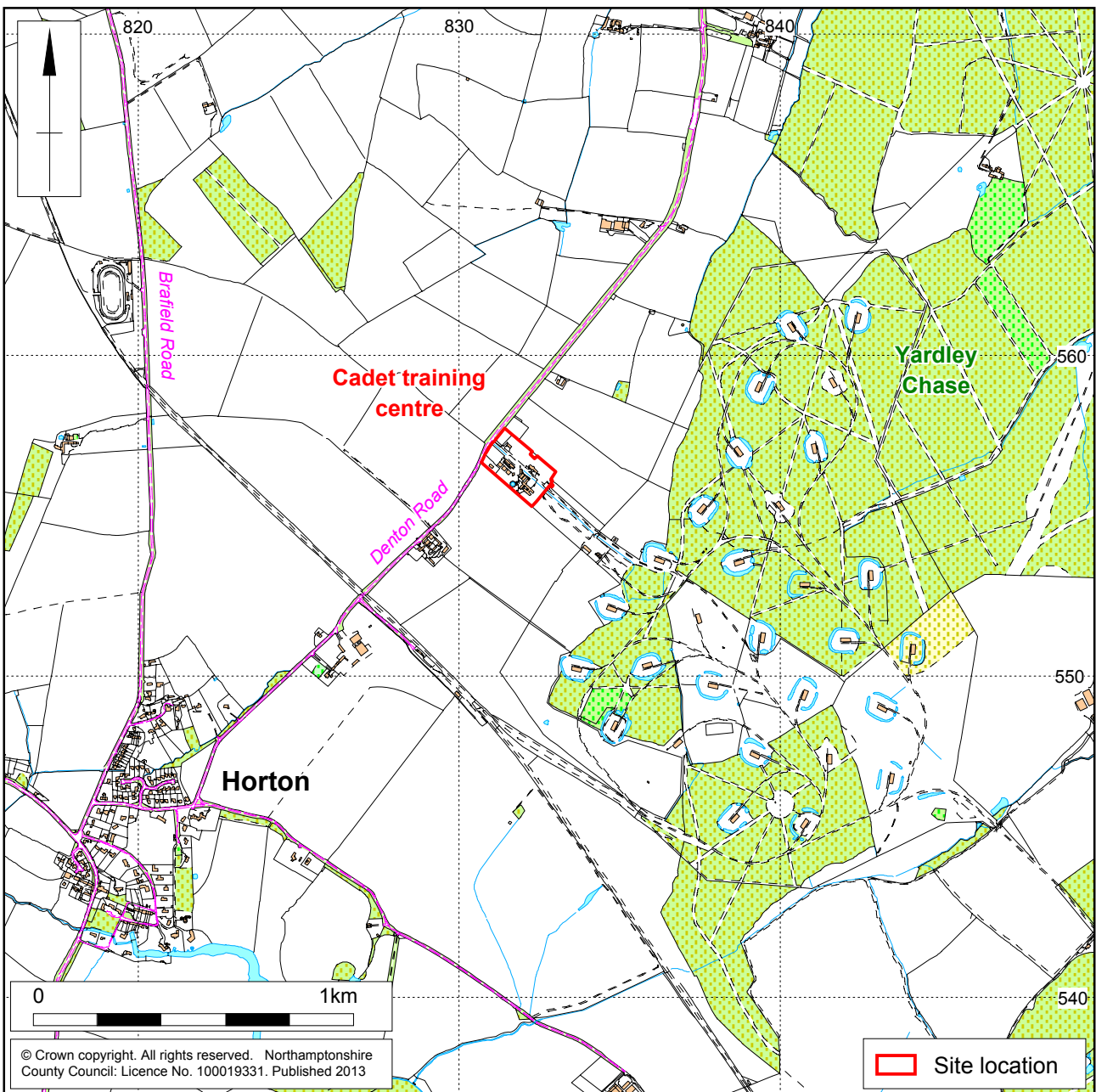
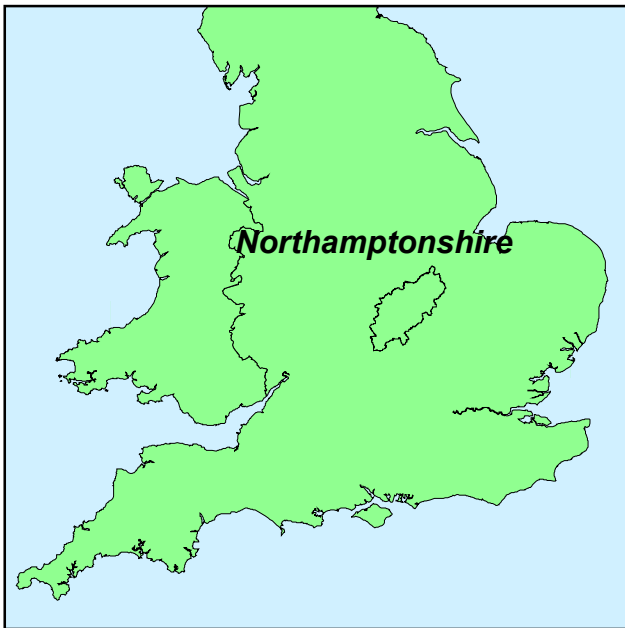
Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation. All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (1991; 1997; 2006) and the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

