



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation on land
to the rear of 33 Hartwell Road
Roade, Northamptonshire
January 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Jonathan Elston

Report 13/27

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STAFF

Project Manager	Edmund Taylor BSc
Text	Jonathan Elston BA
Fieldwork	Jonathan Elston Adrian Adams
Pottery	Tora Hylton
Brick	Pat Chapman BA AlfA
Illustrations	Amir Bassir BSc PIfA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Ed Taylor		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 143190
Project name	Land to the rear of 33 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 33 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings and access roads to the properties. Archaeological deposits and artefacts of post-medieval date were encountered during the course of the evaluation.	
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Woodland	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Post medieval furrows	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	land to the rear of 33 Hartwell road, Roade	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 761 516	
Area	1.37ha	
Height aOD	113 aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	J Elston	
Project Manager	Ed Taylor	
Sponsor or funding body	Clayton Country Houses Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	21/1/13	
End date	22/1/13	
ARCHIVES		
Archive location		
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (8), Col slides (72) B+W contact sheets and negs (22) digital photos (1 cd)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 33 Hartwell road, Roade, Northamptonshire	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 33 HARTWELL ROAD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JANUARY 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 33 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings and access roads to the properties.

Archaeological deposits and artefacts of post-medieval date were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

K J Cherry & Sons and Castle Keep Developments have been granted outline planning consent (S/2011/0064/OUT) at appeal for residential development on land to the rear of 33 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire. The consent has been granted with a condition for an archaeological programme of works. Northampton Archaeology have been commissioned to undertake the archaeological trial trench evaluation within the development area.

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Clayson Country Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on 1.37ha of land at the rear of 33 Hartwell road, Roade (Fig 1, NGR SP 76132 51641). The work was carried out in advance of residential development and in response to a Brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (Mordue 2013 a and b).

The investigation followed an approved specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012) and adhered to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area lies on the south-eastern edge of the village and on the north side of Brett Lane, Roade, Northamptonshire. The development area was formerly part of the garden of Tilecote House. It is bordered by amenity land to the north-east, the grounds of Roade Primary School to the north-west, and residential properties elsewhere.

Topographically the site slopes down slightly from north to south and is at an approximate height of 113m aOD.

The geology maps indicate that the site contains boulder clay to the north-east and Great Oolite Limestone to the south-west (BGS 2012).

2.2 Historical background

The county Historic Environment Record indicates that Romano-British finds have been identified in the area though the exact findspots are not known. The British Museum holds a pottery vessel, a 2nd-century coin and a copper alloy strap end found in 1867, and a copper alloy pin was found near the school in 1926.

The site lies on the edge of the historic settlement, which was known as Rode at the time of Domesday, and which developed irregularly along the High Street and south-east of the church during the medieval period.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of trial trench evaluation was to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area.

Specifically this would:

- establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*;
- identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land use and possible presence of masking colluvial or alluvial deposits;
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence. Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practises, timetables and overheads.

The trenches were measured in by survey grade GPS (Leica System 1200) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m and they were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a JCB excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). Trenches containing possible archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets.

