



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Excavation

At Norton Subcourse Quarry,

Norfolk 40918 HEC

Stage 2

September 2005



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Report 06/002

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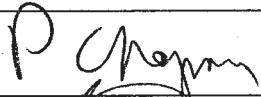
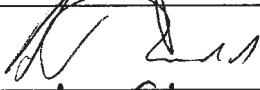

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological trial excavation at Norton Subcourse Quarry, Norfolk, Stage 2, September 2005	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out trial excavation on the site of a proposed extension to Norton Subcourse Quarry, Norfolk, on behalf of Cemex UK Materials Ltd. Twenty-one trenches totalling 1035m in length were excavated. Ditches and occasional small pits of both Iron Age and late Saxon date were found but there was no indication of any related settlement activity. A number of natural features including possible solution and vegetation hollows were located throughout the area.	
Project type (eg desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Trial Trenching	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Northamptonshire Archaeology 2004 (Site 40918 HEC), The Guildhouse Consultancy DBA 2001 Northamptonshire Archaeology, February 2005 (Site 40918 HEC)	
Future work	Watching Brief	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Norfolk	
Site address (including postcode)	Norton Subcourse, Norfolk	
Easting	6398	
Northing	2996	
Height OD	19.30m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Guildhouse Consultancy	
Project brief originator	Guildhouse Consultancy	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Mark Holmes	
Project Manager	Andy Mudd	
Sponsor or funding body	Cemex UK	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	12-09-05	
End date	22-09-05	
ARCHIVES		
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Castle Museum Norwich (tba)	1 box; pottery, animal bone, fired clay
Paper	Castle Museum Norwich	1 file, 5 plan sheets, 5 section sheets, B&W and colour photographs
Digital	Castle Museum Norwich	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Trial Excavation at Norton Subcourse Quarry, Norfolk, 40918 HEC, Stage 2, September 2005	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 06/002	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION

AT NORTON SUBCOURSE QUARRY

NORFOLK 40918 HEC

STAGE 2

SEPTEMBER 2005

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a second stage of trial excavation on the remainder of the site of a proposed extension to Norton Subcourse Quarry, Norfolk, on behalf of Cemex UK Materials Ltd, in September 2005. Twenty-one trenches totalling 1035m in length were excavated. Ditches and occasional small pits of both Iron Age and late Saxon date were found but there was no indication of any related settlement activity. A number of natural features including possible solution and vegetation hollows were located throughout the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) were commissioned by The Guildhouse Consultancy (TGC) on behalf of Cemex UK Materials Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land in the parish of Norton Subcourse, Norfolk (centred on NGR TG 398 996; Fig 1). The evaluation was in connection with the extension of existing mineral extraction at the Company's site to the north-west of the village.

The evaluation formed the second stage of trial trenching on this 23 ha site which has been the subject of structured archaeological evaluation, as required by the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA). An initial fieldwalking and metal detecting survey over the whole site (NA 2004) was followed in February 2005 by trial trenching on the southern 6 ha, which had been designated for the first stage of mineral extraction (NA 2005). This first stage entailed the excavation of 14 trenches (Fig 2, Field 1).

The second stage of trial excavation, which is the subject of this report, took place in September 2005 and comprised the excavation of a further 21 trenches in the centre and northern parts of the proposed development area (c 17 ha).

The trial evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (NA and TGC 2005), which was agreed with the Principal Landscape Archaeologist of Norfolk Landscape

Archaeology on behalf of the MPA. While the original scheme proposed a total 50 trial trenches, fifteen of these (Trenches 1-10, 12, 14, 16, 22 and 24) were later excluded since they lay in zones designated for topsoil bunds rather than extraction.

The purpose of the trial excavation was to establish the survival, date, nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development in order to inform the planning process.

1.2 Location and Topography

The site straddles the parishes of Norton Subcourse and Heckingham to the east of the River Chet. The second phase of trial trenching was confined exclusively to a single arable field bounded by Ferry Road to the west and the existing quarry to the east (Fig 2, Field 2; Plate 1). A thick screen of trees had been planted along the western boundary of the site which are not shown on current OS mapping.

The land sloped from the south-east to the north-west, although a steeper slope was present in the north-west corner of the field. A sub-circular hollow in the south-east corner of the field, interpreted as a solution hollow, was explored during the previous evaluation stage (Trenches 35 and 38).

The geology within the site generally comprised glacial sand and gravel (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm). However, sporadic areas of chalky Boulder Clay were also found during the excavations, confirming previous borehole information (Havercroft 2001, Section 4.2).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based study and an assessment of the aerial photographic evidence by The Guildhouse Consultancy identified a number of areas of potential archaeological interest both within and outside of the PDA (Havercroft 2001). The main findings within the PDA included light surface scatters of prehistoric worked flint and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery which were recovered during an earlier fieldwalking survey in the part of the site lying within Heckingham parish (Davison 1990). It is unclear whether any of this material occurred in significant concentrations. The only feature identified from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record was a track of presumed post-medieval date whose course is questionable and may have lain elsewhere (Havercroft 2001).

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a fieldwalking and metal detector survey in December 2004. The only noteworthy artefacts located within the survey area were several small Neolithic/Bronze Age flints. Further finds were post-medieval and included a small quantity of tile and brick. No significant concentrations were apparent (NA 2004).

The subsequent first stage of trial trenching revealed an area of burnt debris within a shallow pit of possible Iron Age date, and a medieval quarry pit. A small number of undated pits, postholes, ditches and gullies were also present. In addition, a large number of natural features, including possible solution hollows were identified throughout the area (NA 2005).

3 METHODOLOGY

The works were undertaken in accordance with IFA guidelines (1999) and standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures.

A total of 21 trenches measuring 50m by 2m wide were positioned to cover a representative sample of the site, not targeted on specific locations. This amounted to about 3% of the extraction area. The trench numbers continued the sequence established in the original Project Design and therefore commenced at 11 and omitted the excluded trenches.

Trenches were positioned by hand using tapes and optical square and their subsequent locations established using a Global Positioning System (GPS) with an accuracy of +/- 0.50m.

The excavation of the trial trenches was continuously supervised by an archaeologist. All trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil, subsoil and overburden were removed until archaeologically sensitive deposits or clean natural horizons were revealed. All deposits were cleaned sufficiently to identify their nature. Recording was by Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma context sheets, supplemented by drawing plans at scales of 1:50 and 1:100, as appropriate, and sections at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record in black and white and colour slides of all trenches and features was completed. All levels taken during the trial trenching were related to the Ordnance Survey Datum, which was established using the GPS. An experienced metal detectorist was employed to scan the trenches and upcast.

