



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation at Ham House,  
Richmond, Greater London, (Formerly Surrey)  
February 2011



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council

Joe Prentice and  
Tim Upson-Smith  
Report 11/54  
March 2011



**STAFF**

Project Manager: Joe Prentice  
Text: Joe Prentice and  
Tim Upson-Smith BA, PG Dip  
Fieldwork: Tim Upson-Smith and  
Nathan Flavell BA, PG Dip  
Finds: Tora Hylton  
Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Joe Prentice		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Ham House, Richmond, Greater London (Formerly Surrey) February 2011	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of two trenches within the kitchen garden of Ham House, Richmond, Greater London (formerly Surrey) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in February 2011. No archaeological features were recorded and artefacts were recovered from cultivated garden soils only.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological evaluation, 1993 and 2002	
Current Land use	Walled garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Greater London (Formerly Surrey)	
Site address	Ham House, Richmond	
Study area ha		
OS Easting & Northing	TQ 1718 7294	
Height aOD	c6m above Ordnance Datum	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Gary Marshall, The National Trust	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Joe Prentice	
Sponsor	The National Trust	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	February 2011	
End date	February 2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location	Paper
Paper	NA office	
Digital	1 Disc containing digital photographs	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
	unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Ham House, Richmond, Surrey February 2011	
Serial title & volume	11/54	
Author(s)	Joe Prentice and Tim Upson-Smith	
Page numbers		
Date	March 2011	

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>
	2.1 Location and topography	1
	2.2 Historical background	1
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>EVALUATION RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
	4.1 Trench 20	4
	4.2 Trench 21	4
<b>5</b>	<b>FINDS</b>	<b>4</b>
	5.1 The pottery	4
	5.2 Clay tobacco-pipes	5
	5.3 Small Finds	6
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Tables**

Table 1: Pottery by context

Table 2: Clay pipes by context

## **Figures**

Cover: The walled garden looking north-east towards Ham House

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Trench locations

Fig 3: Slezer and Wyck plan c1671-2

Fig 4: Helmingham plan, c1730

Fig 5: Ordnance Survey map 1863-66, revised 1884

Fig 6: Plan and sections of Trenches 20 and 21

## **Plates**

Plate 1: Trench 20, looking north-west

Plate 2: Trench 21, looking south-west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
HAM HOUSE, RICHMOND, GREATER LONDON, (FORMERLY SURREY)  
FEBRUARY 2011**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of two trenches within the kitchen garden of Ham House, Richmond, Greater London (formerly Surrey) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in February 2011. No archaeological features were recorded and artefacts were recovered from cultivated garden soils only.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of two trenches within the walled kitchen garden at Ham House, Richmond, Greater London (formerly Surrey) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February 2011 (NGR TQ 17185 72940; Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by the National Trust who intend to create two new vegetable plots from the existing grass plots and needed to determine whether or not this cultivation would impinge on buried archaeological remains.

The work was carried out by hand excavation on two consecutive days, 7 and 8 February 2011, aided by Gary Marshall, Regional Archaeologist, London and South East Region, Robert Maxwell, Consultant Archaeologist for the National Trust London and South East Region along with volunteers.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The site is located to the south-west of Ham House within the walled kitchen garden on essentially level ground at c5.86m above Ordnance Datum. To the north of the site the ground gently slopes down to the River Thames. The garden is surrounded by brick walls and currently divided into sixteen plots of which four are cultivated as vegetable beds, the remainder are laid to grass. They are all separated by gravel paths.

The underlying superficial deposits consist of river terrace sand and gravels, which overlie the Thames group clay, silt, sand and gravel bedrock geology (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeolIndex/default.aspx>).

### **2.2 Historical background**

Ham House was completed for Sir Thomas Vavasour in 1610, and a plan made by Robert Smythson in 1609 prior to its completion shows it to have been an H-shaped building with an adjoining formal garden scheme (Howes 2002). William Murray, First Earl of Dysart, lived at Ham from 1626 and his daughter lived there after him. She, as Countess of Dysart, married in 1672 (secondly) the Earl, later Duke, of Lauderdale. In

the 1670s the house was enlarged and refurbished with a new wing being built to the south and the gardens extended to the south and west.

The First Duke died in 1682 and his widow continued to live there until her death in 1698 when the estate passed to her son the Third Earl of Dysart who, it appears, took little interest in the property. The kitchen garden appears on a map of 1671-2 by Slezer and Wyck which shows the area, to the south-west of the house to be enclosed with walls, and sub-divided into eight plots, each further subdivided into four (Fig 3).

The Third Earl's grandson, the Fourth Earl, inherited in 1727 and repaired the house and is thought also undertook work within the gardens. The Helmingham plan of c1730 shows the walled garden with the eight main plots, though on this plan the south-west corner has been truncated by the stepping-in of the walls at that point, apparently for paths which existed on the outside at that time (Fig 4). Towards the north-west the two northernmost plots on that side have also had either a further, smaller, bed cut into them, or perhaps more likely, a building constructed there. A birds-eye view, published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1739, shows a more schematic version of the garden, with neither the cut-away section of walls at the south-west or the probable building towards the north-east (not illustrated). It is not known for certain which is the more accurate of the two.

