



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological field evaluation at
Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire
May 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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



Northamptonshire
County Council

Christopher Jones and

Jim Brown

Report 13/105

July 2013

Accession No: T/1201



STAFF

Project Manager	Jim Brown BSc PGDip MfA
Fieldwork	Christopher Jones, Laura Cogley BA Ben Kidd BA, John Kemp BSc Tom Garside BA and Rob Bailey BA
Research	Carol Simmonds BA AlfA
Text	Christopher Jones and Jim Brown
Pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BTEch
Building materials	Pat Chapman BA CMS AlfA
Faunal remains	Philip Armitage BSc MSc PhD
Charred plant remains	Val Fryer BA MfA
Illustrations	Amir Bassir BSc PlfA and James Ladocha BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Jim Brown		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 155432	
Project name	Archaeological field evaluation at Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire, May 2013		
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to conduct a field evaluation on the proposed development area at Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire. The trial trenches revealed boundary ditches of 12th to 14th century date, which formed a small group of closes at the northern end of the High Street. The closes were probably originally pasture for keeping livestock; there were few artefacts to suggest that domestic occupation extended onto the site and charred seeds were probably those of fodder crops such as oats, which may have been distributed around the closes when feeding animals. The concentration of features in the south of the site may indicate the presence of a small corral, pen or animal shelter.		
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Walford 2012)		
Current Land use	Arable		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Medieval closes		
Significant finds			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Station Road, Bishops Itchington		
Study area	c1ha		
OS grid reference	SP 3886 5799		
Height aOD	c120m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project Brief originator	Anna Stocks, Warwickshire County Council		
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	20 May 2013		
End date	24 May 2013		
ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content	
Physical	Warwickshire Museum T/1201	Pottery, tile, metal finds, flots and charcoal	
Paper		Context sheets, permatrace plans & sections, site registers, photographic archive, background documents	
Digital		Client PDF report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Client report Archaeological field evaluation at Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire, May 2013		
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/105		
Author(s)	Christopher Jones		
Page numbers	30		
Date	2013		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	
2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	
3	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	
	3.1	Historic Environment Record data search
	3.2	Geophysical survey
4	OBJECTIVES	
5	METHODOLOGY	
6	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	
	6.1	Trench 1
	6.2	Trench 2
	6.3	Trench 3
	6.4	Trench 4
	6.5	Trench 5
	6.6	Trench 6
	6.7	Trench 7
	6.8	Trench 8
	6.9	Trench 9
	6.10	Trench 10
	6.11	Trench 11
7	THE FINDS	
	7.1	Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn
	7.2	Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman
8	THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	
	8.1	Faunal remains by Philip Armitage
	8.2	Charred plant remains by Val Fryer
9	CONCLUSION	
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY	

Tables

Table 1:	Inventory of Historic Environment Record data
Table 2:	Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds
Table 3:	Summary counts of the numbers of identified specimens (NISP)
Table 4:	Descriptions of the elements from the contexts

Figures

Cover:	The proposed development site, looking west
Fig 1:	Site location
Fig 2:	Geophysical survey and trial trench locations
Fig 3:	Ditch 208 and recut 210 (left), Pit 205 (right), Trench 2, looking north
Fig 4:	Plan of Trenches 1-7
Fig 5:	Sections of features in trenches 1-4
Fig 6:	Sections of features in trenches 5 - 8
Fig 7:	Gully 407, Trench 4, looking north-west
Fig 8:	Postholes 906 (left) and 904 (right), Trench 9, looking north-east
Fig 9:	Ditches 1010 (left) and 1008 (right), Trench 10, looking north
Fig 10:	Plan of Trenches 8-11
Fig 11:	Sections of features in trenches 9 and 10
Fig 12:	Sections of features in trench 11
Fig 13:	The excavated trenches, showing archaeological features
Back:	The proposed development site, looking east

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT
STATION ROAD, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
WARWICKSHIRE**

May 2013

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to conduct a field evaluation on the proposed development area at Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire. The trial trenches revealed boundary ditches of 12th to 14th century date, which formed a small group of closes at the northern end of the High Street. The closes were probably originally pasture for keeping livestock; there were few artefacts to suggest that domestic occupation extended onto the site and charred seeds were probably those of fodder crops such as oats, which may have been distributed around the closes when feeding animals. The concentration of features in the south of the site may indicate the presence of a small corral, pen or animal shelter.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological trial trench excavations in advance of the proposed development on land to the east of Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3886 5799; Fig 1). The archaeological work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission.

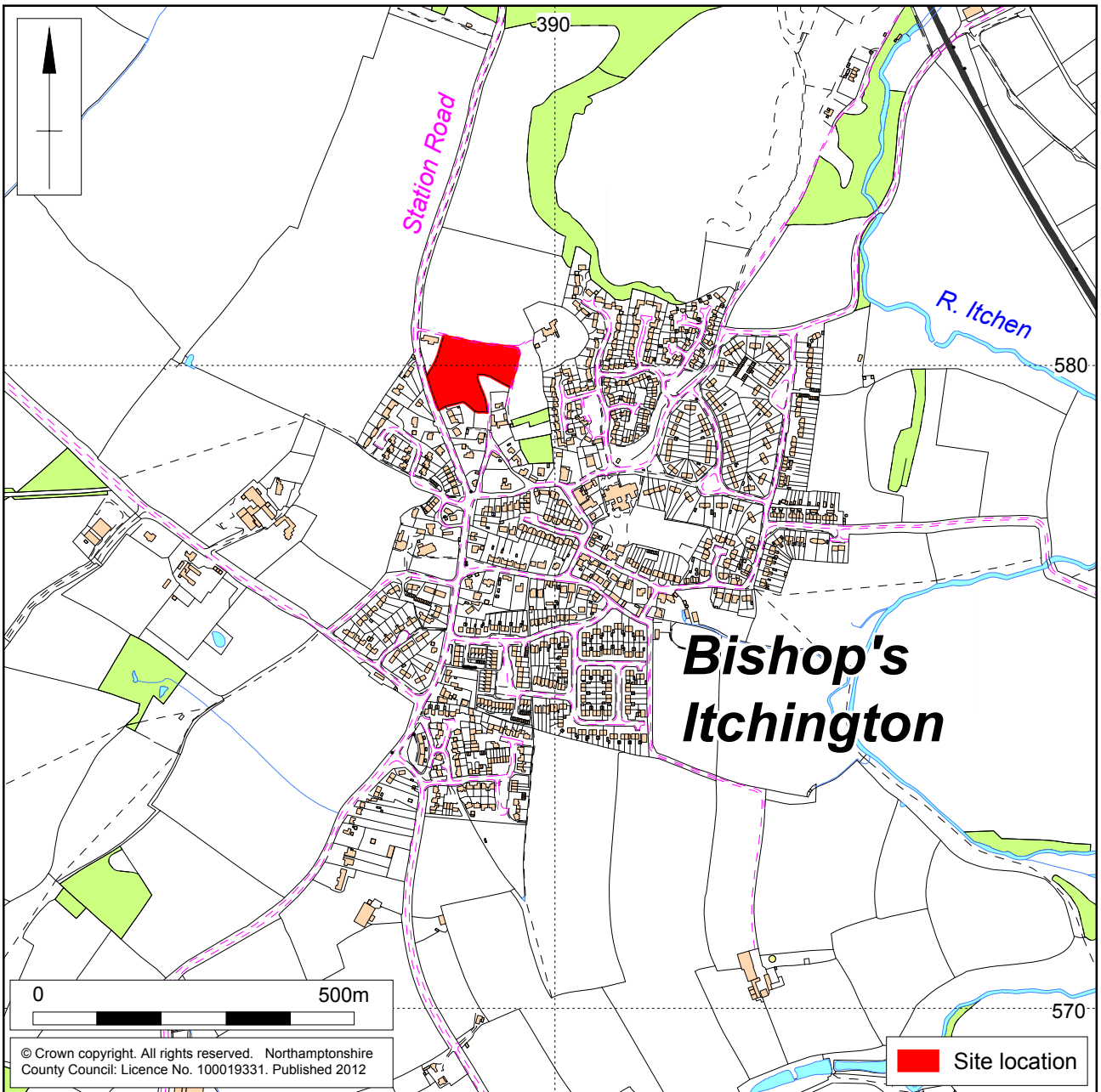
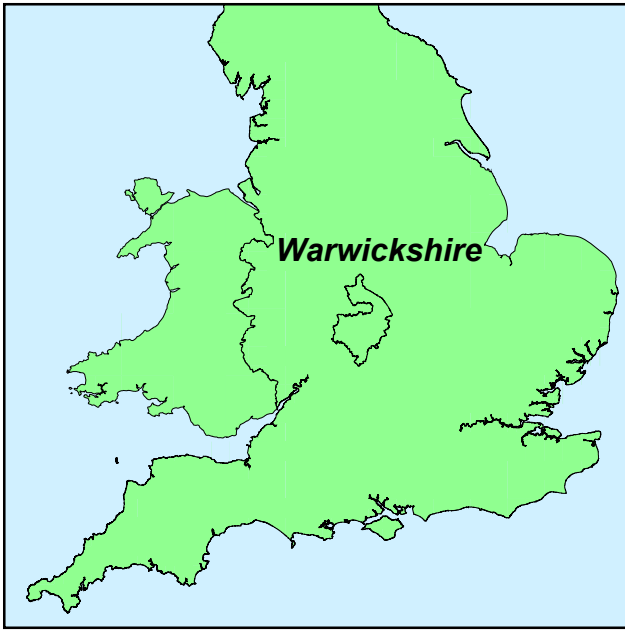
The site had already been the subject of geophysical survey (Walford 2012). Features were identified that indicated the archaeological survival of ditches and pits within the site. Warwickshire County Council (WCC), as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, required that trial trench excavation be undertaken to evaluate the nature of these remains (WCC 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by NA, outlining the scope of the investigation, and agreed with CgMs and WCC before commencing the works (Brown 2013). The fieldwork was monitored by WCC and all work was conducted in accordance with the agreed WSI between the 20-24th May 2013, comprising the excavation of eleven trenches (Fig 2).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation which abides by the established *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010). All works were completed in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 1997; 2006; 2008; 2011) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a). The accession number T/1201 was assigned in advance of the fieldwork by Warwickshire Museum.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The development area is located on the north side of the historic medieval core of Bishops Itchington (NGR SP 3886 5799) comprising an area of approximately 1ha. The site is currently arable land bounded to the north and east by trackways, to south are residential properties and to the west is Station Road (B4451). The ground is fairly level but slopes gently downwards to the south-west from c120m above Ordnance Datum.