4 THE EVALUATION EVIDENCE

Potential archaeological features were found in 11 of the 21 trenches - Trenches 11, 15, 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 33, and 36 (Fig 3). These trenches are described below. The remaining trenches contained only features interpreted as root disturbances and other natural anomalies.

As in the first stage of evaluation, the distinction between natural and man-made features was largely based upon the features' morphology (ie plan, profile, and content). A detailed Context Inventory is appended (Appendix 1), whilst the finds reports, environmental evidence and animal bone reports follow in Section 5.

The natural geology varied across the field. Generally it comprised sands and gravels but in places these gave way to chalky Boulder Clay and patches of clay with flint. The subsoil comprised mid brown silty sand, generally varying in depth between 0.20m – 0.30m. All features across the site were sealed by this subsoil.

The topsoil was a dark modern plough soil which remained fairly consistent in character and depth, approximately 0.30m – 0.40m, throughout the field.

4.1 Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned north–south at the northern end of the development area.

Charcoal Spread [1105]

A small irregular spread of charcoal, c 0.95m in diameter, was revealed immediately beneath the subsoil. Excavation of the material appeared to show it pressed into the underlying natural to a depth of 0.18m forming an irregular hollow [1105]. A sample taken of the soil only produced more charcoal remains. The feature is interpreted as simply the remains of a small-scale fire, possibly of agricultural origin.

No other features were present in the trench.

4.2 Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned east–west towards at the northern end of the development area. It contained two possible ditches.

Ditch [1505]

A possible ditch or gully aligned north–south [1505], ran across the eastern end of the trench. It had a U– shaped profile and measured 1.25m wide by 0.25m deep. It was filled with mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions (1504). No finds were recovered.

Ditch [1507]

The second feature [1507] was aligned north-south and was located towards the western end of the trench. It had a more V–shaped profile and was 0.94m wide and 0.34m deep. It was

filled with mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions (1506). No finds were recovered.

4.3 Trench 18

Trench 18 was aligned northwest-southeast and located towards the northern end of the development area. A single small linear gully was the only possible archaeological feature revealed but there was also a number of irregular natural features present.

Gully [1805]

A possible linear gully, aligned northeast-southwest was located at the north-west end of the trench. Its north-west side sloped down sharply whilst the south-east side was less steep. The sides converged towards a very narrow base creating a roughly V-shaped profile. The gully measured 0.40m wide and was 0.46m deep. It was filled with orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

Natural features [not numbered]

Four natural hollows were investigated. Each was filled by loose orange brown silty sand, and comprised irregular edges in plan with uneven diffuse edges in section. The features were similar to other natural features investigated in the Stage 1 trenching (NA 2005).

4.4 Trench 21

Trench 21 was aligned northeast-southwest and located towards the western side of the development area.

Ditch [2104] (Fig 4, Section 1; Plate 2)

A linear ditch, 3.40m wide but only 0.28m deep was revealed towards the north-east end of the trench. Both sides sloped down very gently towards a flattish base. It was filled with yellowish brown, silty sand and moderately frequent small stone inclusions (2105). Iron Age pottery, fragments of burnt clay and a single iron object were recovered from the fill. A soil sample (Sample 3) revealed the presence of charred cereal grain.

Natural features [not numbered]

Two further possible linear features were also examined within the trench, however, on excavation they proved to have amorphous edges and merged with the surrounding natural geology, suggesting they were natural features.

Pipe trench

A modern irrigation pipe also passed through the trench.

4.5 Trench 23

Trench 23 was aligned northwest–southeast towards the western side of the proposed development area.

Gully [2304]

The butt end of a small possibly curvilinear gully was revealed within the trench. The gully had relatively steep sides which met a flattish base. It terminated in an irregular roughly semicircular cut which was 0.89m wide and 0.29m deep. It was filled with dark greyish brown silty sand which contained occasional flint fragments. There were no finds and no ecofacts were recovered from a soil sample (Sample 5).

Natural features

A possible pit [2306] was explored immediately adjacent to possible gully [2304]. However, on excavation the feature became amorphous and irregular and was interpreted as a natural hollow. A similar, irregular feature to the south-east was also interpreted as a natural feature (not numbered).

4.6 Trench 25

Trench 25 was aligned northwest–southeast and located in the middle of the field. A single, narrow small ditch or gully was the only feature present

Ditch [2505] (Fig 4, Section 2)

A small linear gully or ditch, aligned east-west was revealed towards the centre of the trench. It had a broad U-shaped profile and was 0.18m deep and 0.64m wide. It was filled with dark orange brown sand containing small natural flint fragments. There were no finds present.

4.7 Trench 27

Trench 27 was aligned northwest–southeast at the eastern edge of the field. A single pit was the only feature present.

Pit [2705]

A shallow pit, 0.88m long by 0.76m wide and 0.13m deep. The sides and base were uneven with the sides varying from near vertical to about 45°. It was filled with dark brown silty sand with moderate dark grey staining and occasional charcoal flecks (2704). No finds were present and a soil sample (Sample 4) yielded only more charcoal and wild plant taxa.

4.8 Trench 29

The trench was aligned northeast-southwest and located at the western edge of the field. It contained a single pit.

Pit [2906] (Plate 3)

Pit [2906] was circular and steep-sided, with a U-shaped base. It contained two fills. The earliest (2905) was a dark yellowish grey sand with occasional small flint pieces and occasional charcoal. This may represent the initial silting of the feature. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered. The later fill (2904) was similar in character but contained frequent charcoal. Four pottery sherds, probably of Iron Age date were recovered from the feature and soil sample taken (Sample 1). Only charcoal was recovered from the soil sample.

4.9 Trench 30

The trench was aligned northwest-southeast at the western edge of the proposed development area. A single ditch towards the south-west end of the trench was the only feature present.

Ditch [3005] (Fig 4, Section 3; Plate 4)

The ditch was aligned north to south, running across the width of the trench. It was 0.97m wide but only 0.24m deep. It had a U-shaped profile and was filled with mid yellowish brown silty sand which had occasional small flint inclusions (3004). There were also occasional charcoal flecks within the fill.

4.10 Trench 31

The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. It contained a number of natural features including a large hollow at the southwest end of the trench.

Natural Hollow [3107]

A hollow [3107], measured c 4.03m wide, and was filled with mid yellowish brown sandy silt and containing very frequent, large flint nodules (3106). Where sampled, the feature was over 0.30m deep and occupied the majority of the south-west end of the trench. Only the south-west end of the feature was fully excavated where it was shown to have an uneven side which sloped down at c 45°. The base of the feature was very uneven with frequent small hollows. One of these [3109] was originally interpreted as a separate, possibly linear feature filled with a darker yellowish brown sandy silt (3108). However, on excavation it was shown to merely be a variation in the fill of the main feature. It may represent initial slumping into

the hollow. No finds were retrieved from the fills and an initial assessment of the feature as a quarry pit was revised to interpreting it as natural hollow, possibly similar to that previously explored in Trenches 35 and 38 in the south-east corner of Field 2.