By the 1770s, when formal gardens had become unfashionable, there appears to have been a scheme of works to remove walls and linear paths to create a less formal area, although it appears that generally the layout of the walled garden was retained (Howes 2002). There do not appear to be plans of the walled garden from this period, and the next depiction is on the Ordnance Survey map of 1863-66, revised 1884 (Fig 5). This shows the area to be less formally set-out with rows of (fruit?) trees and glass houses towards the south-west corner. Towards the north-west is a circular Rose Garden, curiously placed asymmetrically to one side against the west wall, the reason being that it may have developed around a pre-existing older tree..

The property came into the possession of the National Trust in 1948 from Sir Lionel Tollemache and Mr Cecil Tollemache, following the death of Sir William John Manners Tollemache, eccentric and last Earl of Dysart, in 1935. It was first leased to the Ministry of Works and maintained in close consultation with the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 1975 a large private donation enabled the Trust to undertake a large-scale restoration of the gardens, and in 1992 the Victoria and Albert Museum returned the house into the care of the Trust.

Previous archaeological excavations within the garden identified curving planting beds for the latter along with linear features which appear to relate to the division of the area into plots (Howes 1993 and 2002, Fig 2). These excavations revealed that the surviving archaeological remains were deeply buried and were not likely to be disturbed by the digging of the four plots currently under vegetable cultivation. The excavations of 1993 also uncovered high quality garden urn fragments, the first time such decorative pieces had been discovered from a secure archaeological context (Currie 1995).

Ham House is a Grade I Listed Building, the gardens are listed on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest as Grade II\*.

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the current trial excavation was to establish whether cultivation of two plots to the south of the four plots previously laid to vegetables contained similar depths of soil above underlying archaeological remains. The Garden Conservation plan for Ham House states that '*Any future proposals for repairs or developments in the grounds should include archaeological research and recording in the specification (Policy 6.9 p. 51)*', (Eburne 2009). Since it is proposed that the two grass plots to be cultivated for vegetables will be double-dug, it was essential to establish the depth of below-ground archaeological remains. The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature, depth of burial and extent of the previous activity or occupation on the site
- Establish and identify the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary designed landscape

The evaluation comprised the hand excavation of two trenches measuring 6m by 2m. The trenches were located within the areas of the two new proposed vegetable garden plots within the walled kitchen garden (Fig 2).

The turf and topsoil was removed by volunteers prior to the arrival of archaeologists, excavation then continued by hand to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features within the depth which would be disturbed by double digging (c 0.5-0.6m). Sondages were hand excavated at the ends of both trenches to establish the depth of the underlying natural sand.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in the NA *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number provided by the Trust (Trench numbers 20 and 21 were allocated). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned and sections drawn where necessary at an appropriate scale. 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 film, supplemented by digital images.

All works were carried out accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

### 4 EVALUATION RESULTS

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches by hand. Both trenches were located adjacent to gravel paths edged with timber, Trench 20 in the western of the two central plots and Trench 21 in the easternmost (Fig 2). Turf was carefully removed and stacked separately before the topsoil was removed and placed on polythene sheeting. Each trench was 6m by 2m and they were aligned differently to maximise the chances of uncovering buried features.



#### 4.1 Trench 20

The trench was aligned north-west to south-east to the south of the central cross path (Fig 2). The turf and topsoil had previously been removed revealing a dark brown sandy loam containing a thin slightly gravelly layer at a depth of 150mm-200mm (Fig 6, Plate 1). This is thought to represent the horizon between the upper loam layer (20/01) and the earlier cultivation layer beneath the gravel (20/03), with the gravel representing a natural build up of sands and gravels, perhaps a result of earthworm action. It is not thought to be either distinct enough or dense enough to represent a former path surface. Excavation continued from c0.3m below ground level to c0.5m across the entire trench. This revealed only a homogeneous garden soil comprising another brown sandy loam, similar to the topsoil, and only slightly less dark with few large inclusions perhaps suggestive of a long and careful period of cultivation and manuring producing such a 'clean' growing medium.

No features were identified in the base of the trench, however, a sondage 2m square was excavated deeper at the northern end close to the path. This revealed that layer (20/03) terminated at c0.6m below the present ground surface and overlay (20/04) a pale grey-brown sandy soil. This might represent the natural subsoil as it lay directly on top of (20/05) which appeared to be the upper surface of the natural geology. This was identified in a second, deeper sondage which was excavated in one half of the former deepening of the trench. No cut features were identified nor were any structural remains encountered.