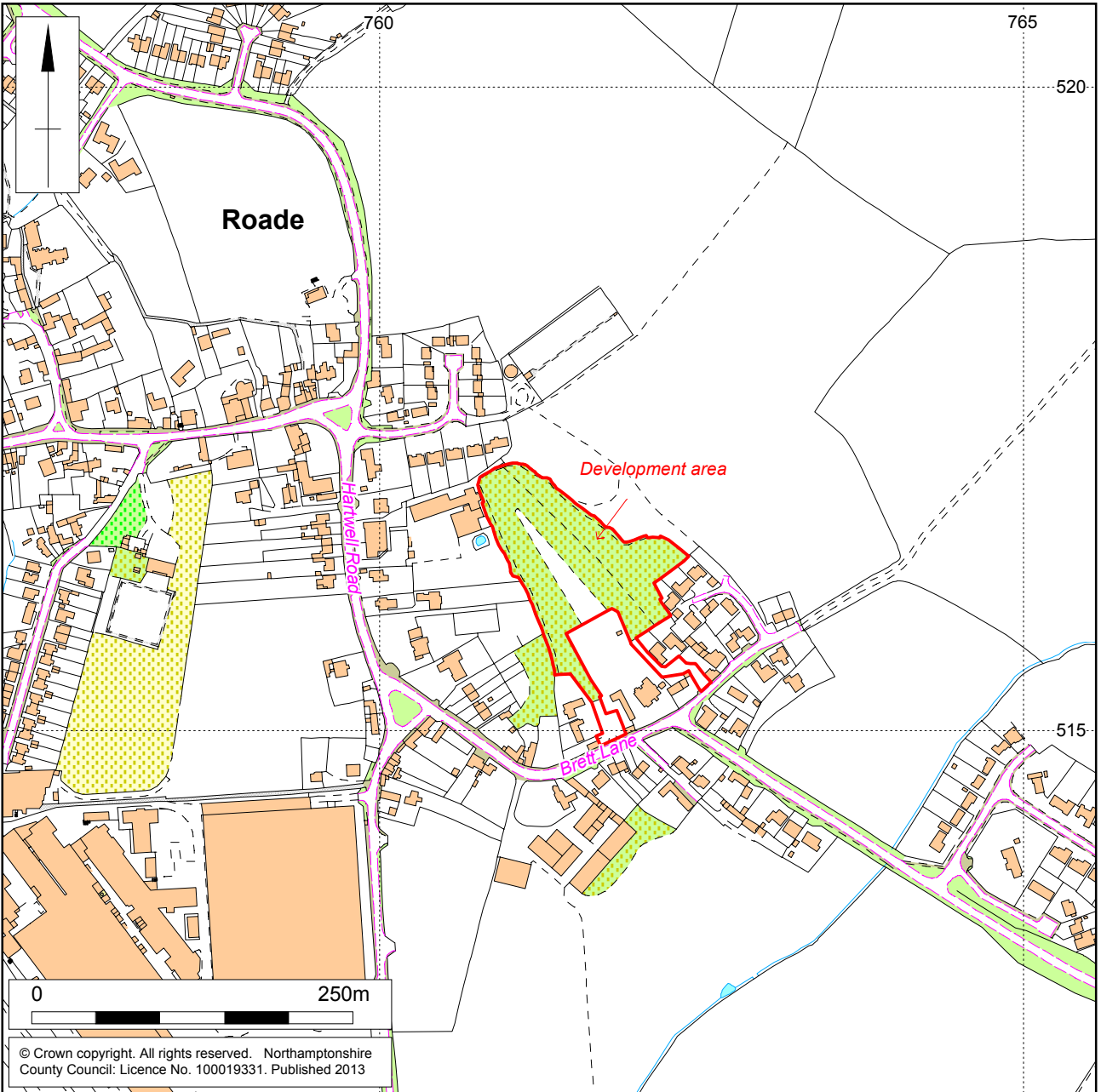
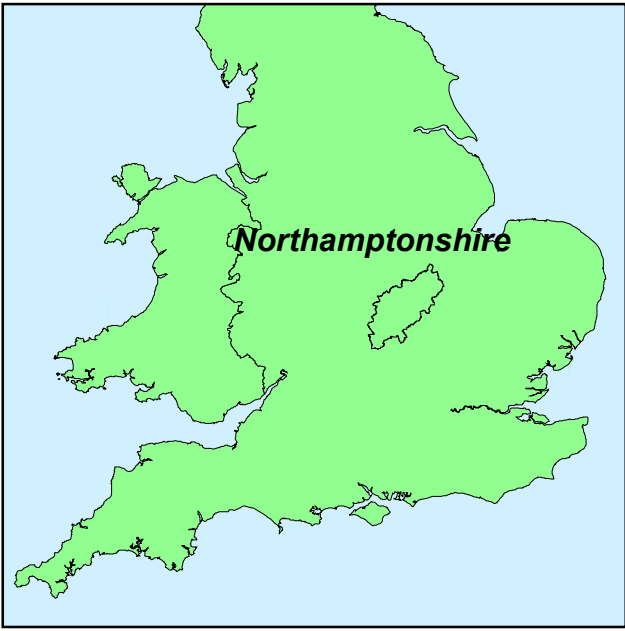
The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20) where necessary. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative and colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI prepared by NA (2013), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 1985, revised 2010) and the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008)

The evaluation was carried out within the parameters set by the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework*, Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012.

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety.