The geology of the wider area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay but this is further defined by the British Geology Survey Geoindex as siltstone, mudstone, limestone and sandstone, overlain by Diamicton till, which is fairly typical along the Jurassic ridge (mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Itchington was one of the fifteen Warwickshire lordships granted by Earl Leofric to his newly founded priory of Coventry in 1043. At some date early in the 12th century the monks seem to have been dispossessed of some of their estates; they were restored by command of Pope Eugenius III (1145–53), the grant being confirmed by King Stephen, with special mention of Itchington, in a charter recited in 1348. The exact date when this manor became the exclusive property of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield is not certain; it was already called Bishops Itchington in 1247, and the bull issued in 1152 by Eugenius III expressly confirmed Itchington to Bishop Walter Duredent and his successors (Salzman 1951).

A grant of 24 acres made to the church of All Saints by Mabel de Hagley in 1246 shows that they lay in the East and West Fields, which seems to imply a two-field system of cultivation at that date. The Inclosure Act for Bishops Itchington was passed in 1774.

The present village in the north of the parish was formerly known as Upper Itchington, Lower Itchington being about a mile to the south-east, probably near the present Old Town Farm. Lower Itchington was at one time the more important, and contained the church. Old coins, bones, musket balls and foundations of stone were found in 1849, relics of the lower village. St Michael's Church in the upper village is on the site of a medieval chapel, but Thomas Fisher, who purchased the manor from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1547, pulled down the original church and depopulated the lower village (Salzman 1951). Fisher, who was a confidential agent of John Dudley, Viscount Lisle and later Duke of Northumberland, and of the Protector Somerset, seems to have been a typical nouveau riche of his time, and it has been suggested that the conveyance of the manor to him by Bishop Sampson was to gain favour at court in view of the changes in religion, regarding which the bishop was conservative.

The church of St Michael is situated on the north side of the village and stands in a small churchyard. This originated as a chapel to the Church of All Saints in Lower Itchington. The registers commence in 1585.

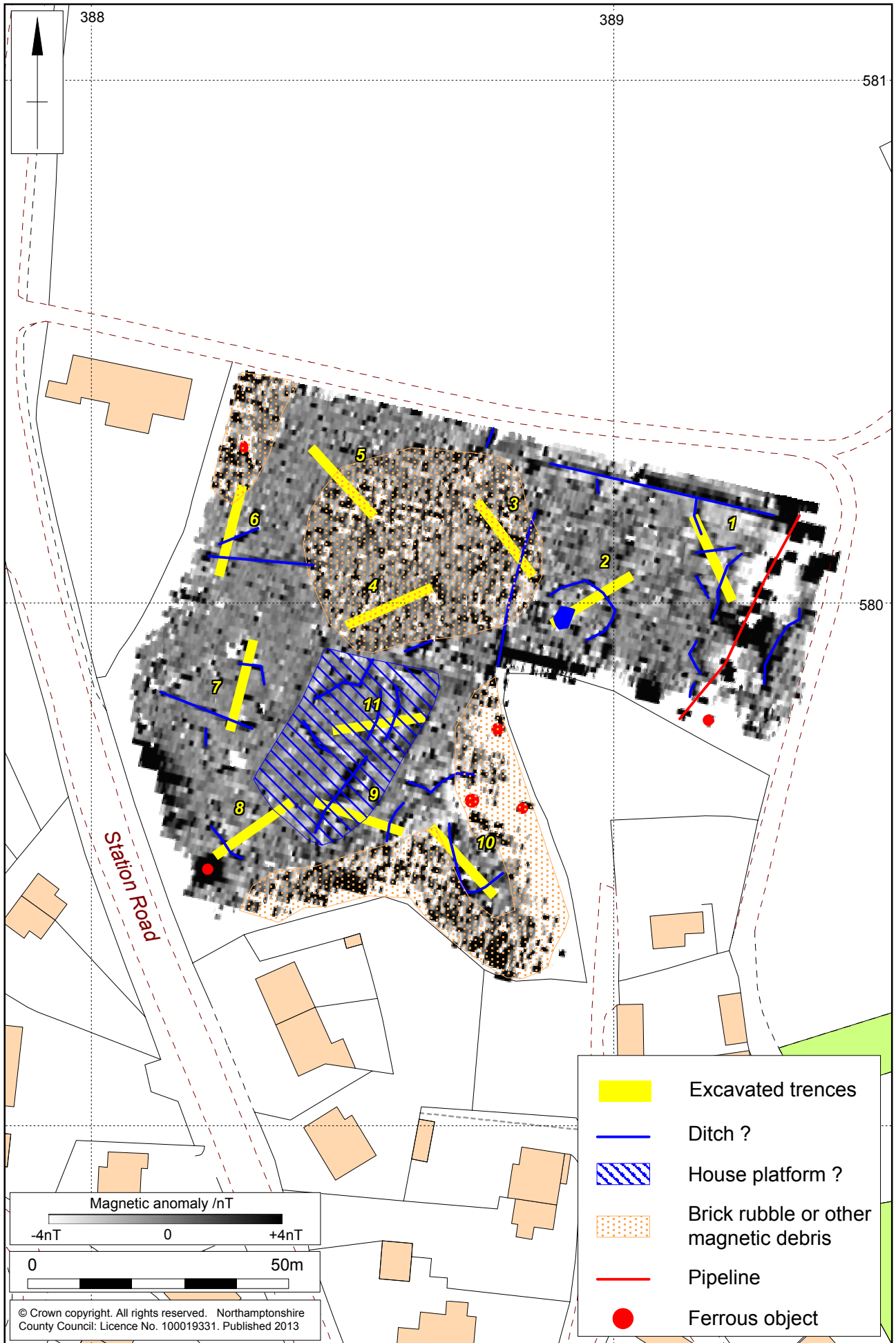
3.1 Historic Environment Record data search

The Historic Environment Record was consulted for an inventory of all recorded events and monuments within 250m radius of the proposed development site.