#### 4.2 Trench 21

This trench was aligned roughly north-east to south-west on the east side of the central dividing path (Fig 2). The same sequence of stratigraphy was revealed comprising turf and present dark brown sandy topsoil (21/01) above a thin gravelly layer, here not given a separate number but recorded as a lens. Layers (21/01 and 21/02) were approximately 0.55m deep (Fig 6, Plate 2). These overly a similar, and only slightly lighter sandy loam layer (21/02) which was the same as (20/04) and which appears to represent subsoil. A second sondage was cut at the west end of the trench to investigate the deeper stratigraphy and layer (21/03) continued to the base of this cut to a depth of 1.05m. A sandy deposit, possibly an earth-cut feature was identified towards the east side of the sondage, but it was not clear if this was a man-made feature or simply a natural variation within the subsoil.

### 5 FINDS

#### 5.1 The pottery

In total 51 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 0.934kg were recovered from Trenches 20 and 21 (see Table 1). The earliest sherds were recovered from Trench 21 (2103), and they include an undiagnostic body sherd in a Tudor Green Type fabric and a bunghole from a cistern in Coarse Border ware (cf Pearce and Vince 1988, fig 112, 438). The latter is a coarse white fabric which was produced in west Surrey and north-east Hampshire from the sixteenth to the early eighteenth centuries.

Post-medieval ceramics form the major part of the pottery recovered and with the exception of a small number of sherds relating to garden ceramics (flower pots), it is represented by a range of domestic wares dating from the seventeenth to late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries. Both kitchen wares and table wares are

represented, the former by plates and bowls in coarse earthenware fabrics and the latter by a plate and a saucer in underglaze transfer printed ware, together with a small oval dish in whiteware. The dish has an impressed mark on the base, 'WEDGEWOOD & Co', this indicates that it was manufactured at Tunstall, Staffordshire between c1860-1900, by Enoch Wedgwood.

Imported wares are represented by four body sherds and a fragment of a medallion from a Frechen Bartmann jug (cf Hurst *et al* 1986, 214-21).

Table 1: Pottery by context

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER										Date	
	2003		2004		2101		2102		2103			
	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt		
<b>Late medieval/early post-medieval pottery</b>												
Surrey Whiteware/Tudor Green Type									1	1		c1350-1500
Coarse Border Ware									2	85		16 <sup>th</sup> - early 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries
<b>Later post-medieval pottery</b>												
Tin glazed earthenware	9	36										17th-18th centuries
Pearlware							2	32				18th-19th centuries
English stoneware	2	71			1	210	1	5				19th-20th centuries
Glazed red earthenware	3	28	1	20			2	94	1	7		18th-19th centuries
Glazed buff earthenwares	1	3					1	36				18th-19th centuries
Under glaze blue transfer-printed earthenwares	1	8			1	78	3	43				19th-20th centuries
Utilitarian Whitewares					2	37	9	44				19th-20th centuries
Unglazed red earthenwares (flower pots)	1	15							2	11		19th-20th centuries
<b>Imported wares</b>												
German stoneware (Frechen)	4	61	1	9								c1550-1690
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>104</b>		

## 5.2 Clay tobacco-pipes

A small group of 46 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying Trenches 20 and 21. The assemblage includes four complete or fragmented pipe-bowls and 42 stem fragments. Two of the bowls are sufficiently complete to enable classification according to Atkinson and Oswald (1969), the standard typology for pipes from south-eastern England. The datable bowls provide a date range of c1640-1880. Chronologically the earliest bowl is a Type 8 which dates to c1640-60, it has a milled band set just below the lip of the bowl, a common motif until c1710. The other is a Type 29, it dates from 1840 to 1880 and it is decorated with a motif of oak leaves along the front seam of the bowl and the back of the bowl is stamped.

The stem fragments measure up to 75mm in length, and recorded bores represent the full range from 9/64th to 4/64th of an inch, suggesting that the stems fragments span the same range as the pipe bowls. One stem fragment is decorated with four lozenges, each lozenge has a pelleted border and a centrally placed fleur-de-lys, no comparable examples were located.

Five pipe fragments have maker's marks; two bowls are stamped with 'CHURCH' and 'LONDON', and above and below are the words 'TRADE MARK'. Two pipe stem fragments are stamped with the initials of the pipe maker, 'HH' and 'PB'. Clay tobacco-pipe manufacturers with the same initials are known from the London area, but without the presence of a bowl to permit accurate dating it is difficult to attribute the initials to any particular maker. Finally, one complete bowl dating to 1840 -1880 is marked with maker's initials, 'IB' either side of the spur. There are a number of pipe manufacturers from London with the initials recorded here, but it has not been possible to determine who the exact maker was.