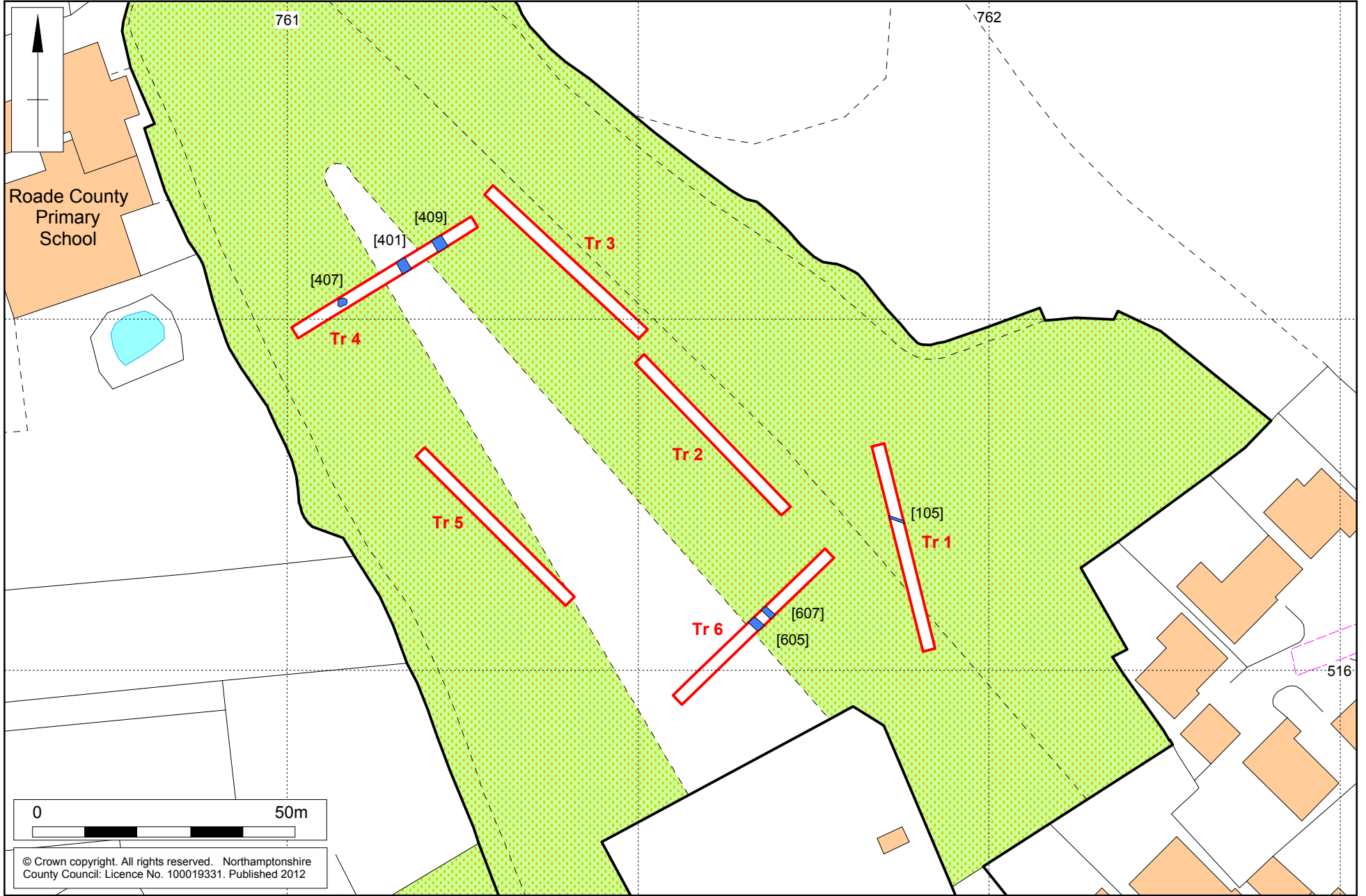
Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:750 (A4)

The excavated trenches showing archaeological features

Fig 2



4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The evaluation comprised six trenches, all were 30m long by 1.6m wide (Fig 2). Trenches 1, 3 and 5 had to be moved from their agreed positions to avoid obstacles on the ground (trees, an iron water tank etc). This was done by rotating trenches 1 and 3 by up to 90 degrees. Trench 6 had to be moved to the north-east to avoid damage to protected trees (TPOs).

Across the site the natural substrate comprised light orangey-brown clays with occasional reddish-brown sand pockets and small limestone inclusions in Trenches 4 and 6 which were encountered between 0.35m and 0.52m below current ground level.

Overlying the natural there was a mid-brown sandy clay subsoil, 0.13m-0.25m thick (Fig 3).

The topsoil comprised a dark brown clay loam, 0.20m-0.31m thick (Fig 3).



Trench 6, the stratigraphic sequence

Fig 3

Trenches 3 and 5 contained no archaeological remains and all trenches had a uniform stratigraphy although there were many instances of tree root disturbance.

4.1 Trench 1.

There was a gully, [105], aligned north-west which was 0.34m wide and 0.15m deep. It had a bowl-shaped profile (Figs 2 and 4) and the fill comprised a mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and limestone fragments. It produced a single sherd 16th-century Cistercian Ware pottery (see section 5.1).



Trench 1, Gully [105], looking north-west

Fig 4

4.2 Trench 2

Towards the south-east end of the trench was a small irregular gully [205] on a north to south alignment, 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The fill was a dark grey-brown silty clay with a slight mottling of light brown which was sterile. The irregular nature of the gully and its proximity to a rabbit warren suggest it's a non-archaeological feature.