Table 1: Inventory of Historic Environment Record data

Period	HER Ref.	Event or monument
medieval	623	Church of St Michael, Bishop's Itchington
	4929	possible shrunken medieval settlement north-west of church
	9046	possible medieval settlement identified on aerial photographs
18th-20th centuries	2438	Congregational Chapel, Chapel Street
	8690	Turnpike Road from Southam to Kineton
recent work	9286	3 Fisher Road, watching brief, no archaeological remains

The references relevant to the trial trench excavations are those for the medieval historic core, which lies immediately to the south of the proposed development. There are no other significant finds or sites within the immediate vicinity.



Scale 1:1000

Geophysical survey and trial trench locations Fig 2

The historic landscape characterisation describes the plot as 'paddocks and closes', which may of course have medieval origins and is consistent with the features observed during excavation.

3.2 Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development area in November 2012 (Walford 2012). The survey results showed the area to contain a number of archaeological remains, including a possible medieval house platform, a large spread of brick rubble, and a network of enclosure and boundary ditches of indeterminate date. Unfortunately, the full extent and layout of the ditches could not be satisfactorily defined, due to the complexity of the magnetic data set and the weak and fragmentary character of many individual anomalies.

4 OBJECTIVES

The principal purpose of archaeological trial trench excavation was to investigate the archaeological potential indicated by the geophysical surveys (Walford 2012) and to provide sufficient information to establish the possible impact of development that could lead to the formation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.

To achieve this, the fieldwork set out to understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting, specifically:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- recover artefacts to assist in development of the type series within the region;
- and to recover palaeo-environmental remains where they were encountered.

The significance of the excavated evidence has been considered in the context suggested by the published research priorities set out for the East Midlands (EH 1997; Cooper *et al* 2006; Knight *et al* 2012) and West Midlands (Watt 2011).

5 METHODOLOGY

Eleven trial trenches were excavated, each was c18m long by 1.8m wide. The trenches were located to test both the features identified by the geophysical survey and the areas seemingly without features (Fig 2).

The trial trenches were accurately measured in and marked out prior to the commencement of work using Leica System 1200 GPS operating to an accuracy of ± 0.1 m to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of an experienced archaeologist. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, to reveal the surface of archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. The spoil heaps and excavated areas were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The area was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features. All archaeological features were investigated. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on *pro-forma* trench and

context record sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All levels were related to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record was maintained using 35mm black and white film, supplemented by digital photography.

All finds, photographs, drawings and paper archive records have been compiled into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced archive in accordance with recognised best practise (Walker 1990; APP 2007; IfA 2008b).

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The trial trench excavations comprised 4% of the total development area and the eleven trenches each measured 18m long by 1.8m wide (Figs 2, 4, 10, 13).

The natural substrate consisted of light orange-brown silt clay, frequent stone and flint fragments. The subsoil was light brown sandy clay, 0.15-0.25m thick, with the overlying topsoil comprising dark grey-brown clay loam, 0.30-0.45m thick. Overall the thickness of topsoil and subsoil deposits was greater to the south of the site, down the slope. All of the trenches contained archaeological features with many containing medieval pottery of the 12th to 14th centuries.

6.1 Trench 1

A narrow gully, 105, aligned north to south, had ragged sides and an uneven base was aligned north to south and was 0.53m wide by 0.17m deep (Fig 5, S1). The ditch appeared to have silted naturally and produced 12th-century pottery.

A more substantial ditch, aligned west to east, 109, recut by ditch 107, was 1.60m wide by 0.80m deep (Fig 5, S2). This ditch had steep, near vertical sides, a rounded base and ended with a square terminal. The fills were generally darker, more loamy, with charcoal content indicative of periodic dumping, they produced 14th-century pottery.



Ditch 208 and recut 210 (left), Pit 205 (right), Trench 2, looking north Fig 3

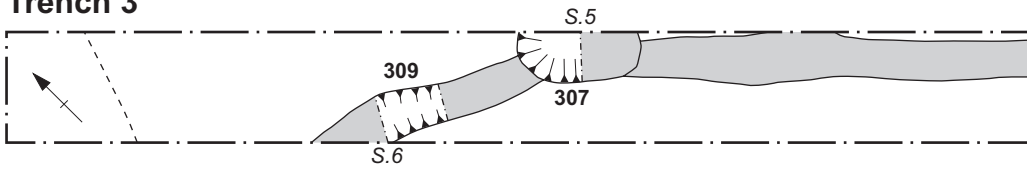
Trench 1



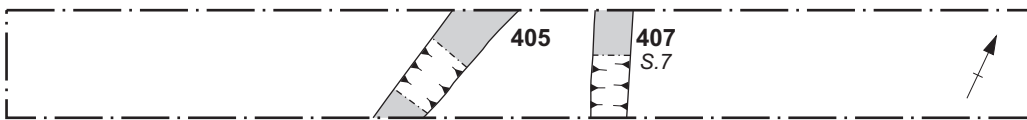
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