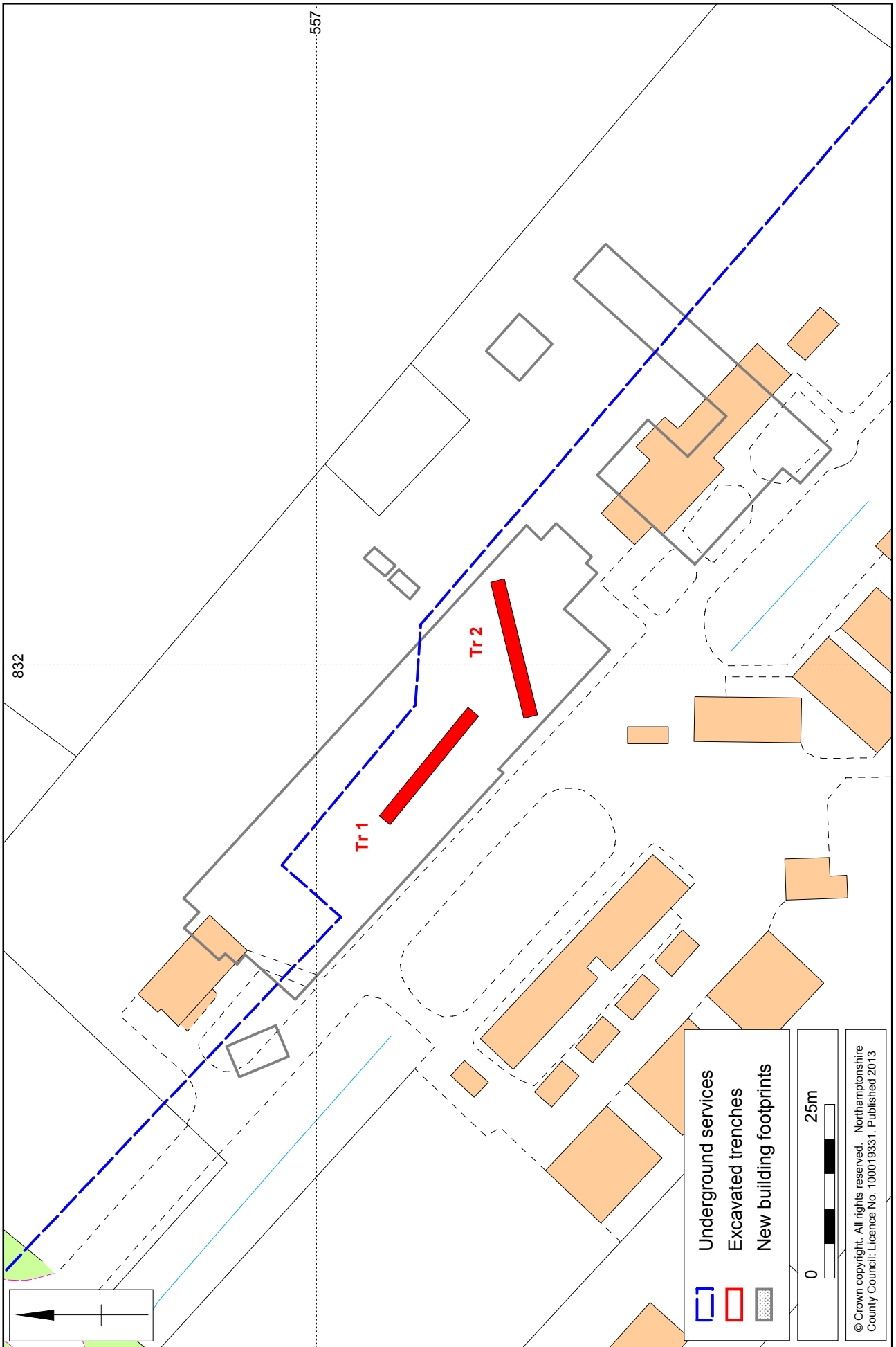
The proposed development area sits on land within the existing training centre to the south of Denton village surrounded by open fields with the woodlands of Yardley Chase a short distance to the east.

The natural geology of the area is almost entirely boulder clay.



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:750 (A4)

The excavated trenches Fig 2

2.2 Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of undetermined archaeological interest. No recorded archaeological sites lie within the site. Linear cropmarks and Romano-British finds are known to the north of the site and to the south Yardley Chase is a medieval/post-medieval deer and hunting park. The site itself was a part of the larger Second World War bomb storage facility that operated in this area.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

3.2 Methodology

Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two (2) trial trenches, each 20m long, located across the proposed building footprint (Fig 2).

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal the natural substrate. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The work was carried out under archaeological supervision. Once the evaluation had been completed, both trenches were simply backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological fieldwork manual* (2011).

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images.

All works was conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008a) and *Code of Conduct* (2010).

4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Trench 1 was 20m long by 1.60m wide and aligned north-west to south-east. The soils were machined under archaeological supervision down to the natural boulder clay, to a maximum depth of 0.50m. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.



Trench 1, looking north-west

Fig 3



Trench 1 section, looking north

Fig 4

Trench 2 was 20m long by 1.60m wide and aligned north-east to south-west. The soils were machined under archaeological supervision down to natural boulder clay, except for 4m at the south-west end which only had topsoil removed down to made up ground with possible services. No services were exposed and no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.



Trench 2, looking east

Fig 5



Trench 2 section, looking south-east

Fig 6

5 CONCLUSION

The trial trenching was located across the proposed building footprint. Soils were removed to the natural under archaeological supervision.

No archaeological features were observed in the excavated trench and no artefacts were recovered.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

EH 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, English Heritage

EH 1997 *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda*, English Heritage

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

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

NA 2011 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2012 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation at the Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre, Denton Road, Denton, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
1	20m x 1.6m N-S	483186/255683	113m aOD	0.50m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.20m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Light brown clay	0.30m thick	-
103	Natural	Grey boulder clay	—	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
2	20m x 1.6m NE-SW	483201/255671	113m aOD	0.45m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark grey/ brown clay loam	0.20m	—
202	Subsoil	Light brown clay	0.25m	—
203	Natural	Grey boulder clay	—	—



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