



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Archaeological Trial Excavation

at 191A Fletton Avenue,

Peterborough

April 2005



Samantha Hepburn BA PGDip

NGR TL 196971

Report 05/62

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	P Chapman		
Verified by	A Chapman		
Approved by	S Parry		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological trial excavation at 191A Fletton Avenue, Peterborough	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Gatehouse Homes (UK) Limited to carry out a trial excavation, ahead of a residential development in a former builders' yard between 191 and 193 Fletton Avenue, Peterborough. A single trench 25m in length by 1.60m wide was excavated under archaeological supervision. Features comprising a gully and a pit were found, but contained no dating evidence.	
Project type (eg desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Peterborough	
Site address (including postcode)	191A Fletton Avenue, Fletton, Peterborough.	
Easting (use numerical 100km grid square no.)		
Northing	2196	
Height OD	5971	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project brief originator	Ben Robinson	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Samantha Hepburn	
Project Manager	Andy Mudd	
Sponsor or funding body		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	March 05	
End date	March 05	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper		Site Archive
Digital		Disc/Digital Copy of above
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Trial Excavation At 191A Fletton Avenue, Peterborough	
Serial title & volume	NA Report	
Author(s)	Samantha Hepburn	
Page numbers		
Date	April 2005	

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION

AT 191A FLETTON AVENUE,

PETERBOROUGH

### *Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Gatehouse Homes (UK) Limited to carry out a trial excavation, ahead of a residential development in a former builders' yard between 191 and 193 Fletton Avenue, Peterborough. A single trench 25m in length by 1.60m wide was excavated under archaeological supervision. Features comprising a gully and a pit were found, but contained no dating evidence.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by Gatehouse Homes (UK) Limited, to carry out an archaeological evaluation in March 2005, ahead of the construction of three, two bed-terraced cottages, on the site of a former builders' yard covering an area of about 580 sq m. The site was situated between 191 and 193 Fletton Avenue, Peterborough (NGR TL 196971 Fig 1). It lies within the historic core of Old Fletton, opposite, and about 100 m from, the parish church of St Margaret.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Archaeological Background

There are no known archaeological remains from the application site itself. In the surrounding area, remains of Iron Age settlement have been recorded from the former LBC clay pits in the south-western part of the parish. Roman remains in the form of a coin hoard, came from about half a mile south of the church in Standground. Anglo-Saxon remains have also been retrieved from neighbouring Standground, consisted of three swords and two spears; one of the swords was inscribed with the name of a well known Viking weaponsmith "ULFBERHT".

The location of this site suggests that medieval remains relating to the village of Old Fletton may be present. The nearby Church of St Margaret was mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and is reported to have 12<sup>th</sup>-century fabric in the nave and chancel, although the church has been repaired and rebuilt on several occasions, and also contains 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century carved stone. Sixty yards east of the church is the

ruined remains of a 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century domestic, which had been adapted for use as a cow shed.

Previous excavations carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in Fletton have focused on the High Street, and have revealed 12<sup>th</sup> century agricultural remains, a pond and possible ha-ha, and a substantial 17<sup>th</sup> century building.

## **2.2 Geology and Topography**

The underlying geology is not mapped as the site lies within an urban area (SSEW 1983). However, Old Fletton lies close to old clay pits, and is expected to be sited on Oxford Clay, as confirmed by the evidence from the trench.

## **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Objectives**

The general objective of the evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits, and to present sufficient information to inform local authority decisions regarding a planning application.

### **3.2 Methodology**

The excavation was undertaken using the guidelines set out in the procedural document “*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*” (Gurney, D, *et al* 2003).

The excavation of the trial trench was continuously supervised by an archaeologist. The trench was excavated using a JCB 180° type excavator equipped with a 6-ft toothless ditching bucket. The concrete was broken out using a breaker attachment for the JCB, and removed using a toothless bucket. Hardcore, and subsoil deposits were removed until archaeologically sensitive deposits or clean natural horizons were revealed. All deposits were cleaned sufficiently to identify their nature. Excavation of features was carried out by hand. Recording was by Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma context sheets, supplemented by drawn plans at a scale of 1:50, and sections at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record in

black and white and colour slides of the trench and features was completed.