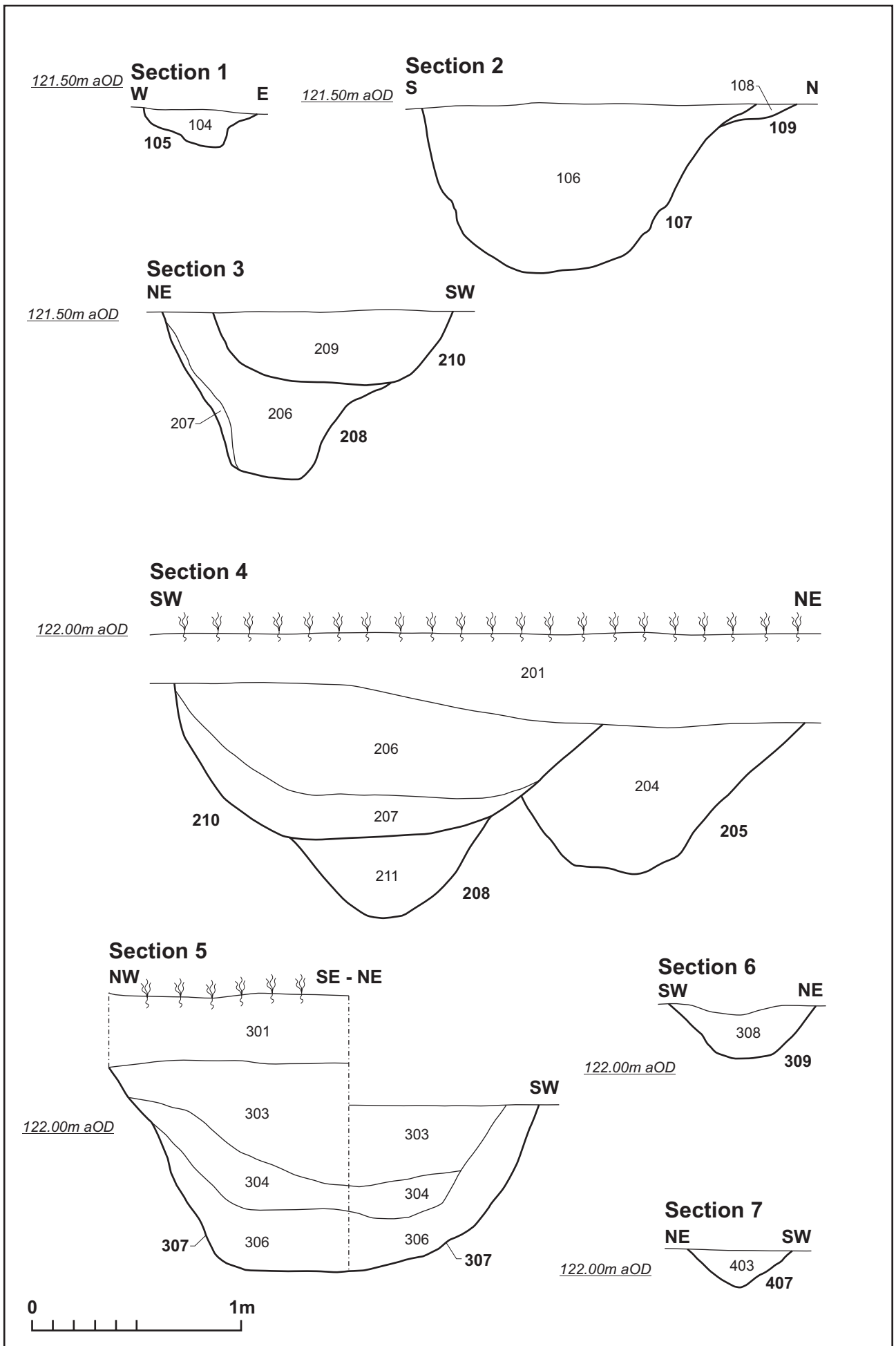


Trench 6



Trench 7

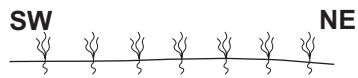




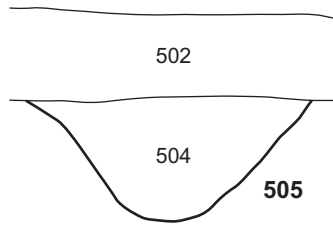
Scale 1:25

Sections of features in trenches 1-4 Fig 5

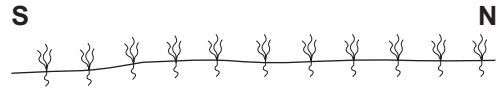
Section 8



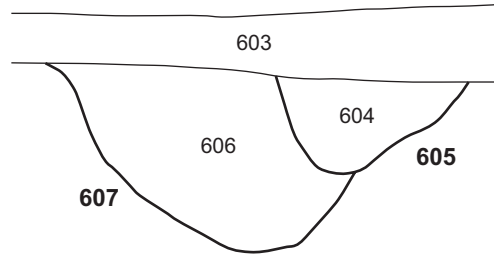
123.00m aOD



Section 9

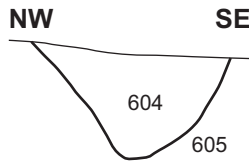


123.00m aOD



Section 10

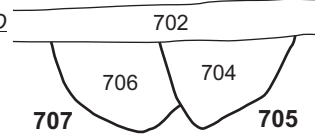
123.00m aOD



Section 11



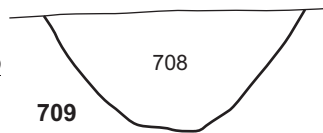
123.00m aOD



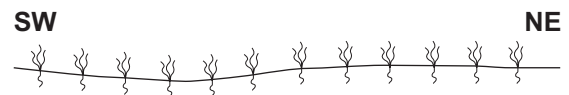
Section 12



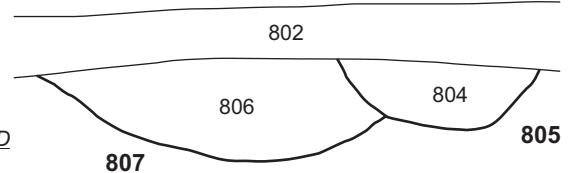
122.00m aOD



Section 16

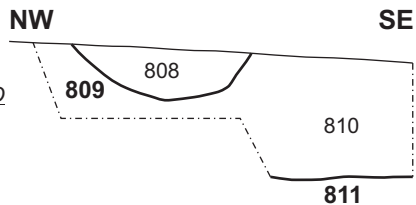


121.00m aOD



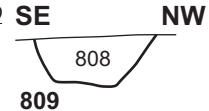
Section 17

121.00m aOD



Section 18

121.22m aOD



6.2 Trench 2

A large rounded pit, 205, 1.50m wide by 0.70m deep was cut by a ditch, 208, aligned north-west to south-east. The pit had a steep 45° side that met with an uneven base (Figs 3 and 5, S4). The ditch was 1.40m wide by 0.80m deep, possibly butt ending to the south-east. The ditch had originally been fairly steep-sided with a narrow flat channel towards the base. A shallower recut ditch, 210, lay on the same alignment that was much broader with a flat base (Fig 5, S3). Whilst there was some indication of silting towards the base of the ditches, the majority of the upper fills seemed to be the product of periodic dumping, which produced early to middle Saxon and 12th-century pottery.

Ditch, 213, aligned north to south, was 0.64m wide by 0.28m deep, and produced 19th-century pottery (Fig 5, S20). The dark loamy fill was clearly dumped into the feature rather than a natural accumulation.

6.3 Trench 3

Ditch 309, aligned north-west to south-east, was 0.70m wide by 0.22m deep, and almost certainly a continuation of ditch 210. It was narrower further up the slope but of similar depth (Fig 5, S6). Whilst there was some indication of silting towards the base, much of the dark staining seems to have been introduced from periodic dumps of material.

A large oval pit, 307, 2.0m long by 1.80m wide by 1.0m deep, cut into the top of ditch 309 in the middle of the trench (Fig 5, S5). The pit had steep 80° sloping sides that met a broad flattish base. The contents of the pit were exclusively dumped materials, probably a single episode of clearance activity. Pottery from the pit was of the 12th-14th centuries, alongside charred seed grains rich in oats and fodder materials and is likely to have been redeposited from elsewhere during the 14th century, thus collecting earlier material.

6.4 Trench 4

There were two linear features; gully 407, aligned north-west to south-east, 0.48m wide by 0.16m deep, with a V-shaped profile, but undated (Fig 5, S7 and Fig 7). The ditch, 405, contained early 20th-century pottery and was therefore not fully excavated. Both ditches were relatively pale and largely the product of natural silting.



Gully 407, Trench 4, looking north-west Fig 7

6.5 Trench 5

A single pit or ditch terminal, 505, was excavated in the west of the trench side (Fig 6, S8). The feature was semi-circular with steep sloping sides and a narrow flat base, 0.94m wide by 0.41m deep, but produced no finds. The fill was consistent with a gradual accumulation of silting material.

6.6 Trench 6

Ditch 607, aligned east to west, was 1.10m wide by 0.60m deep, and the fill produced a single sherd of late 17th-century pottery (Fig 6, S9-10). The ditch had steep sides and a broadly U-shaped profile. The boundary was cut by ditch, 605, aligned north-east to south-west, 0.63m wide by 0.21m deep. This was much narrower and less well defined, but similarly U-shaped in profile. Both ditches appeared to contain gradual accumulations of material, stained with in-wash from nearby activity.

A further possible linear ditch at the north end of the trench was aligned west to east but was little more than a shallow soil mark when investigated.

6.7 Trench 7

In the north end of the trench was gully, 707, aligned north-west to south-east, 0.50m wide by 0.30m deep. It terminated at the north-west end (Fig 6, S11). This was cut by a shallow gully, 705, aligned east to west, 0.44m wide by 0.28m deep. Both gullies were narrow with steep sides and slightly pointed towards the base. The fills were fairly light friable and loamy, seemingly filled with material similar to leached-out topsoil.

In the south of the trench was ditch 709, aligned east to west, 0.83m wide and 0.39m deep (Fig 6, S12). This ditch had steeply sloping sides and a narrow flat base. There was some sign of silting towards the base of the ditch but the dominant friable loamy fill indicates that this ditch had been deliberately filled in at the end of its use.

A further possible ditch towards the centre of the trench, on the same alignment as ditch 1107, was 0.8m wide but was less than 0.1m deep.

6.8 Trench 8

Two linear features, 805 and 807, were aligned north-west to south-east, with 805 cutting 807, which was slightly the deeper. The ditch fills were similar (Fig 6, S16). Both ditches were broad and shallow with slightly rounded bases. Ditch 805 was 0.66m wide by 0.21m deep, and ditch 807 was 1.30m wide by 0.34m deep. The features were fairly indistinct and the fills were light in colouration, they appear to have been gradual clayey accumulations. Ditch 807 produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

At the south-west end of the trench was a ditch, 811, aligned north to south, 1.2m wide by 0.4m deep, this had a steep sloping side and narrow flat base (Fig 6, S17). The top of this was cut by a narrower gully, 809, on a north-east to south-west alignment that was 0.40m wide by 0.16m deep, and comprised little more than a shallow rounded scoop (Fig 6, S18). The fills of both features indicated gradual accumulations that had collected darker in-wash material.