Natural Hollow [3105]

A smaller feature lay to the north-east of [3107]. It comprised a shallow probably circular cut which extended beyond the edge of excavation. It was 4.03m long and 0.30m deep with sloping sides and a hollow towards its centre. It was filled with a mid yellowish brown silty sand containing frequent large flint nodules. The irregular nature of the base, suggest it was probably a natural rather than an archaeological feature.

Other similar natural features at the north-east end of the trench were not explored.

4.11 Trench 33

Trench 33 was aligned northwest–southeast and located at the western edge of the proposed development area. It contained a number of archaeological features.

Ditch [3312] (Fig 5, Section 4)

Ditch [3312] had a north-south alignment and was V-shaped, with a depth of 0.72m. It had two fills, the earliest of which comprised a mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent gravel stone inclusions (3311). The upper fill (3310) comprised a similar matrix but was less stony. It was cut by [3305].

Ditch [3305] (Fig 5, Section 4; Plate 5)

A ditch running north-south, 1.60m wide and 0.46m deep. It had a rounded base and was filled with two separate deposits. The earliest of these (3304) comprised mid yellowish brown sity sand with moderate small stone inclusions. Above this was a stonier mid yellowish brown silty sand (3313) which produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery and charcoal from a soil sample (Sample 6). Ditch [3305] cut through the earlier ditch [3312], for which it may have been a replacement.

Gully [3307] (Fig 5, Section 6)

A gully 0.56m wide and 0.12m deep was aligned northwest-southeast and had a U-shaped profile. It had a single fill comprising a light yellowish brown sand with moderate rounded stones (3306). Two sherds of Thetford ware and two fragments of fired clay were present.

Ditch [3309]

Located at the eastern end of the trench, ditch [3309] was aligned northwest-southeast and was 0.94m wide and 0.21m deep. It had a U-shaped profile and was filled with a mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones (3308). Three sherds of Thetford ware came from the fill which also produced charred cereal grain (Sample 7), animal bones and fired clay.

Gully [3315] (Fig 5, Section 5)

This gully was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 0.24m deep and 0.66m wide with a U-shaped profile. The single fill comprised mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel and stones and occasional charcoal flecks (3314). It contained two sherds of Early Medieval ware.

4.12 Trench 34

Aligned northwest-southeast and located at the southern end of the development area, the trench contained a single feature which was explored but proved to be a natural hollow.

Natural Hollow [3405] (Plate 6)

A roughly circular feature, approximately 2.00m in diameter, was located towards the centre of the trench. It was filled with dark brown silty sand which contained very occasional large flint nodules and very occasional flecks of possible charcoal (3404). On excavation the feature was shown to have a vertical northern side, but the southern side was slightly concave. The base was extremely uneven and a large irregular hollow in the base extended a further 0.30m in depth. A single very small piece of fired clay, possibly an eroded brick fragment, found in the fill may be intrusive. The irregularity of the feature suggests that this was a natural hollow, possibly a solution hollow of some sort.

4.13 Trench 36

Trench 36 was located at the western side of the proposed development area and contained a small pit and a natural feature. It was aligned northeast–southwest.

Pit [3605]

The pit was oval in shape, 0.80m long by 0.46m wide. It was only 0.20m deep and contained dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones (3604). Its sides were steep, near vertical, and it had a slightly rounded base.

Natural feature [3607] (Fig 5, Section 7)

Prior to excavation the feature was thought to be a possible ditch. However, on excavation the fill and irregular shape suggested that it was more likely to be a natural feature. It was 1.21m wide and 0.32m deep with irregular sides and a slightly rounded base. It contained a dark yellowish brown sand with moderate stone inclusions (3606).

4.9 Trenches 13, 17, 19, 20, 26, 28, 32, 37

Trenches 13 and 17 revealed only amorphous, natural features whilst Trenches 19, 20, 26, 28, 32 and 37 were completely empty.

5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 32 sherds with a total weight of 319g. It consisted of a mixture of prehistoric (probably Iron Age) and late Saxon to early medieval wares. The Iron Age material was largely undiagnostic, although a single decorated sherd suggests that at least some of the assemblage dates to the middle Iron Age.

Prehistoric

The following fabric types were noted:

F1: ?Shell tempered. Hand-built. Soft, friable ware with numerous voids up to 5mm, appear to be leached out shell platelets. Also rare angular white flint up to 1mm. 2 sherds, 16g.

F2: Sand and grog. Hand-built. Moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, sparse angular red grog up to 1mm. 5 sherds, 136g.

F3: Coarse grog. Hand-built. Moderate to dense sub-rounded grog up to 5mm. 1 sherd, 45g.

F4: Fine sandy. Groundmass of fine sub-angular quartz < 0.1mm, rare sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm. 17 sherds, 75g.

The prehistoric pottery was, with the exception of fabric 4, very friable and comprised largely undiagnostic plain bodysherds. A single, upright rim was noted in fabric 2, and another in fabric 3, with the latter having a simple, horizontally pierced lug. Two rimsherds were noted in fabric 4, one of which had shallow fingernail impressions on the top. This suggests a date of the middle Iron Age for this group, context (2105), which consisted entirely of sherds in

fabric 4, and did not contain any sherds in the other prehistoric fabrics, suggesting that they may be of a different date. Fabrics 1 - 3 may be Iron Age in date, but could possibly be earlier. Unfortunately, the level of degradation of the material was such that it is impossible to be certain. Further excavation will hopefully clarify the picture.

Post-Roman

Thetford-type Ware, 10th/11th century (Atkin *et al* 1983). 5 sherds, 28g.

Early Medieval ware (EMW), 11th-15th century (Jennings 1981, 22-5). 2 sherds, 19g

These wares are typical of the pottery of the period in the region. All the Thetford ware sherds appear to be from small jars, including a rimsherd with a simple everted profile, and the same comments apply to the EMW.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: *Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Context	IAF1		IAF2		IAF3		IAF4		Thetford		EMW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2105							17	75					MIA
2904			3	117	1	45							IA?
2905	1	6	1	7									IA?
3306									2	7			10thC?
3308									3	21			10thC?
3313	1	10	1	12									IA?
3314											2	19	11thC?
Total	2	16	5	136	1	45	17	75	5	28	2	19	

5.2 The small finds by Tora Hylton

A very small undiagnostic fragment of iron was recovered from the fill of a Middle Iron Age ditch (2104). The piece measures 26 x 20 x 17mm and the x-radiograph reveals an incomplete, possibly sub-spherical object with integral loops, one sited at the end of a short tapered projection (7mm long) and the other, protruding at an angle of 90 degrees from the edge of the sphere. Further cleaning of the object may help to clarify technical details visible on the x-ray and aid identification. No parallels for this object have been located.