#### **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

A single trench was situated in the centre of the builders yard and was aligned east to west. It measured 25m long by 1.60m wide, and was between 0.46m deep in the west to 0.66m deep in the east (Figs 2).

The natural geology (103) was a pale grey/yellow clay with patches of mid orange brick earth and gravel. It was cut by gully [105] and pit [107].

Gully [105] was aligned north-east to south-west, butt ended in the north-east. It was a shallow U-shaped gully, 0.40m wide by 0.05m deep. The fill comprised of a pale grey/brown silty clay (104), with rare small stone inclusions, no finds were present (Fig 3, section 1).

Pit [107] was only partially visible in the east end of the trench. It had a steep almost vertical sloping side that broke onto a flat base, 1.60m long by 1.15m wide (area visible) by 0.18m deep. The fill comprised of a dark grey silt/clay (106), with occasional small stones, occasional red brick and tile fragments inclusions (Fig 3, section 2).

The subsoil comprised a mid brown/grey silty clay (102) with occasional stone inclusions, and rare animal bone. It was 0.24m thick in the west and 0.52m thick in the middle, and sealed both [105] and [107]. Several small modern pits contaminated with diesel, an old brick built drain and modern services were cut through this layer. A layer of brick, tile and gravel hardcore (101) 0.10m - 0.16m thick, lay between the subsoil and the concrete. The concrete was between 0.12m – 0.14m thick.

#### **5 CONCLUSION**

Gully [105] is the only feature of possible archaeological interest within the trench. Its purpose is unknown; and no datable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Pit [107] was initially thought to be older due to its position in the yard's entranceway. Excavation revealed it to be shallow, containing only modern brick and tile.

The east end of the trench was much deeper than the west, and contained several

modern pits contaminated with diesel. It was possible that the ground surface originally sloped down to the east, and was levelled during the construction of the builder's yard.

The absence of any pre-modern finds from any of the deposits suggests that this site was unoccupied in medieval and earlier times. The subsoil contained no datable material, but the presence of animal bone suggests that it was likely to be an agricultural soil.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Gurney, D, *et a.* 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.* Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeol

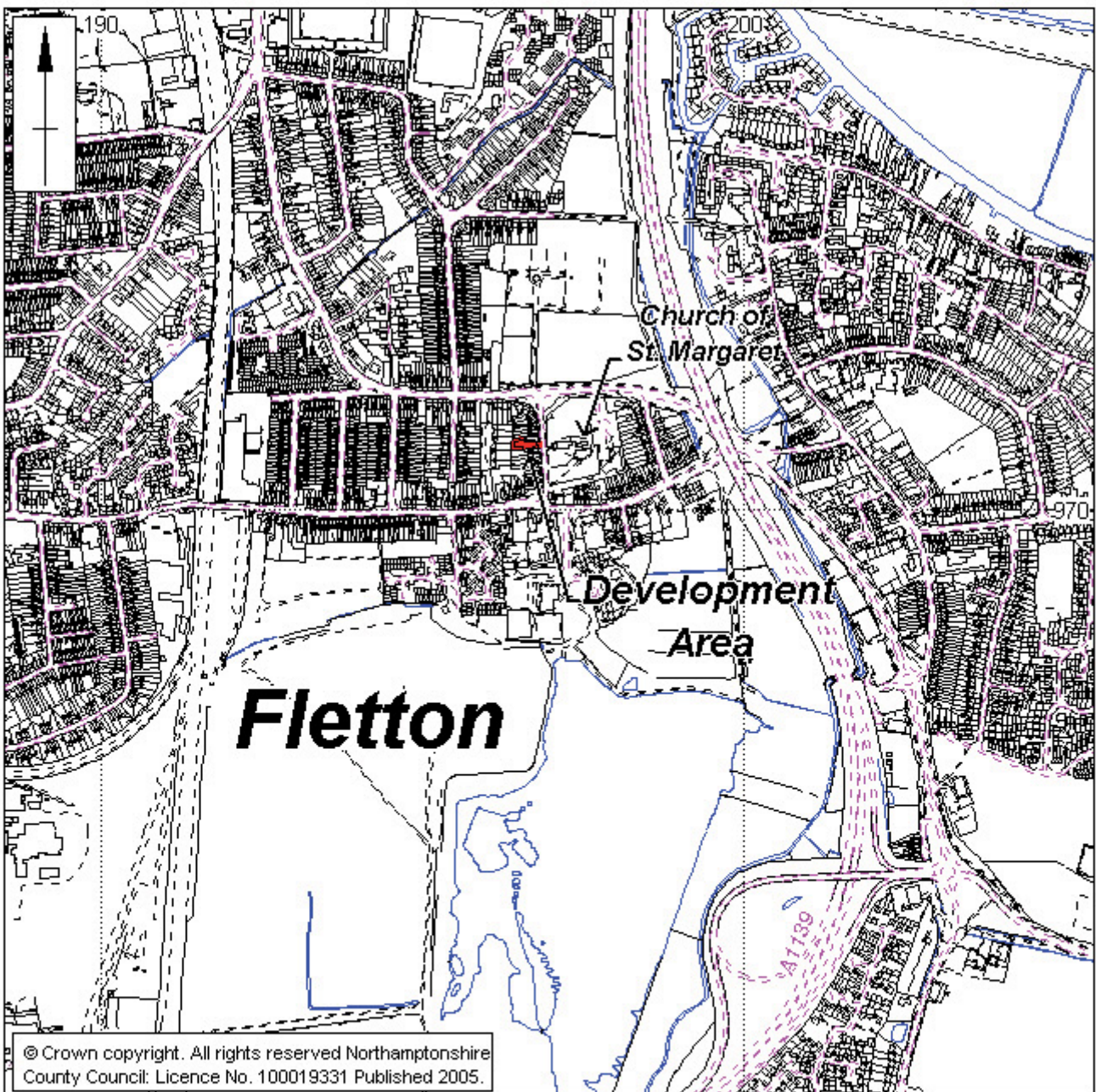
SSEW 1983, *Soils of Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales

NA 2005 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching) 191A Fletton Avenue, Peterborough*, Northamptonshire Archaeology



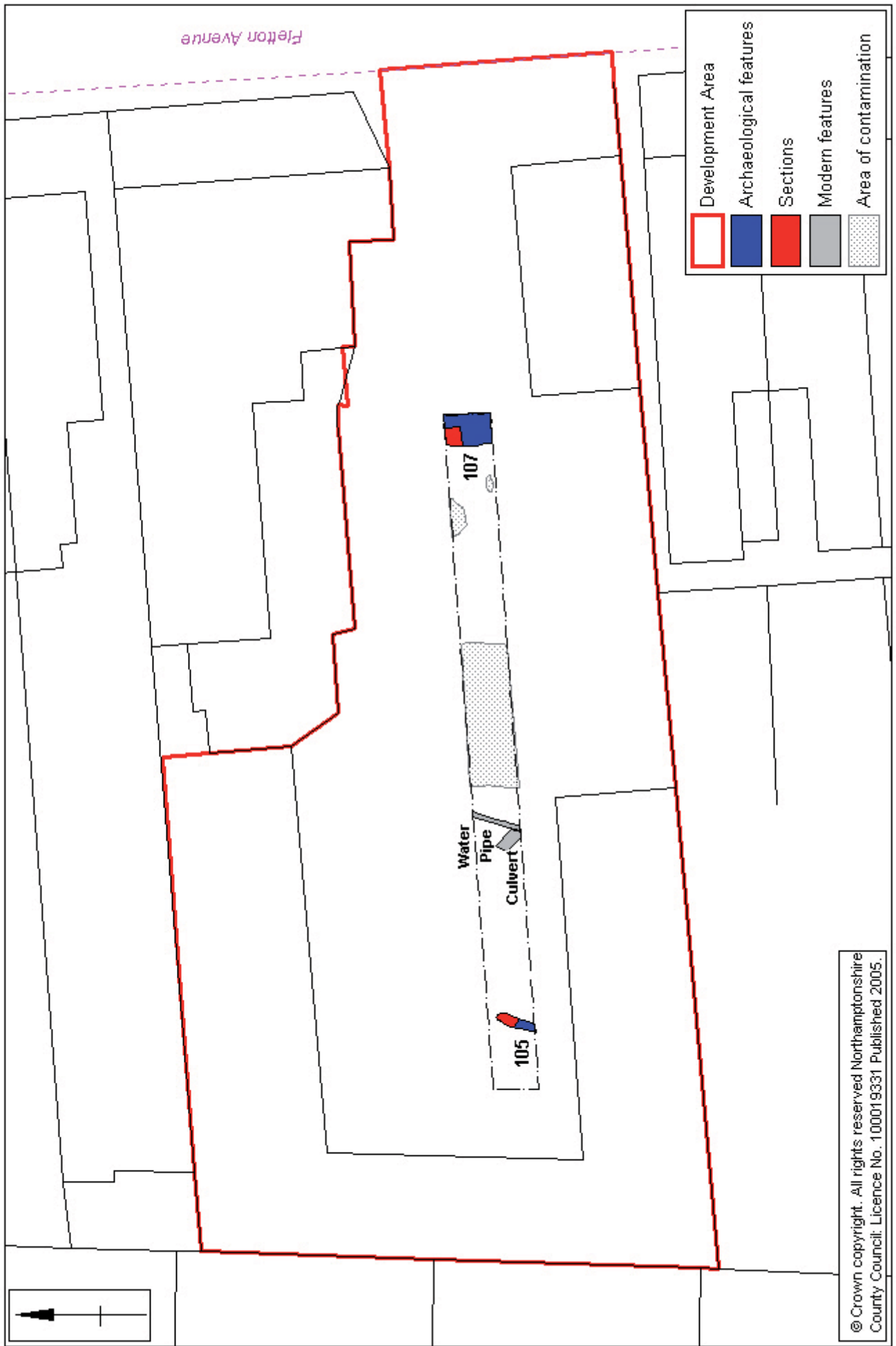
Appendix 1: *Context details*

Context	Context Type	Descriptions
(100)	Concrete	Modern concrete yard surface 0.12m-0.14m thick
(101)	Hardcore	Mixture of gravel, brick and tile with a mottled orange sand and mid brown silty clay matrix, 0.10m-0.16m thick
(102)	Subsoil	Mid brown/grey silty clay, 0.24m-0.52m thick
(103)	Natural	Pale grey/yellow clay with patches of orange brick earth and gravel