6.9 Trench 9

There were four ditches within the trench; 909, 911, 915 and 917 (Fig 10). The concentration of features corresponds with an area of greater archaeological density, indicated by the geophysical survey (Fig 2). However, whilst there were more features present the quantity of finds remained at the same low level.

The ditches were on varied alignments, mainly exhibiting a dominant north-east to south-west trend. Given the close proximity of other large ditches in Trench 10, they would seem to be part of the same group of features and are likely to be realignments along the same boundary.

Ditch 909 was 1.88m wide by 0.26m deep with a shallow dish profile (Fig 11, S15), and ditch 915 was even less substantial, 0.90m wide by 0.06m deep, little more than a wide gully (Fig 11, S23). Both ditches seem to have silted up and were stained with material from the surrounding activity. Ditch 911 was much more substantial, 1.10m wide by 0.38m deep, it had steep sides and flat base (Fig 11, S21). This ditch had some signs of silting towards the base but may have also had periodic dumps of material mixed into the upper fill. Ditch 917 was also fairly large, 1.45m wide by 0.40m deep, however, the profile had rough uneven edges that showed signs of ancient root disturbance and making the sides difficult to follow (Fig 11, S26). The fill was, however, not subject to the same root activity and was a combination of silting with in-wash material that produced pottery of 12th-century date.

A short length of gully, 913, extended south-east from ditch 915, its relationship indicating that it had been filled before the ditch. The gully was fairly distinct, 0.38m wide by 0.23m deep, it had steep sloping sides and a narrow flat base (Fig 11, S22). The fill contained several large burnt stones and was probably the result of deliberate in-fill.



Postholes 906 (left) and 904 (right), Trench 9, looking north-east Fig 8

Aligned with gully 913 were two circular postholes, 906 and 904 (Fig 8). Neither posthole was particularly substantial, being 0.43-0.48m wide by 0.07-0.15m deep, representing the bases of the truncated features (Fig 11, S13-14). The fills were fairly dark, similar to the gully and were probably filled with material from a similar source.

6.10 Trench 10

There were three ditches, two of which were excavated, the third contained recent material near the surface and was recorded in plan only. The mid section of the trench was also bisected heavily by field drains (Fig 10).

Both of the excavated boundaries contained recuts and were those closest to the medieval High Street. They would have perhaps been closes onto which the rear of properties may have backed. Despite the potential for domestic debris accumulations there was no indication that the distribution of artefactual material was any different to the rest of the site, which remained low overall. Truncation was, however, less evident and the features were fairly substantial.

Ditch 1010 was 1.08m wide by 0.51m deep, aligned north to south, and recut by ditch 1008, which was 1.10m wide by 0.54m deep (Figs 9 and 11, S25). Both ditches had steeply sloping sides and narrow flattish bases, they had filled gradually with accumulations of natural silt and in-wash material. Ditch 1008 produced two sherds of 12th-century pottery and was also sampled for comparison with the contents of pit 307. Similar ecofacts were identified overall, but the concentrations were significantly lower indicating secondary dispersal and deposition of probable fodder materials.



Ditches 1010 (left) and 1008 (right), Trench 10, looking north Fig 9

Ditch 1005 lay on a north-east to south-west alignment and had been almost entirely truncated by a recut, ditch 1006 (Fig 11, S24). This latter recut was 1.08m wide by 0.50m deep, and the sides formed a pronounced V-shaped profile. The fill was also a combination of natural silting and in-wash material rather than dumped waste.

6.11 Trench 11

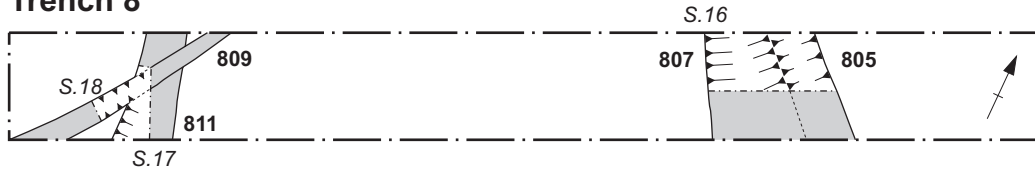
There were three ditches; 1107, 1112 and 1105, which were probably part of the same ditches observed in trench 9, as indicated by the geophysical survey (Fig 2).

Ditch 1107 was the least substantial and lay on a north-west to south-east alignment, draining into ditch 1112 (Fig 12, S27). Ditch 1107, 0.80m wide by 0.16m deep, had gently sloping sides and a broad flat base. The fill was very similar to the silting deposit on the basal edge of ditch 1112, comprising brownish-yellow clay silt with chalky flecks.

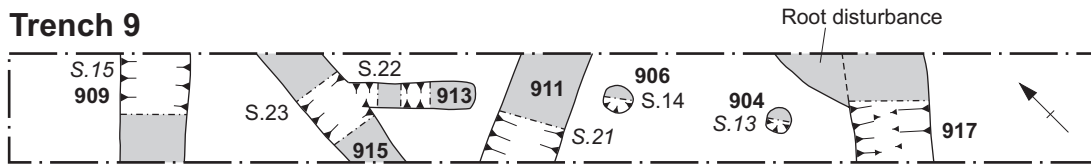
The largest feature was ditch 1112, which had originally been up to 2.55m wide by 0.60m deep, and lay on a north to south alignment (Fig 12, S27). The fill comprised brownish-yellow clay silt merging towards darker reddish-grey-brown silty clay containing burnt stone, indicating silting with periodic dumping of soil and other burnt materials. The original ditch had been recut by ditch 1113, which was 1.74m wide by 0.45m deep. The recut also contained silting towards the base, but had subsequently been filled at the end of its final use with darker soils. Both ditches were broad, with gently sloping sides at up to 45° that curved into flat bases.

Ditch 1105, which was 1.05m wide by 0.35m deep, had fairly steep sloping sides and a broad rounded base, aligned north-east to south-west (Fig 12, S19). The light orange-brown silty clay was probably a natural accumulation with loamy infill towards the surface.