5.3 The fired clay by Pat Chapman

This small assemblage comprises 11 fragments of fired clay, weighing 97g. The three rounded fragments from the fill of ditch [2105] are in a coarse red slightly vesicular sandy clay with occasional very small fragments of shell and grog. The two fragments from the fill of gully [3307] and the five from the primary fill of gully [3309], which are all irregular in shape, comprise a slightly silty, sandy clay heated to a pale orange to light brown, with inclusions of shell fragments and grog and the gaps from leached out organic inclusions. The fragment from natural hollow [3405], also in a coarse red sandy fabric with occasional flint inclusions, may be a very eroded brick fragment.

5.4 The environmental evidence by Karen Deighton

Introduction

Assessment was undertaken to establish the nature, preservation and presence of ecofacts, their potential contribution to the understanding of the function and economy of the site and to inform on future sampling strategy.

Method

Seven samples were hand collected from the excavation. All of the samples were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and analysed using a microscope (10xmagnification).

Results

Preservation was exclusively by charring. The condition of the seeds and grains was fragmentary and abraded. The charcoal recovered was very fragmentary. The species present are presented below in Table 2:

Table 2: *Environmental ecofacts by sample and context*

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context	2904	1104	2105	2704	2305	3313	3308
Feature							
Volume (L)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Charcoal	10	10	5	10		4	5
Cereal			+				2
Wild/weed	+		1	+		+	

Key

+ = present, 1= 2-10, 2=10-20, 3= 20-30, 4= 30-40, 5= 40-50, 6=50-100, 7=100-200, 8= 200-500, 9=500-1000, 10= 1000+

Wild taxa included fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and cleavers (*Galium aparine*). The cereal grains present could not be further identified due to poor preservation.

Discussion

The presence of cereal grains in two samples was probably the result of accidental burning. The wild taxa observed are typical of disturbed ground. The small amount of material recovered precludes any further comment. The majority of the samples produced ecofacts. This indicates that further information regarding the economy of the site would be available if more samples were collected during the course of any future archaeological work.

5.5 The animal bone by Karen Deighton

Method

Seventy grams of animal bone were hand recovered from the excavation, all from context 3308 (early medieval ditch [3309]). These were scanned to determine the species present, state of preservation and to assess the potential for future work. Identifiable bones were noted. Hand collected bones had previously been washed.

Results

Fragmentation was heavy. Bone surfaces were abraded and powdery. Due to the poor condition of the material it was not possible to identify any evidence of butchery. A single bone fragment exhibited evidence of canid gnawing. The following species were identifiable:

1 cattle (*Bos*) pelvis

1 pig (*Sus*) humerus shaft fragment

If a larger sample of bone were to be collected from dated features during future archaeological work, the material may be used to establish the range of species utilised at the site, although the remains are likely to be of poor quality.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation revealed few certain archaeological features. The ditches in Trenches 33 and 21 produced pottery of Iron Age and late Saxon/early medieval date, indicating a focus of activity in the lower, western part of the site. This may suggest that settlement of these periods lies to the west of the evaluated area.

Other undated features in these trenches, and possibly also in Trenches 23, 25, 30 and 36, may be related. Upslope, in the northern and eastern parts of the site, small areas of burning were found in Trenches 11, 27 and 29. Only that in Trench 29 was shown to be a definite pit, yielding Iron Age pottery. This pattern of sparse activity in this period is similar to that found in the southern part of the site (Stage 1, Trench 44) where a spread of charcoal may have been related to the burning of weeds (NA 2005).

The nature of the fills of many features and the dearth of finds made it impossible to conclude with certainty whether some features, such as the linear features in Trench 15, were archaeological in origin. If these are man-made features it is possible that they simply represent the remains of medieval or later furrows.

The shortage of pottery, worked flint or animal bone throughout the site was marked. The lack of bone may be due to acidic soil conditions, but the absence of worked flint and pottery from the topsoil or subsoil would suggest that there was no focus of settlement in the area. The features present probably represent boundaries or other features peripheral to settlement.

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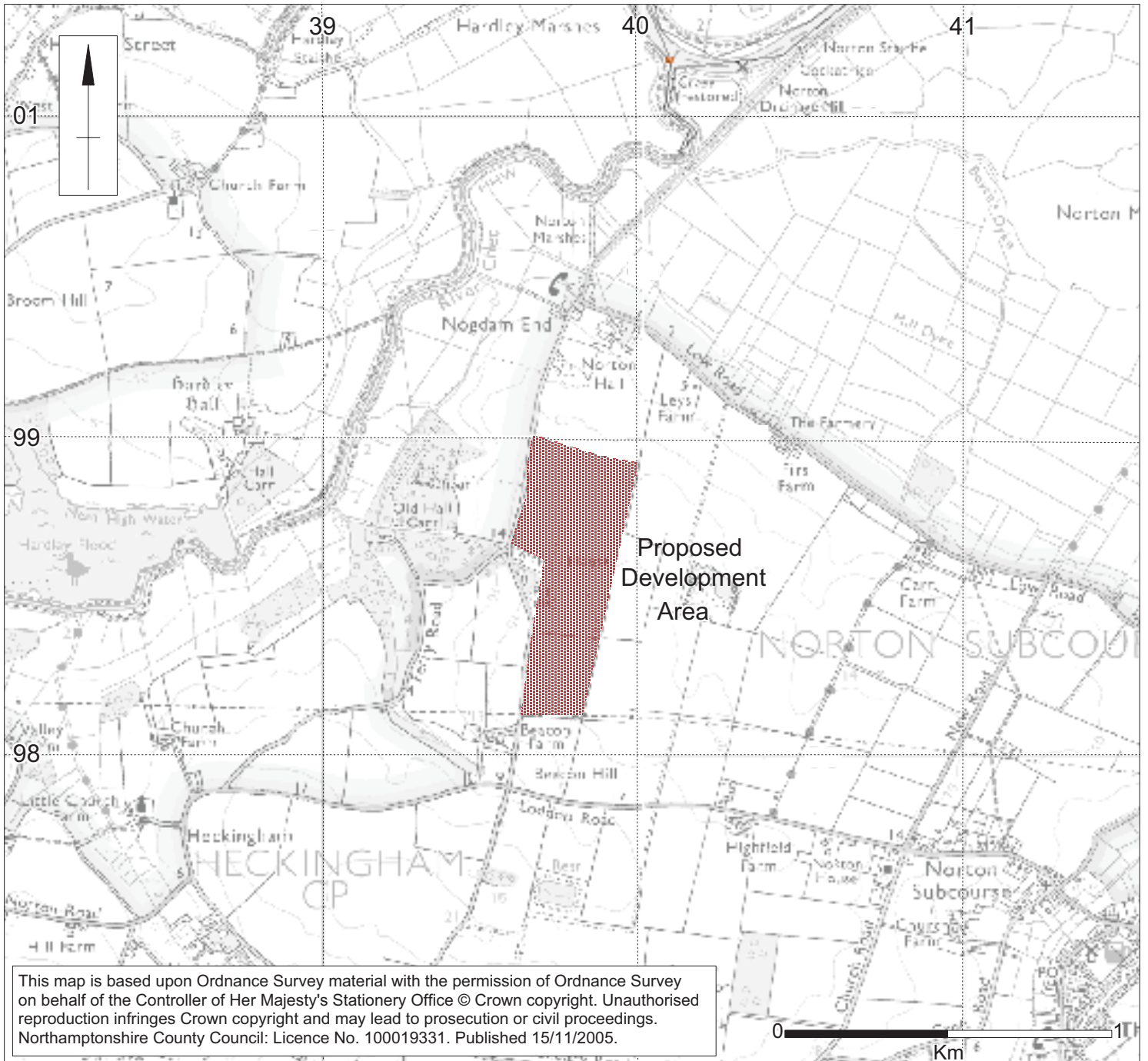
Appendix 1: Context Inventory