*Table 2: Clay pipes by context*

Date/Atkinson type	context 2003	context 2102	context 2103
1640-1680/ type 8	1		
1840-1880/ type 29		1	
Bowl fragments	1	1	
Stems	18	10	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>

### 5.3 Other finds

Three other finds were recovered from a cultivation layer in Trench 20 (2003). The finds include two nails and an iron buckle frame. The nails are similar, they have small flat square heads and rectangular sectioned shanks. Typologically they display similarities to Type E nails from Nonsuch Palace (Goodall 2005, fig 184) which were recovered from demolition deposits posting dating 1682.

The buckle frame is complete with a pin attached to the bar and the remains of a sheet cylinder on the outside edge. The sheet cylinder would have permitted easier and tighter fastening (Egan 1991, 54); buckles of this type would have been used together with leather straps for horse harnesses.

#### *Catalogue*

Nail, iron. Complete. Flat square head with tapered rectangular sectioned shank. Length: 60mm Context 2003

Nail, iron. Complete. Flat square head with tapered rectangular sectioned shank. Length: 65mm Context 2003

Buckle frame, iron. Complete, iron pin folded around frame. Rectangular frame with circular cross-section, the corroded remains of an iron sheet cylinder visible. Width: 57mm Length: 38mm Context 2003

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Trench 20 was located to expose evidence of the rose garden, however, the two trenches identified no archaeological features but simply revealed layers of cultivated garden soil above subsoil and the natural geology. This deep cultivation soil is not unexpected given the location and known usage of the area over the last four hundred years when single digging annually or even bi-annually, and in some cases double-digging, has produced a remarkably homogeneous soil.

Finds retrieved from these layers were mixed throughout the cultivated layers and vary in date from as early as the fourteenth century to the twentieth century (although the Tudor Green sherd may be as late as the sixteenth century). The pottery represents primarily low status domestic wares from the region with examples of imported types (such as the Frechen Bartman jug). No further pieces of decorated garden urns were recovered, and the only slightly curious anomaly is the very low number of plain terracotta flower pot fragments, normally ubiquitous in gardens.

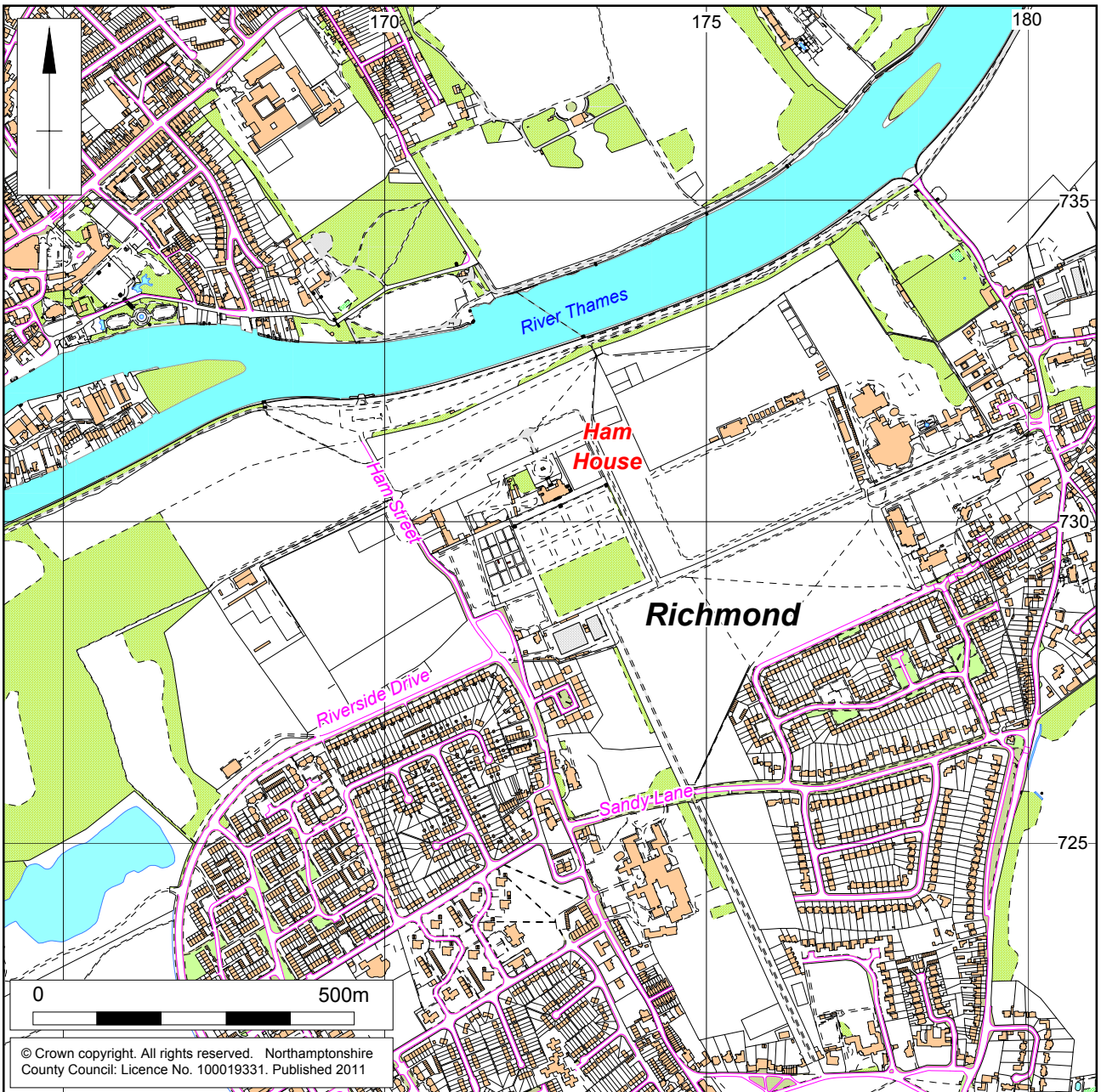
The depth of cultivated soil precludes the possibility that double-digging in these areas will disturb buried archaeological remains.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are extended to Mr G Marshall, Mr R Maxwell and all of the volunteers who helped with the hand excavation of the trenches, particularly that work which was carried out prior to arrival on site, and for the backfilling of the trenches after excavation.