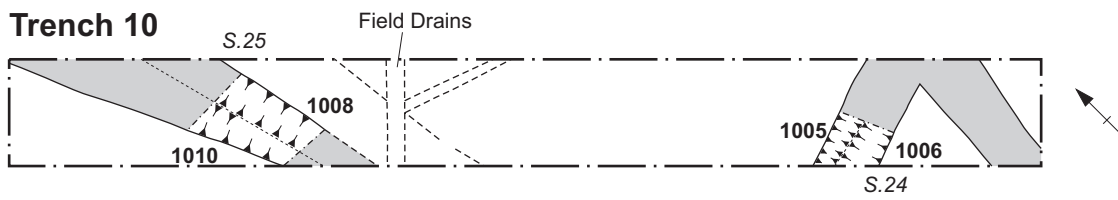
Trench 8



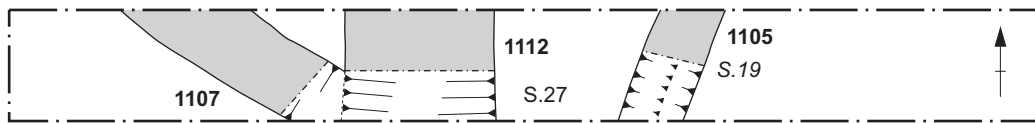
Trench 9

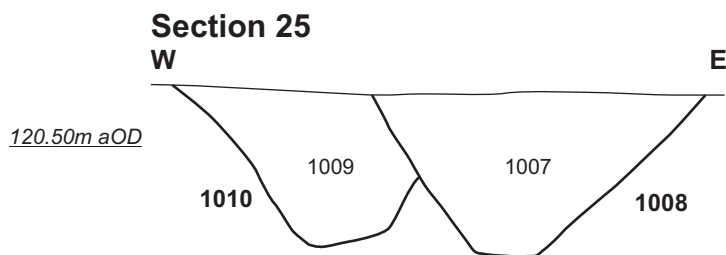
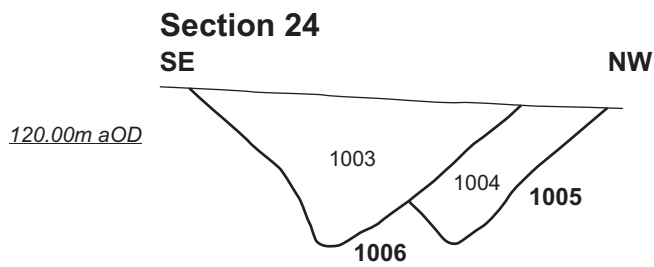
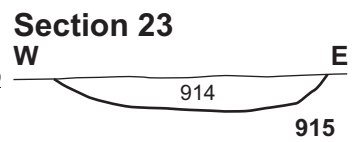
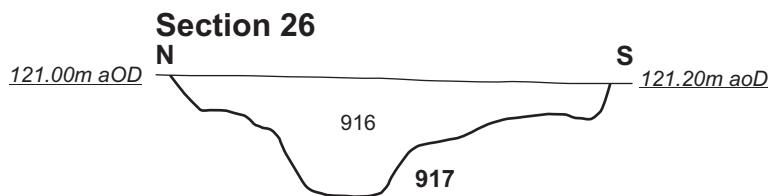
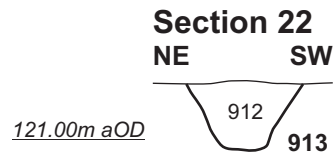
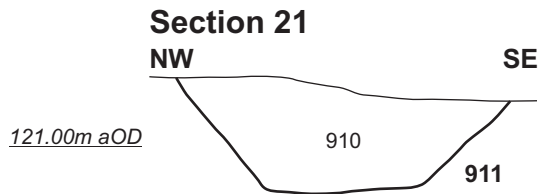
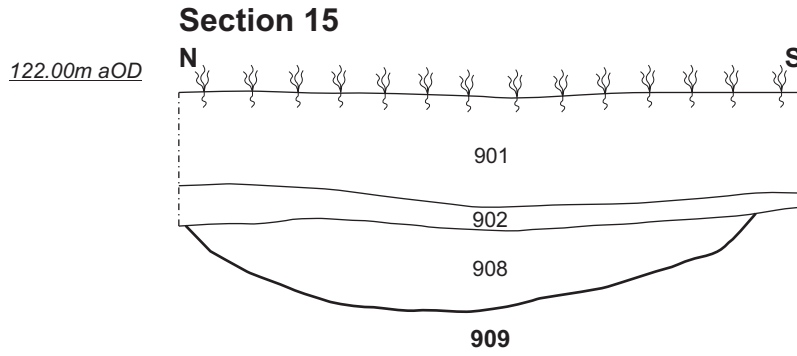
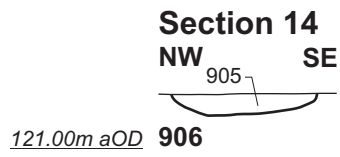
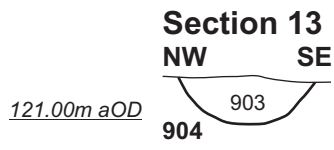


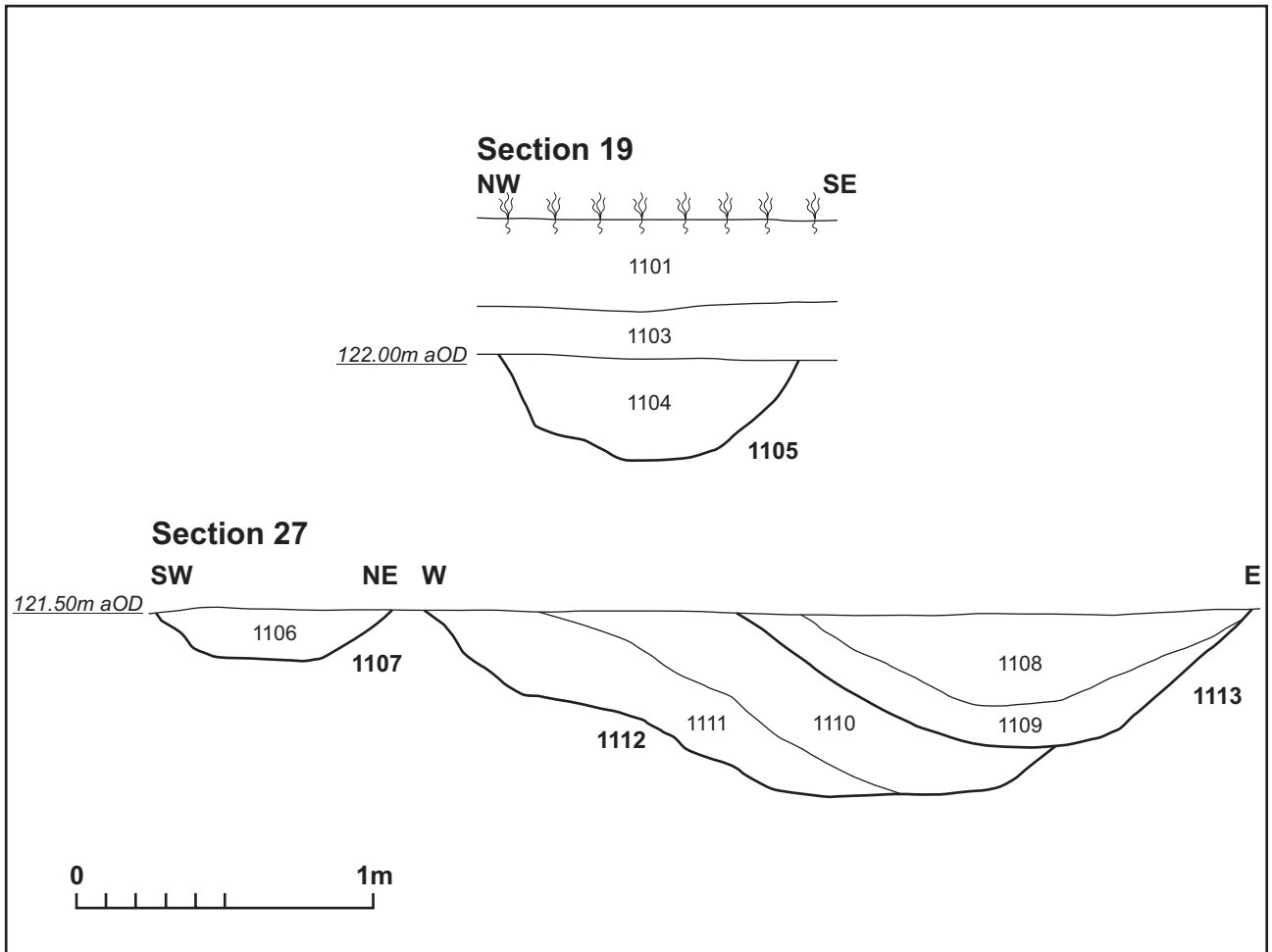
Trench 10



Trench 11







Scale 1:25

Sections of features in trench 11 Fig 12



Scale 1:1000

The excavated trenches, showing archaeological features Fig 13

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 62 sherds with a total weight of 863g and has been recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows :

CS05	Northants shelly ware, 1100-1400, 3 sherds, 38g
MANG	Staffordshire manganese mottled ware, 1680-1740, 1 sherds, 9g
MB02	Late midland blackware, 1600-1900, 2 sherds, 5g
MGW	Modern earthenwares, late 18th century onwards, 7 sherds, 45g
Sq02	Warwick sandy ware, 12th-13th centuries, 30 sherds, 595g
Sq30	Chilvers Coton 'C' ware, 1300-1500, 3 sherds, 23g
STE01	Late English stoneware, 1750 onwards, 9 sherds, 85g

The following wares were also noted:

E/MS	Early to middle Saxon hand-built ware, cAD450-850, moderate to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, rare red ironstone of the same size, 2 sherds, 17g
RB	Romano-British wares, 5 sherds, 46g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

All the medieval pottery dates to the 12th to 14th centuries, and is in good condition. The sherds are generally fairly large, and the group of material from pit 307 appears to be a primary deposit that mainly comprises sherds from two vessels, a large bowl which survives to a full profile, and a jar with cross-hatched combed decoration. The sherds appear reliably stratified, and there seems little doubt that there was medieval activity within the immediate vicinity of these excavations.