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
11	1101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.35
	1102	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand infrequent flint	----	----	0.20
	1103	Natural	Yellow brown loose sand with flint	----	----	----
	1104	Spread	Small spread of charcoal on the surface of the natural. Fill of [1105]	----	----	----
	1105	Hollow	Small irregular hollow containing (1104)	0.95	0.95	0.18
13	1301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	----	----	0.30
	1302	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand infrequent flint.	----	----	0.30
	1303	Natural	Light orangey brown sand with gravel inclusions. Towards eastern end of trench the natural changes to include angular flint pieces and occasional patches of orangey brown clay	----	----	----
15	1501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.45
	1502	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand infrequent flint	----	----	0.30
	1503	Natural	Yellow loose sand	----	----	----
	1504	Fill of [1505]	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions	----	----	----
	1505	? Ditch	Possible linear ditch, aligned north-south, with a U-shaped profile	1.25	>2.00	0.25
	1506	Fill of [1507]	Mid reddish brown sand, occasional flint	----	----	----
	1507	?Ditch	Possible linear ditch aligned north-south, with a V-shaped profile	0.94	>2.00	0.34
17	1701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.34
	1702	Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty sand infrequent flint	----	----	0.27
	1703	Natural	Orange to yellow loose sand with gravel, occasional patches of yellowish chalky till. Becomes siltier orange sand towards the southeast end of the trench	----	----	----
18	1801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.31
	1802	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand, infrequent flint	----	----	0.27
	1803	Natural	Orange sand with frequent patches of clay with flint	----	----	----
	1804	Fill of [1805]	Orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions	----	----	----
	1805	?Gully	Possible linear gully aligned northeast-southwest, with a V-shaped	0.40	>2.00	0.46
19	1901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.36
	1902	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand infrequent flint. Subsoil becomes deeper from the centre to the south-east end of the trench where it is 0.50m deep	----	----	0.34
	1903	Natural	Yellow sand at the south-east end of the trench becoming siltier towards the northwest end	----	----	----
20	2001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.38
	2002	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand with infrequent gravel inclusions. Thickens to 0.30m at north-east end of trench where natural geology slopes downwards	----	----	0.25
	2003	Natural	Yellow loose sand with frequent gravel	----	----	----
21	2101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.33
	2102	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions	----	----	0.18
	2103	Natural	Orange brown sand	----	----	----

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	2104	Ditch	Shallow linear ditch	3.40	>2.00	0.28
	2105	Fill of [2104]	Yellowish brown silty sand with moderately frequent small stone inclusions	----	----	----
23	2301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.33
	2302	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions	----	----	0.25
	2303	Natural	Orange brown sand	----	----	----
	2304	Gully	Butt end of small gully	0.89	>0.46	0.29
	2305	Fill of [2304]	Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint fragments	----	----	----
	2306	Hollow	Natural hollow			
	2307	Fill of [2306]	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions	----	----	----
25	2501	Topsoil	Dark brown compacted silty sand	----	----	0.30
	2502	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand infrequent flint	----	----	0.22
	2503	Natural	Orange to yellow loose sand with gravel patches	----	----	----
	2504	Fill of [2505]	Dark orange brown sand with occasional small flint fragments	----	----	----
	2505	Gully	A small linear gully or ditch, aligned east-west. It had a broad U-shaped profile	0.64	>2.00	0.18
26	2601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.28
	2602	Subsoil	Orange brown clayey sand mottled with Boulder Clay. Becomes thicker towards the north-east end of the trench	----	----	0.16
	2603	Natural	Yellowish white Boulder Clay interspersed with patches of orange brown clay with flints	----	----	----
27	2701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.40
	2702	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand infrequent flint. Thins to nothing at the centre of the trench	----	----	0.10
	2703	Natural	Orange brown sand with occasional small gravel inclusions	----	----	----
	2704	Fill of [2705]	Dark brown silty sand with moderate dark grey staining. Occasional small gravel pebbles and occasional charcoal inclusions	----	----	----
	2705	Pit	Oval pit, orientated northeast-southwest with an uneven base	0.76	0.88	0.13
28	2801	Topsoil	Dark brown compacted silty sand	----	----	0.32
	2802	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand, infrequent flint	----	----	0.22
	2803	Natural	Orange brown sand with infrequent flint at the north-east end of the trench. This gives way to patches of orange clay with flints and then light yellow chalky Boulder Clay at the south-west end	----	----	----
29	2901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	----
	2902	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand, infrequent flint	----	----	----
	2903	Natural	Orange to yellow sand	----	----	----
	2904	Fill of [2905]	Dark greyish brown sand with occasional small flint pieces. Frequent charcoal	----	----	----
	2905	Fill of [2906]	Dark yellowish grey sand with occasional small flint pieces and occasional charcoal	----	----	----
	2906	Pit	A circular, steep-sided pit with a U-shaped base	0.73	0.73	0.29
30	3001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	----	----	0.35
	3002	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand infrequent flint	----	----	0.20
	3003	Natural	Orange brown silty sand and gravel	----	----	----
	3004	Fill of	Mid yellowish brown silty sand. Occasional	----	----	----