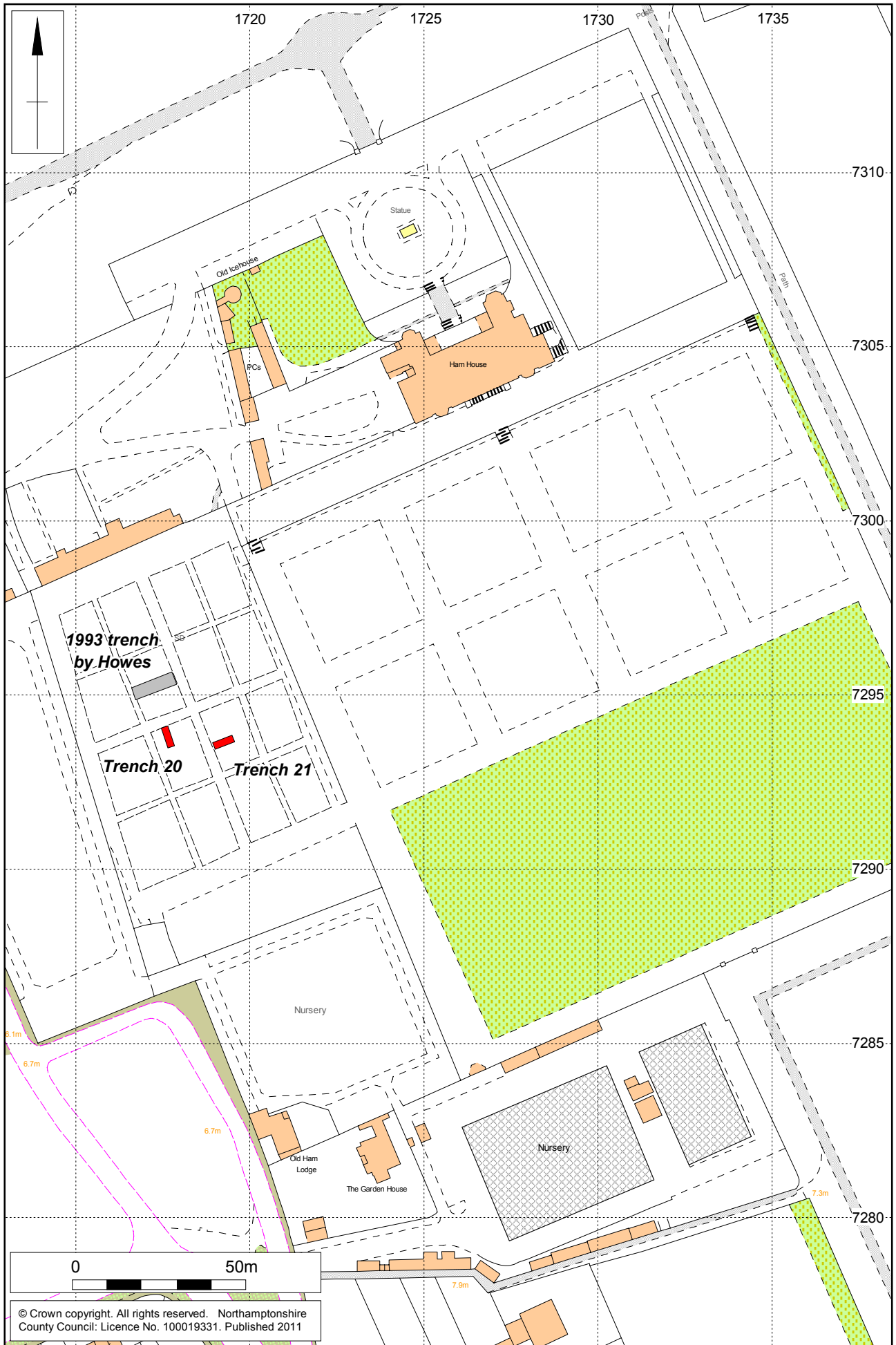
## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Atkinson, D, and Oswald, A, 1969 London Clay Tobacco Pipes, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, **32**, 171-227
- Biddle, M, 2005 *Nonsuch Palace: The Material Culture of a Noble Restoration Household*, Oxbow Books
- Currie, C, 1995 Horticultural Wares from Ham House, Surrey *Post Medieval Archaeology*, **29**, 107-111
- Eburne, A, 2009 *The Gardens of Ham House, Surrey, a conservation management plan*
- Egan, GE, 1991 Buckles, in Egan and Pritchard, 1991, 27-573
- Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 3, Dress Accessories c.1150-c.1450*
- Goodall, I H, 2005 Iron Objects, in Biddle 2005, 373-410
- Howes, L, 1993 *Excavations in the grounds of Ham House*
- Howes, L, 2002 *Ham House Evaluation of the Orangery Kitchen Garden*, Report No Ham **9**
- Hurst, JG, Neal, DS, and Van Beuningen, HJE, 1986 *Pottery produced and traded in North-west Europe 1350-1650*, Rotterdam Papers, **6**
- IfA 1985 revised 2010 *Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists
- IfA 1994 revised 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists
- NA 2006 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- Pearce, J, and Vince, A, 1988 *A Dated Type-Series of London Medieval Pottery, Part 4: Surrey Whitewares*