Four of the Romano-British pottery sherds are clearly residual. A single Romano-British sherd from ditch 807 is heavily abraded, and probably still residual but unaccompanied by medieval fabrics.

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds

Fill/cut	RB		E/MS		Sq02		CS05		Sq30		MB02		MANG		STE01		MGW		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
104/105	1	24	-	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
106/107	1	8	-	-	2	21	-	-	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14thC
206/208	1	7	-	-	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
211/298	1	5	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E/MS
212/213	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	34	19thC
303/307	-	-	-	-	5	70	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14thC
304/307	-	-	-	-	18	462	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
404/405	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	9	85	4	11	-	19thC
606/607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	L17th C
806/807	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RB??
916/917	-	-	1	10	1	15	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
1007/ 1008	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
Total	5	46	2	17	30	595	3	38	3	23	2	5	1	9	9	85	7	45		

7.2 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman

One sherd of roof tile, 17mm thick and weighing 100g, comes from ditch 405. The tile sherd is made from hard coarse sandy red clay with a few flint and sub-rounded gravel inclusions up to 5mm wide. The upper surface is black, possibly for decorative purposes.

One tiny sherd, made from fine silty pale orange and white clay and weighing 3g, comes from pit 307. This could be from a medieval handmade brick, or more likely it is a fragment of fired clay.

Both sherds are consistent with material used in the medieval to the early post-medieval periods.

8 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Faunal remains by Philip Armitage

This report presents the results of an analysis of a small assemblage of animal bones recovered from medieval contexts. The 42 bones recovered are mammalian, representing domestic horse, cattle, sheep and pig. No wild species are present. Tables 3-4 provide details of the identified specimens present (NISP) for each species in each context.

Table 3: Summary counts of the numbers of identified specimens (NISP)

Fill/cut	horse	cattle	sheep/goat	pig	cattle size	sheep/goat size	frags	Totals
104/105	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
106/107	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	4
204/205	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
206/208	1	1	1	-	3	-	3	9
304/307	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
306/307	-	1	3	-	-	5	-	9
404/405	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
606/607	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
704/705	-	1	3	-	-	-	3	7
916/917	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
1007/1008	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Totals	3	5	12	1	5	9	7	42

Identifications were made using the author's modern comparative osteological collections. Although no positive identifications of goat were made and all elements with diagnostic features are those of sheep (Boessneck *et al* 1964). There remains a possibility of a few unrecognised goats among the broken elements. All ovicaprid material in this report is therefore referenced as sheep/goat, except where specific mention is made to positively identified sheep elements.

Measurements (mm) were taken on selected elements using Draper dial callipers (calibrated to 0.02mm); following the system of von den Driesch (1976).

Results

Preservation

Overall, preservation is good, apart from a piece of cattle-sized long bone shaft that exhibits evidence of weathering, erosion and leaching. However, the brittle nature of the material has resulted in a high degree of fragmentation in the smaller more fragile bones and in the isolated/loose teeth. The damage appears to have been done during the post-deposition of these elements. Even the more robust bones such as the horse hoof core from ditch 405 also exhibit evidence of post-depositional attrition and damage through abrasion.

Table 4: Descriptions of the elements from the contexts

Fill	Identification
104/1051	cattle-sized piece of long bone shaft
106/1071	cattle upper molar tooth
	1 sheep upper molar tooth
	2 sheep/goat-sized pieces of long bone shaft
204/2051	pig femur shaft, spiral fractured
	1 sheep/goat-sized fragment of long bone shaft
206/2081	horse scapula, piece of blade/spine
	1 cattle scapula, piece of blade/spine
	1 sheep/goat tibia shaft
	3 cattle-sized bone fragments (indeterminate)
	3 scrappy mammal bone fragments (indeterminate)
304/3071	sheep/goat-sized long bone shaft, in several pieces
306/3071	cattle long bone shaft piece
	3 right lower molar teeth: M1, M2 & M3, from the same animal, teeth wear stage G indicating age at death of 4 to 6 years (criteria of Payne 1973)
	5 sheep/goat-sized bone fragments (indeterminate)
404/4051	horse first phalanx, there is slight exostoses on both the lateral and medial aspects of the mid shaft. Measurements (mm): greatest length (GL) 97.1, proximal breadth (Bp) 65.5, minimum shaft width (SD) 43.6, distal breadth (Bd) 52.3
	1 horse third phalanx (hoof core)
	1 sheep atlas vertebra, chopped through sagittally – evidence of butchery
606/607	scrappy fragments of a sheep/goat cheek tooth
704/7051	cattle upper premolar tooth, very fragmented
	2 sheep upper molar teeth
	1 sheep distal femur shaft pieces, distal epiphysis unfused/detached
	3 very small, scrappy mammal bone fragments (indeterminate)
916/9171	cattle atlas vertebra, fragment
	1 sheep lower third molar, wear stage G indicating age at death 4 to 6 years
1007/	1 sheep/goat rib blade
1008	1 sheep/goat long bone shaft piece
	1 cattle-sized long bone shaft fragment, weathered/eroded/leached

Interpretation

Although the equid first and third phalanges from fill 404 of ditch 405 could derive from a riding horse, the large size and robustness of the elements suggests they are from a draught horse. In comparison with the size of other medieval specimens, the first phalanx from Bishops Itchington is notably larger and directly comparable in size with those of modern shire horses. The remaining bones from Bishops Itchington derive from domestic livestock and are waste from the slaughter and consumption of these animals.

8.2 Charred plant remains by Val Fryer

Excavation recorded a limited number of features of probable 12th to 14th century date, which were closely associated with the adjacent medieval settlement. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a pit cut into a ditch terminal belonging to one of the medieval closes (fill 304 of pit 307, sample 1) and from the fill of a principal boundary ditch of a close set behind any properties on the north-west side of the medieval high street (fill 1007 of ditch 1008, sample 2).

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots and seeds were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common weeds and grassland herbs were present at a low to moderate density within both assemblages. Preservation was generally quite poor, with both cereals and seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp), barley (*Hordeum* sp) and wheat (*Triticum* sp) grains were recorded, with oats being marginally predominant. Cereal chaff was entirely absent. Seeds of common segetal weeds were also recorded, with taxa noted including corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), cornflower (*Centaurea* sp), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*). Grasses (Poaceae) and grassland herbs were present with the latter including mallow (*Malva* sp) and medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp) along with possible seeds of buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp) and yellow rattle type (*Rhinanthus* sp). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present within both assemblages, but other plant macrofossils occurred infrequently.

Although other remains were generally scarce, both assemblages contained very high densities of vitreous globules and concretions. Such remains are frequently indicative of the extremely high temperature combustion of silica rich materials like grass and straw, although it should also be noted that they could possibly be a residue from nearby industrial or craft activities.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The assemblage from pit 307 would appear to be quite complex. Oats are predominant, and although this is somewhat unusual for contexts of medieval date, a similar and near contemporary deposit is recorded from Dragon Hall, Norwich (Fryer 2005). Due to the lack of diagnostic floret bases, it is not possible to ascertain whether the grains from the current sample are from a wild or cultivated variety, but as most specimens are large and well formed, it is thought most likely that they are from the latter. Although oats (along with other cereals) were often toasted for human consumption, they were also a common component of animal fodder and are frequently seen within deposits of cereal processing waste. It is currently unclear which, if any, of these interpretations may apply to the Bishops Itchington material; the cereal grains may well be derived from materials accidentally spilled during culinary preparation, and although cereal processing waste does appear to be present in the form of large seeds, which would have been removed from the grain immediately prior to use, there may also be components of hay and/or fodder. To add to the complexity of this assemblage, all of these materials could be

found in both agricultural/pastoral and domestic contexts, as cereal processing debris was commonly used as tinder, kindling or fuel, and grassland herbs would have been utilised as flooring or bedding. In short, the composition of this assemblage probably indicates that it is derived from mixed refuse including domestic waste, possible agricultural/pastoral detritus and residues in the form of the vitreous material, from one or more episodes of very high temperature combustion. The quantity of the latter material is extremely unusual, and its significance has yet to be fully understood.