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
		[3005]	small flint inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks			
	3005	Ditch	A north-south aligned U-shaped ditch	0.97	>2.00	0.24
31	3101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	---	---	0.45
	3102	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand	---	---	0.35
	3103	Natural	Orange sand with frequent patches of chalky Boulder Clay with flints	---	---	---
	3104	Fill of [3105]	Light orange sand with moderate flint and chalk inclusions	---	---	---
	3105	Natural hollow	Curvilinear feature, half exposed in trench. Uneven sides and flattish base	>1.45	4.03	0.30
	3106	Fill of [3107]	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with very frequent large flint nodules	---	---	---
	3107	Hollow	A large irregular feature occupying the southwest end of the trench. Either a quarry pit or a natural geological hollow	>2.00	9.83	1.70
	3108	Fill of [3107]	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with very frequent large flint nodules	---	---	---
	3109	Same as [3107]	Southwest edge of feature [3107]	---	---	---
32	3201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	---	---	0.32
	3202	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand	---	---	0.16
	3203	Natural	Yellowish sand with occasional flint pieces and occasional patches of orange clay	---	---	---
33	3301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	---	---	0.23
	3302	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty sand	---	---	0.19
	3303	Natural	Light yellow sand and gravel	---	---	---
	3304	Fill of ditch [3305]	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate rounded gravel inclusions	---	---	---
	3305	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-south, with a rounded base	1.60	>2.00	0.46
	3306	Fill of [3307]	Light yellowish brown sand with moderate rounded stoned	---	---	---
	3307	Gully	Shallow gully aligned northwest-southeast with a U-shaped profile	0.56	>2.00	0.12
	3308	Fill of [3309]	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones	---	---	---
	3309	Ditch	Aligned northwest-southeast with a U-shaped profile	0.94	>2.00	0.21
	3310	Fill of ditch [3312]	A mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate gravel stone inclusions	---	---	---
	3311	Fill of ditch [3312]	A mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent gravel stone inclusions	---	---	---
	3312	Ditch	V-shaped ditch aligned north-south	1.23	>2.00	0.72
	3313	Fill of ditch [3305]	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel inclusions	---	---	---
	3314	Fill of gully [3315]	A mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel and stones and occasional charcoal flecks	---	---	---
	3315	Gully	U-shaped aligned northwest-southeast	0.66	>2.00	0.24
34	3401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	---	---	0.33

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	3402	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand infrequent flint. Thins to a depth of 0.10m towards south end of trench	---	---	0.30
	3403	Natural	Yellowish brown sand with occasional patches of orange brown clay. From the centre to the north end of the trench extensive patches of glacial boulder clay	---	---	---
	3404	Fill of natural hollow [3405]	Loose dark brown silty sand with very occasional flint nodules	---	---	---
	3405	Natural hollow	Roughly circular with an uneven base	2.00	1.85	0.60
36	3601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	---	---	0.40
	3602	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty sand	---	---	0.40
	3603	Natural	Yellowish brown sand at northeast end of trench giving way to sand with gravel at the southwest end	---	---	---
	3604	Fill of pit [3605]	Dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones			
	3605	Pit	Small oval pit with near vertical sides and a slightly rounded base	0.46	0.80	0.20
	3606	Fill of [3607]	Dark yellowish brown sand with moderate stone inclusions			
	3607	?Natural feature	A linear feature aligned northwest-southeast. It had irregular sides and a slightly rounded base.	1.21	>2.00	0.32
37	3701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand			0.35
	3702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty sand with occasional flint fragments. Thins to 0.19m deep in the centre of the trench			0.35
	3703	Natural	Yellow sand with occasional patches of orange clay with flints and occasional patches of gravel			



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Fig 1



Fig 2

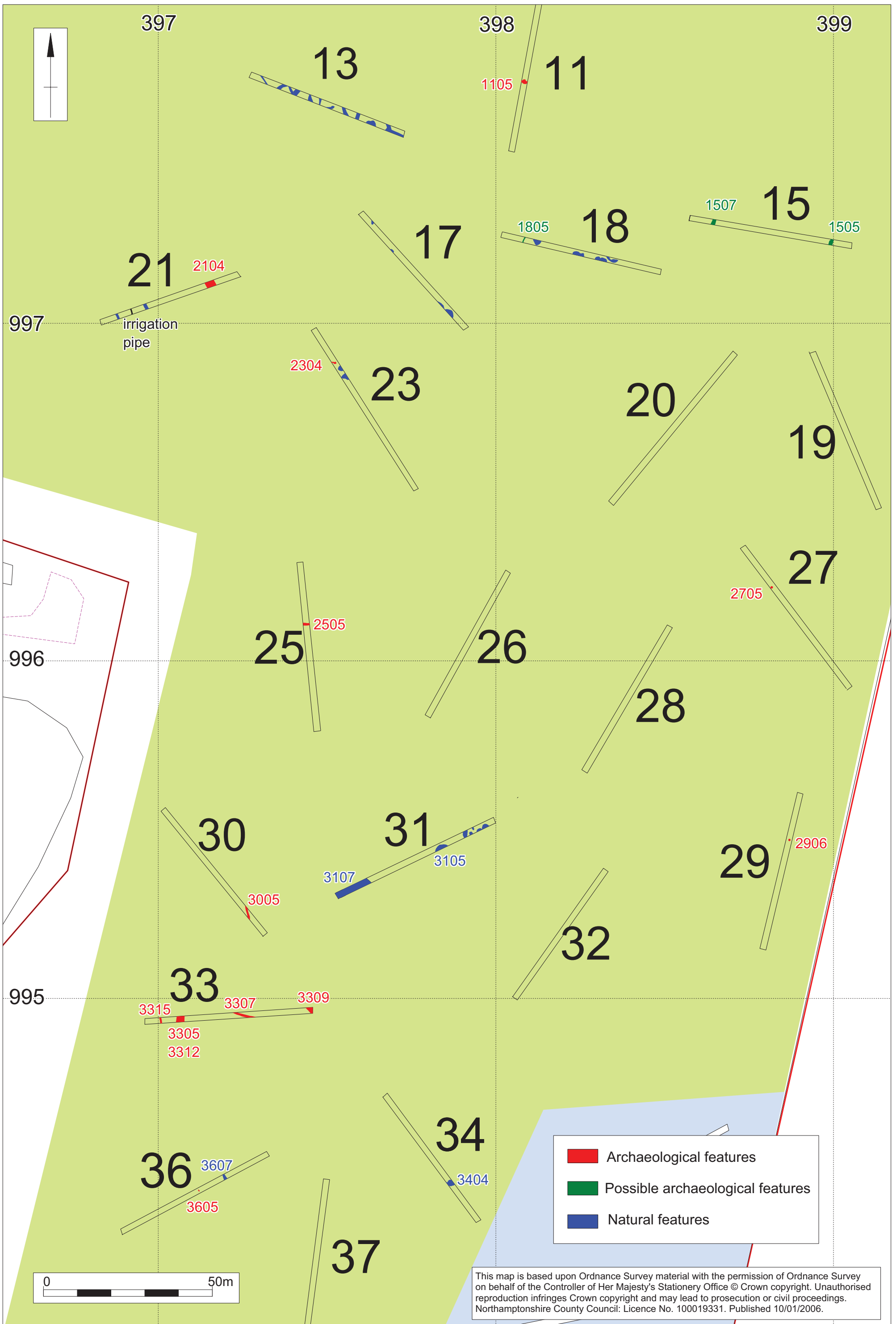
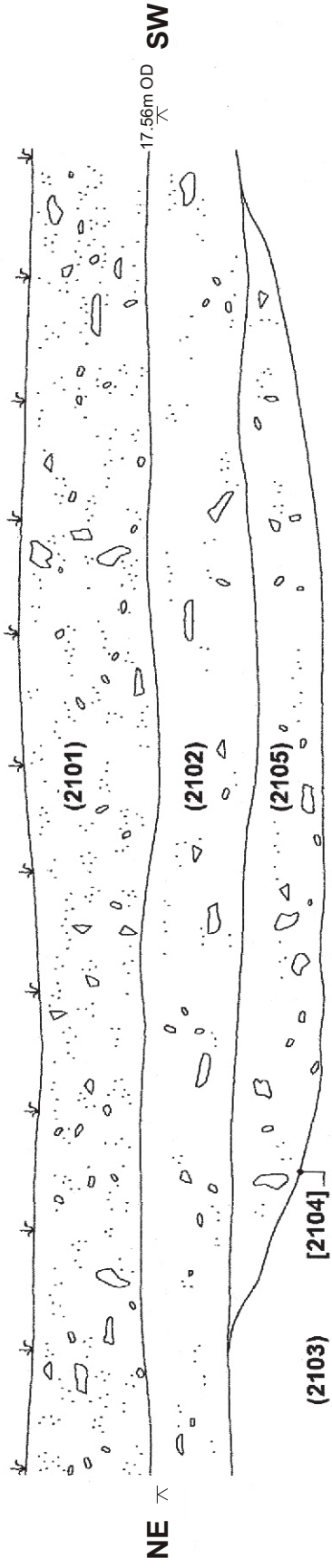
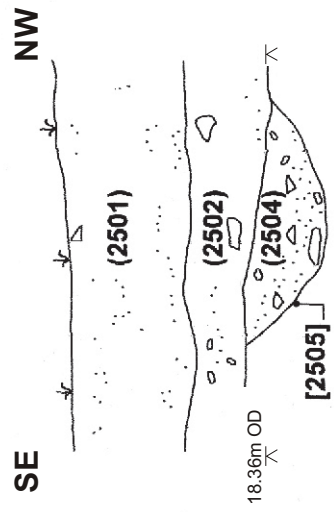