(104)	Fill of [105]	Pale grey/brown silty clay
[105]	Gully	Shallow sloping sides with a concave base, measuring 0.40m wide and 0.05m deep.
(106)	Fill of [107]	Dark grey/black silty clay
[107]	Pit	Steep almost vertical sloping side 1.60m by 1.15m by 0.18m deep.



Scale 1:10,000

Fig. 1



Scale 1:200

Fig. 2

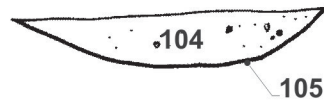
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**Section 1**

9.20mOD

E

W

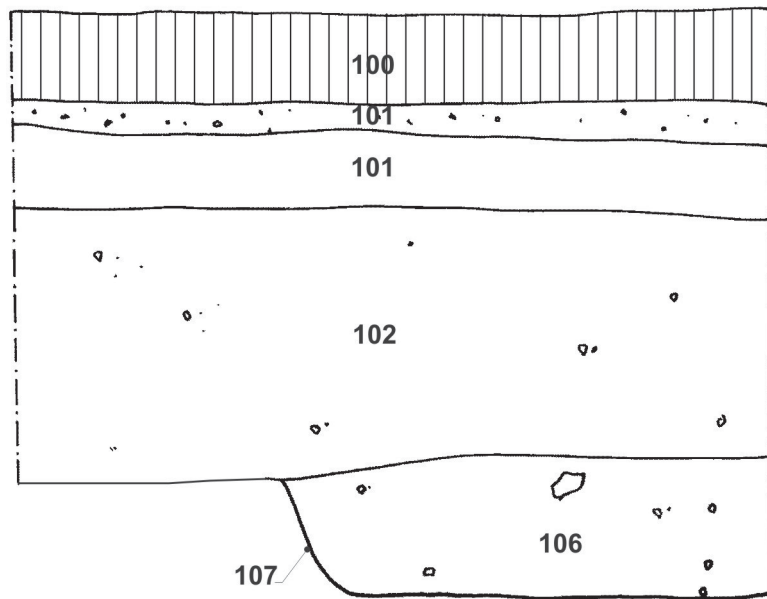


**Section 2**

9.43mOD

W

E



 Concrete

0 50cm



Fig. 3



Plate 1: Trench, looking east.



Plate 2: Gully 105