4.3 Trench 4

In the south-west half of the trench there was a circular pit [407], 1.45m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base (Figs 2 and 5).

The primary deposit (405) contained a large quantity of charcoal and ash and showed clear signs of *in situ* burning with baked clay visible around the edge and in the base. The upper fills (404) and (405) were sterile and looked similar to the subsoil. The pit was fully excavated but produced no dating evidence.

In the north-east end of the trench there was two furrows [408] and [409] on a north-west to south-east alignment, both were 1.75m wide and 0.1m deep and 4m apart. The fills were mid-brown silty clays which produced no finds.



Trench 4, Pit [407], looking north-west

Fig 5

4.4 Trench 6

There were two furrows [605] and [606] on a north-west to south-east alignment, 1.0m wide and 0.10m deep (Figs 2 and 6). Both fills were similar to the subsoil. A single fragment of 19th century brick was recovered from the fill of [605].



Trench 6, Furrow [605], looking north-west

Fig 6

5 The Finds

5.1 The Pottery by Tora Hylton

A fragment of Cistercian Ware (Northamptonshire County Pottery Fabric Type Series 404) was recovered from gully [105] context (104). The rim sherd is thin walled, it has a hard brick red fabric and is covered in a mottled dark brown glossy glaze; it may be from a tyg or similar vessel. Cistercian Ware is a late medieval transitional ware and dates to c1470-1550.

5.2 The Brick by Pat Chapman

The fragment of perforated brick from furrow [604] is 72mm (2¾ inches) thick with perforations 15mm in diameter and the same distance apart. It is made from fine silty slightly pale orange clay. This type of brick has been made from the 19th century onwards, and this fragment would date from that century.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has shown that there are no significant archaeological remains within the investigation area.

The site lies on the edge of the historic core of the village and accordingly low levels of post-medieval agricultural activity were detected in the form of furrows and a single gully.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m x 1.6m N-S	SP 76132 51641	112.6m aOD	0.4m, 112.2m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.22m-0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.14m-0.19m thick	-
103	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-
104	Fill of 105	Mid-brown silty clay with small sub-rounded angular pebbles and limestone fragments	0.15m thick	16th century pottery sherd
105	Gully	NW-SE aligned, wide U-shaped profile	0.34m wide 0.15m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 1.6m NW-SE	SP 76132 51641	112.79m aOD	0.51m, 112.28m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.26-0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.20m-0.25m thick	-
203	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-
204	Fill of 205	Dark grey-brown silty clay, sterile	0.10m thick	-
205	Gully	N-S aligned, wide U-shaped profile	0.50m wide, 0.10m deep	-
206	Spread	Mixed limestone and cement fragments sitting on 203 and within 202	0.60m wide, 0.14m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	30m x 1.6m	SP 76132 51641	113.12m aOD	0.44m, 112.68m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.06-0.12m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.10m thick	-
303	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	30m x 1.6m	SP 76132 51641		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.26m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.18m-0.26m thick	-
403	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-
404	Fill of 407	Mid- brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments	0.10m thick, 0.97m Ø	-
405	Fill of 407	Dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional flint fragments	0.24m thick 1.24m Ø	-
406	Fill of 407	Dark grey-black clay with abundant charcoal and burnt clay fragments	0.19m thick 1.0m Ø	-
407	Pit	Circular, steep sided, flat base with scorching	1.45mØ 0.30m	-
408	Fill of 409	Mid brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
409	Furrow	NW-SE aligned. Gradual sloping sides and flat base	0.10m deep 1.75m wide	-
410	Fill of 411	Mid brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
411	Furrow	NW-SE aligned. Gradual sloping sides and flat base	0.10m deep 1.75m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	30m x 1.6m	SP 76132 51641	112.38m aOD	0.50m, 111.88m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.26m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.18m-0.26m thick	-
503	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	30m x 1.6m	SP 76132 51641	112.27m aOD	0.46m, 111.81m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, occasional stone and limestone inclusions	0.20m-0.26m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay, frequent small angular stone inclusions, occasional flint nodule	0.20m-0.23m thick	-
603	Natural	Orangey-brown clays with occasional pebble and limestone inclusions	-	-
604	Fill	Light grey silty clay, 2% limestone fragments	0.10m deep	fragment of perforated brick 19th century
605	Furrow	NW-SE aligned, wide shallow U-shaped profile	1.0m wide 0.1m deep	-
606	Fill	Light grey silty clay, 3% limestone fragments	0.10m deep	-
607	Furrow	NW-SE aligned, wide shallow U-shaped profile	1.0m wide 0.10m deep	-



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