Fig 3

Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

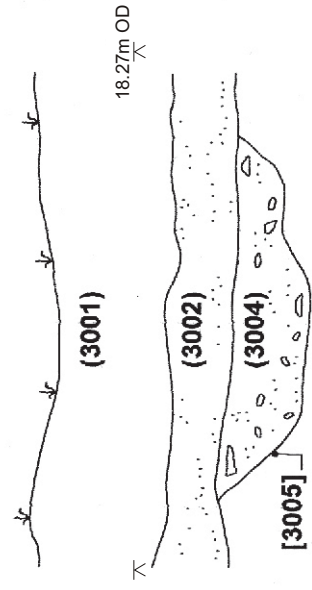
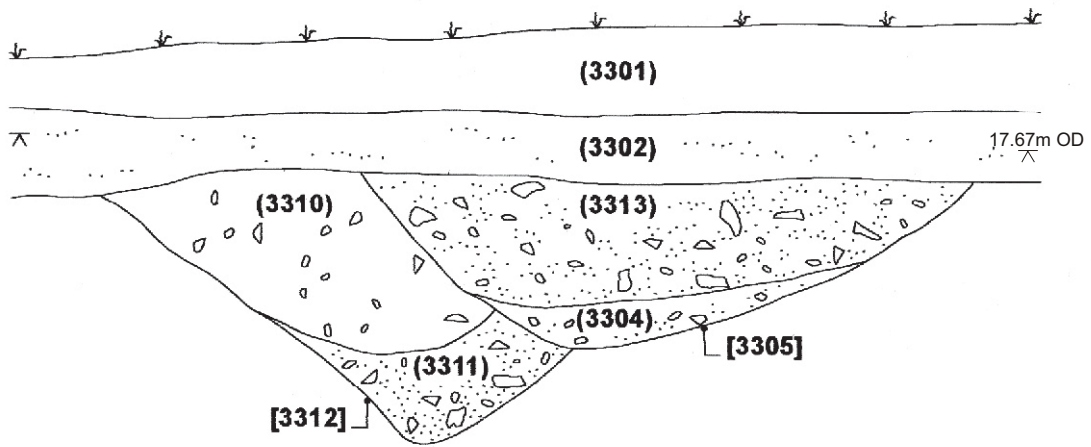
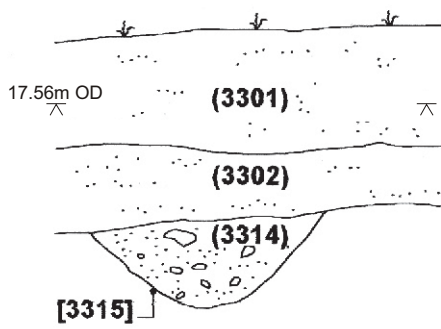