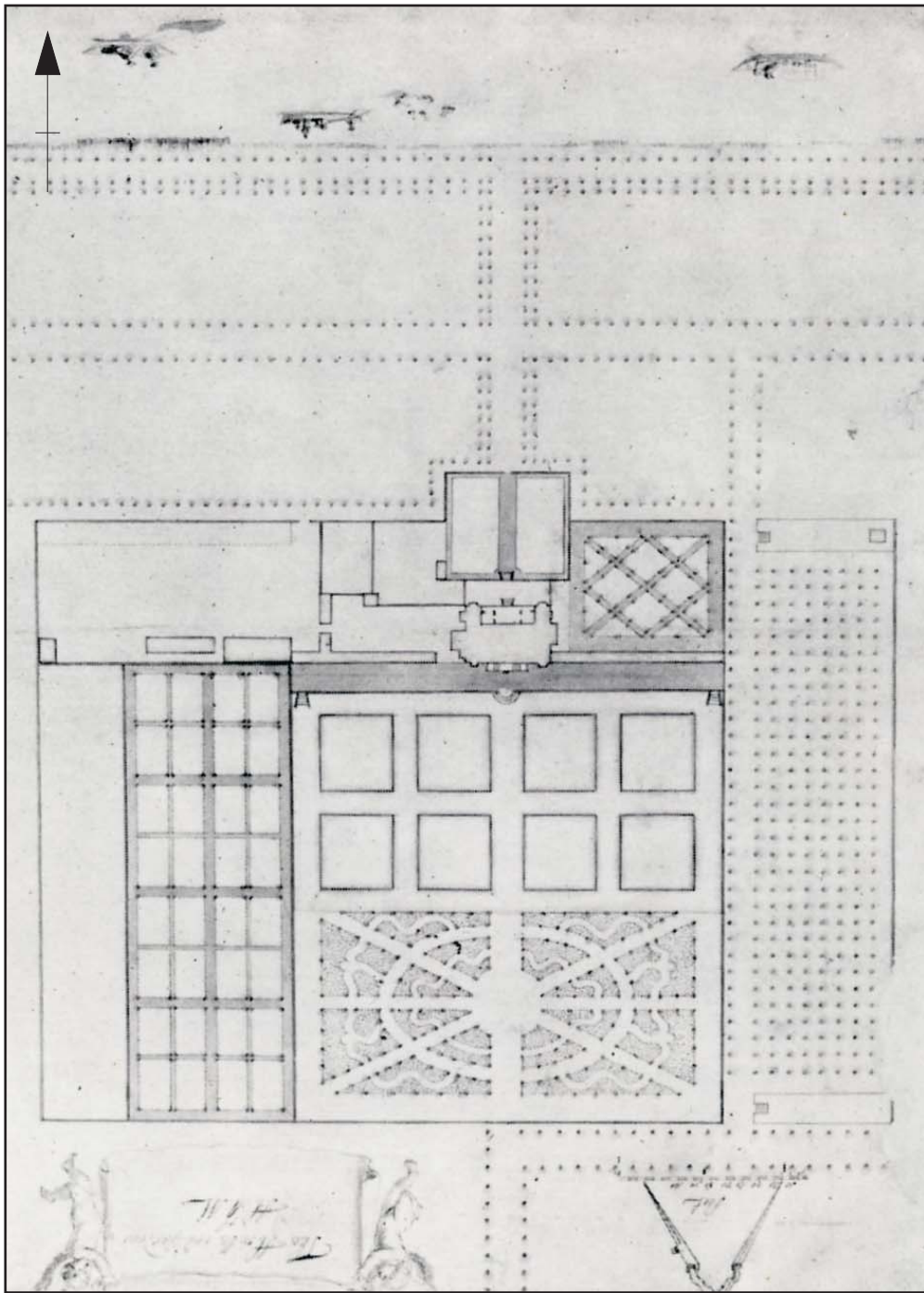
Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



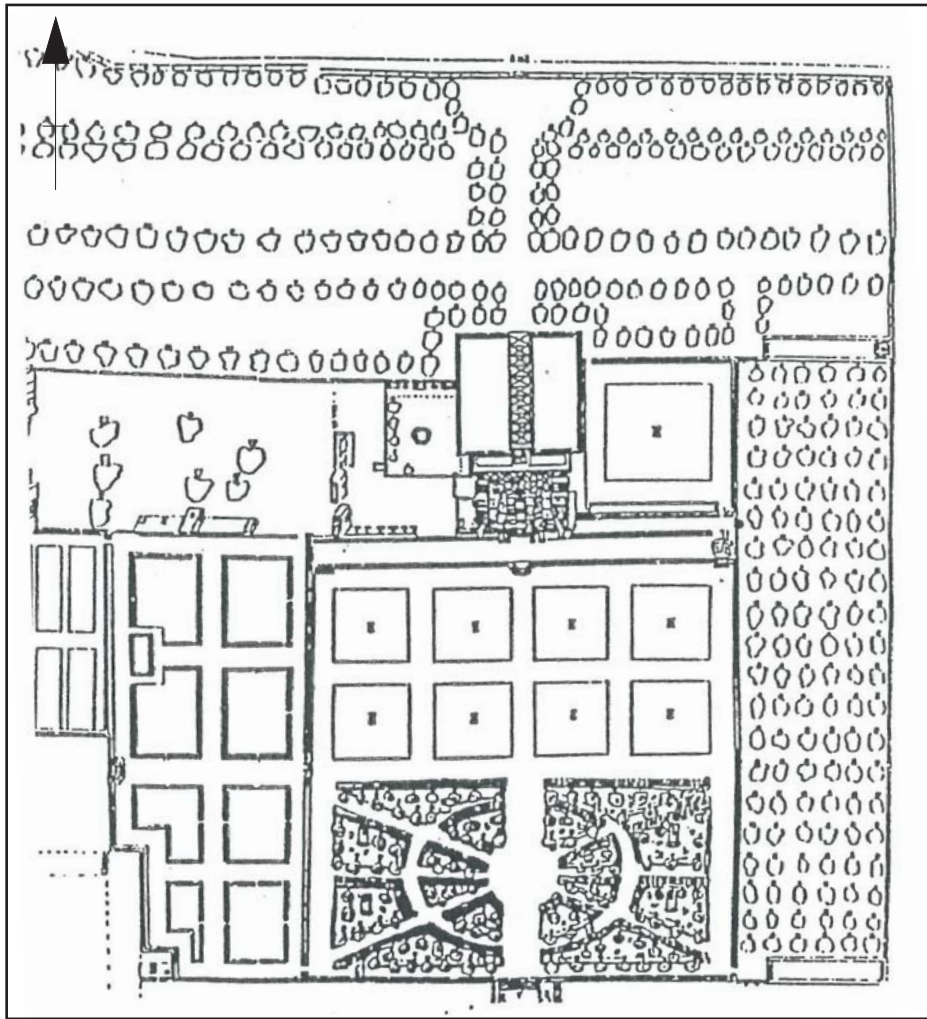
Scale 1:1500

Trench locations Fig 2

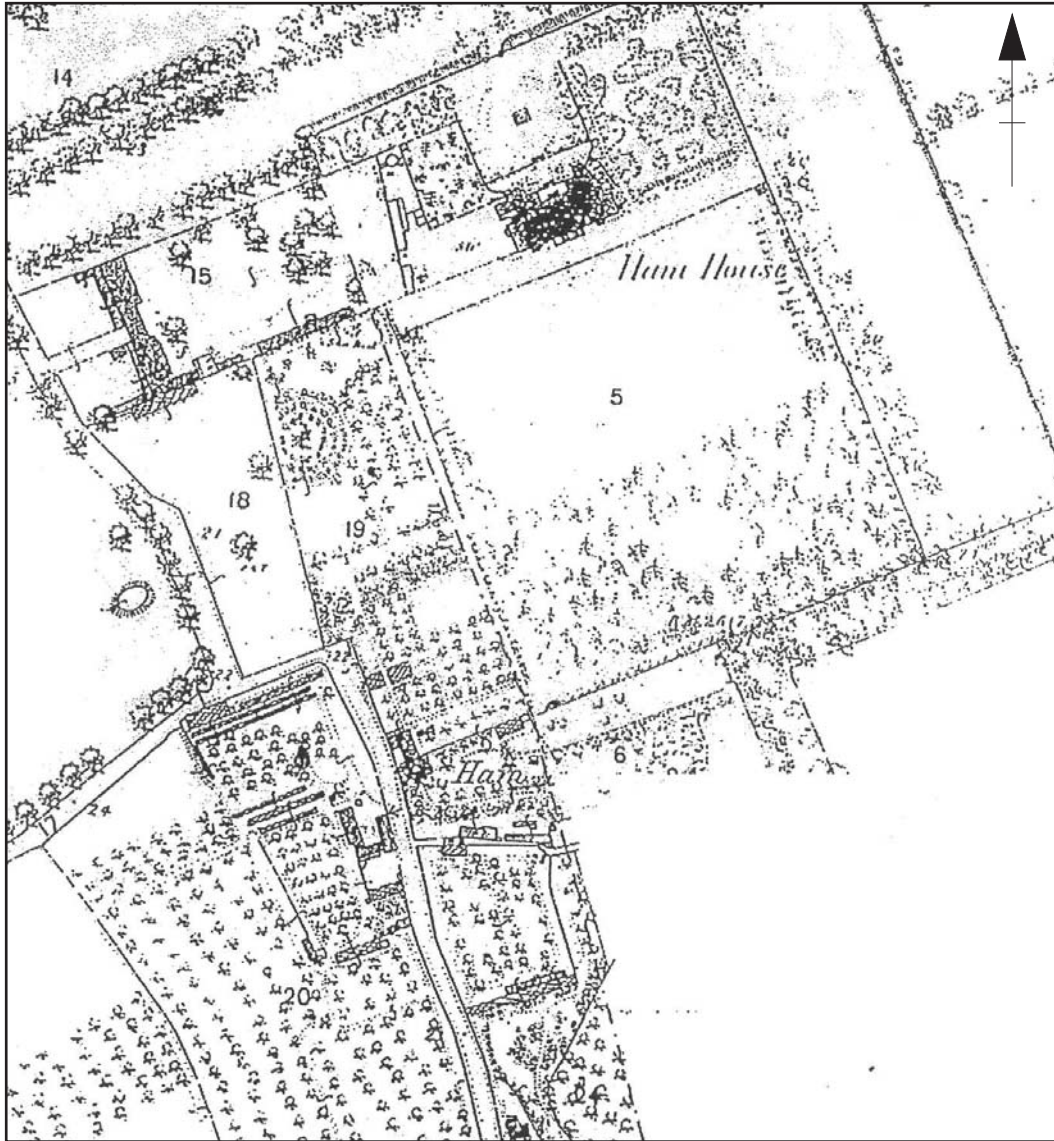


Slezer and Wyck plan, c1671-2 Fig 3



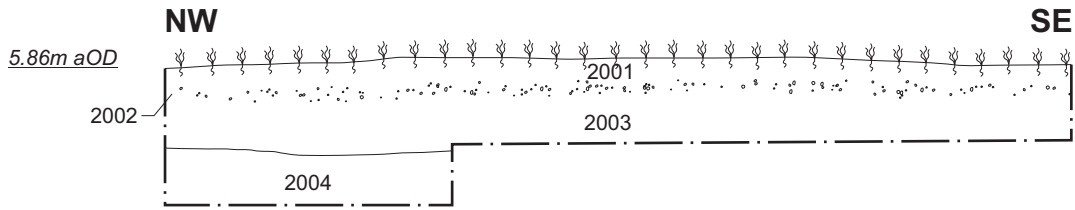


Helmingham plan, c1730 Fig 4



Ordnance Survey map 1863-66, revised 1884 Fig 5

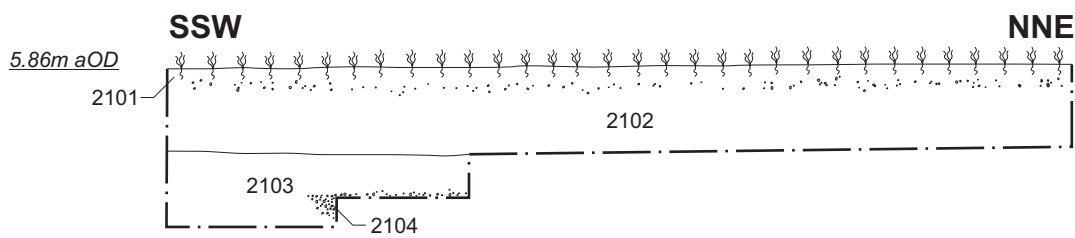
**Section 1**



**Trench 20**



**Section 2**



**Trench 21**





Trench 20, looking north-west Plate 1



Trench 21, looking south-west Plate 2



Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council