Fig 4

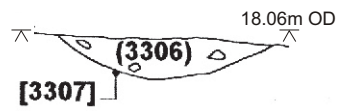
Section 4



Section 5



Section 6



Section 7

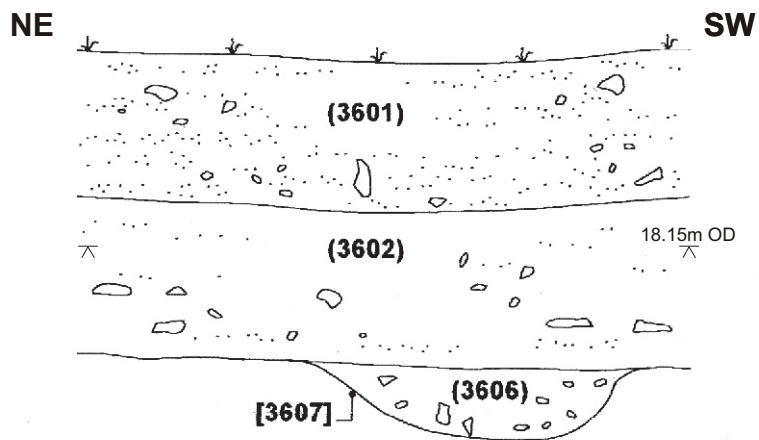


Fig 5



Plate 1: site prior to excavation



Plate 2: ditch 2104



Plate 3: pit 2906

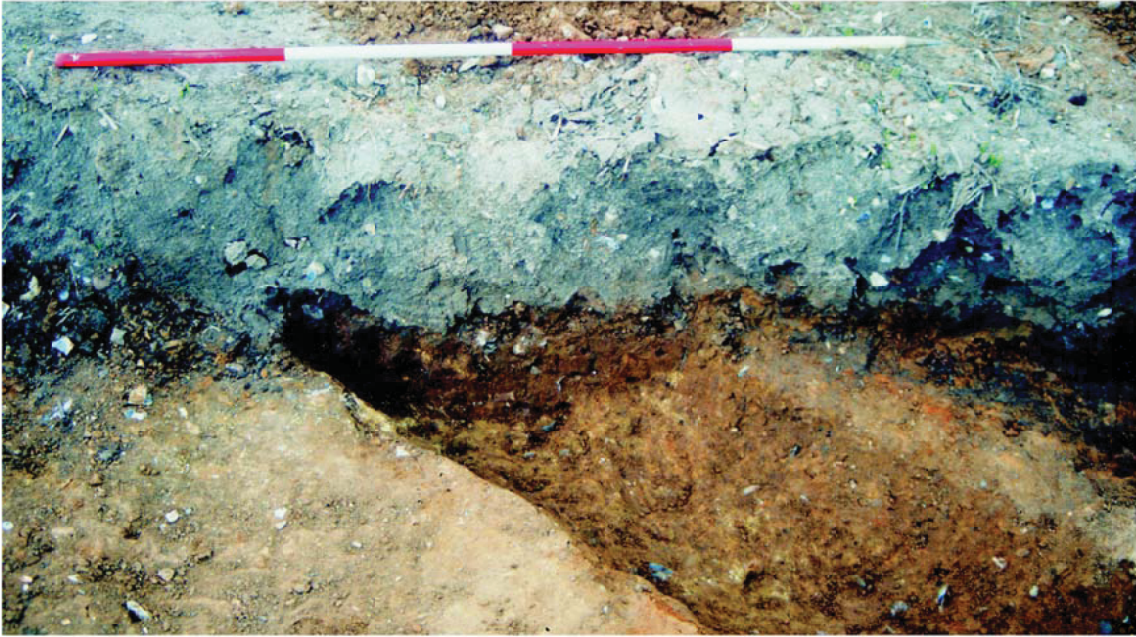


Plate 4: ditch 3005

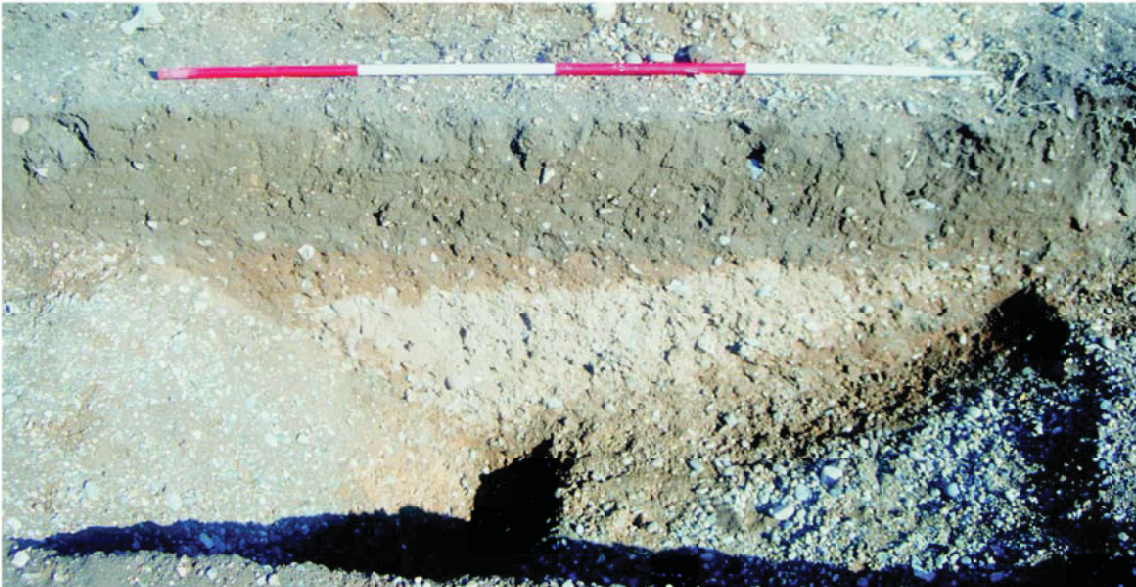


Plate 5: ditches 3305 & 3312

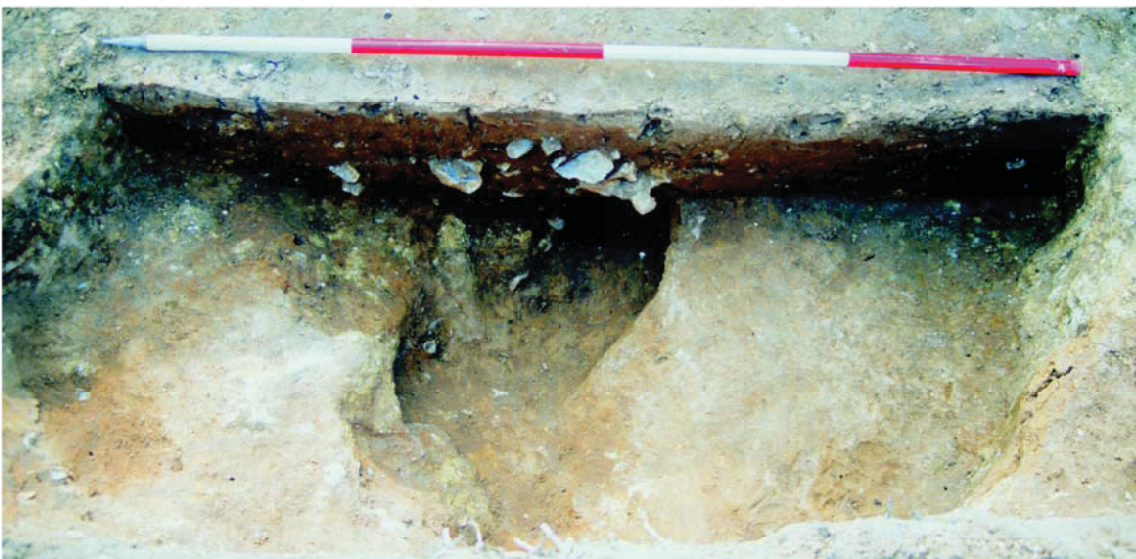


Plate 6: natural feature 3405