The assemblage from ditch 1008 is essentially the same as that from pit 307, although significantly lower density of material is recorded. This would appear to indicate that waste materials from a similar source to those within the pit fill were being distributed across a wide area, either as deliberately scattered refuse or accidentally as features were re-dug or re-used.

Although the assemblage from pit 307 contains a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), analysis at this stage would provide very little additional data to that already contained within this assessment. This data should be combined with any further samples recovered from the site.

9 CONCLUSION

The features that were excavated were almost exclusively those of boundary ditches, most of which were substantial enough to be identifiable on the geophysical survey, which is also consistent with the historic landscape characterisation of the site as having been occupied by paddocks and closes. There was no clear indication of the presence of structures, and only trench 9 produced evidence for postholes. These postholes aligned with a short gully joining to one of the boundary ditches and could well have been part of a fence line dividing the closes. There were few artefacts associated with the trench, which did not stand out significantly from the rest of the site overall, and which does not seem to contain sufficient material to suggest domestic waste disposal at a level expected from household waste. The closes seem to lie in close proximity to, but not necessarily immediately adjacent to, such activity and are more likely to be agricultural, probably medieval pasture.

Trenches 2-3 contained pits cut into, or next to, the boundary of the close. Examination of the contents from one of these pits, 307, indicated a 12th-century deposit containing broken pottery, one sheep/goat bone fragment and a sizable dump of charred grains dominated by oats and other fodder-type seeds. This is also consistent with the use of the closes as paddocks for livestock.

The preservation across the site is uneven, trenches 9-11 on the lower slope, in the south of the site, contained features with less truncation and better definition. This is the only part of the site where smaller features survived, although in poor condition. There was also a greater density of features, perhaps associated with a small corral depicted upon the geophysical survey. By comparison, features on the upper part of the slope, particularly trenches 5-6, were shallower and less well defined, although principal boundaries remained substantial (trenches 2-3). The imbalance of preservation is almost certainly the product of ploughing in recent centuries, which has had an impact on the whole of the site, and the distribution of topsoil has shifted south to create a protective overburden.

Dating of the pottery indicates that there is a low level of Romano-British material, but nothing from a secure contemporary context. Such material is likely to be from manuring scatters rather than occupation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albarella, U, Beech, M, and Mulville, J, 1997 *The Saxon, medieval and post-medieval mammal and bird bones excavated 1989-91 from Castle Mall, Norwich, Norfolk*, English Heritage, AML report **72/97**

AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archive Forum

Armitage, P L, 1977 *The mammalian remains from the Tudor site of Baynard's Castle, London: A biometrical and historical analysis*, PhD Thesis, Royal Holloway College & British Museum

Baxter, I L, 1996 Medieval and early post-medieval horse bones from Market Harborough, Leicestershire, *The Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology*, **11 (2)**, 65-79

Boessneck, J, Müller, H H, and Teichert, M, 1964 Osteologische Unterscheidungsmerkmale zwischen Schaf (*Ovis aries* Linné) und Ziege (*Capra hircus* Linné), *Kühn-Archiv*, **78**, H1-2

Brown, J, 2013 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological field evaluation at Station Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Cooper, N J, (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester/English Heritage, **13**

Daulby, M, and Baker, P, 2003 *An early 20th-century horse skeleton from Whitby, North Yorkshire*, English Heritage Centre for Archaeology, report **8/2003**

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

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, English Heritage

EH 2008 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, PPN3: Archaeological excavation*, English Heritage

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to Theory and Practice for Methods, from sampling to post-excavation*, English Heritage

Fryer, V, 2005 Macrofossil and biological remains, in A Shelley 2005, 170-173

IfA 2008a *Standard and guidance for field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2008b *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust

NA 2011 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Payne, S, 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Aşvan Kale, *Anatolian Studies*, **XXIII**, 281-303

Ratkai, S, and Soden, I, in archive *Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval pottery type-series*, Warwickshire Museum

Salzman, L F, 1951 *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6, Knightlow Hundred*, Victoria County History, 121-4

Shelley, A, 2005 Dragon Hall, King Street, Norwich: Excavations and survey of a late medieval merchant's trading complex, *East Anglian Archaeology*, **112**

Stace, C, 1997 *New flora of the British Isles*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press

von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin, **1**

Walford, J, 2012 *Archaeological geophysical survey of land at Station Road, Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology, report **12/211**

Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, United Kingdom Institute of Conservation

Watt, S, (ed) 2011 *The archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research*, University of Birmingham, Oxbow

WCC 2012 *Generic archaeological fieldwork guidelines*, Warwickshire County Council

Wear, S L, 2001 *Conditions for the acceptance of archaeological archives*, Warwickshire Museum

Northamptonshire Archaeology
A service of Northamptonshire County Council

31 July 2013

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.30m thick	-
102	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	-
103	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
104	fill of 105	firm mid-brownish silty clay, frequent large rounded stones	-	pot, bone
105	gully	narrow with ragged sides and uneven base	0.53m wide 0.17m deep	-
106	fill of 107	firm dark brown silty clay loam, moderate charcoal flecks	-	pot, bone
107	ditch recut	near vertical sides and rounded base	1.60m wide 0.80m deep	-
108	fill of 109	firm mid-brown silty clay loam with infrequent grit and charcoal flecks	-	-
109	ditch	profile largely truncated by ditch 107	not measurable	-

STATION ROAD, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON

Trench 2				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.30m thick	-
202	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.50m thick	-
203	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
204	fill of 205	firm mid-brown silty clay	-	bone
205	pit	steep 45° sloping sides and uneven base	1.50m wide 0.70m deep	-
206	fill of 208	firm mid-brown silty clay	-	pot, bone
207	fill of 208	firm mid-yellowish brown clay silt	-	-
208	ditch	steep sides with narrow flat channel towards the base	1.40m wide 0.80m deep	-
209	fill of 210	firm mid-brownish grey silty clay	-	-
210	ditch recut	broad, gently sloping, rounded sides and flat base	2.00m wide 0.74m deep	-
211	fill of 208	firm mid-brown clay silt with charcoal flecks	-	pot
212	fill of 213	firm mid-greyish brown silty clay loam	-	pot
213	ditch	V-shaped cut with 45° sides and narrow flat base	0.64m wide 0.28m deep	-

Trench 3				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.40m thick	-
302	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.12m thick	-
303	fill of 307	friable dark brown silty clay loam	-	pot
304	fill of 307	loose black silty clay loam	-	pot, bone, sample 1
305	void	-	-	-
306	fill of 307	friable orange-brown silty clay loam, occasional large stones	-	?brick, bone
307	pit	steep 80° sloping sides with a broad flattish base	1.80m wide 1.0m deep	-
308	fill of 309	friable mid-brownish clay silt with orange mottling	-	-
309	ditch	straight 45° sloping sides and a narrow flat base	0.70m wide 0.22m deep	-

Trench 4				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.34m thick	-
402	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	-
403	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
404	fill of 405	firm light brownish-grey silty clay	-	pot, tile, bone
405	ditch	not excavated	not recorded	C20th pottery
406	fill of 407	firm light greyish-orange silty clay mottled with iron salts	-	-
407	gully	narrow V-shaped cut	0.48m wide 0.16m deep	-

Trench 5				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.38m thick	-
502	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.21m thick	-
503	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
504	fill of 505	friable light orange with mid-brown and grey mottling	-	-
505	pit/ditch	steep sloping sides and a narrow flat base	0.94m wide 0.41m deep	-

Trench 6				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.34m thick	-
602	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.18m thick	-
603	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
604	fill of 605	friable mid-brown silty clay with orange mottling	-	-
605	ditch	roughly U-shaped cut	0.63m wide 0.21m deep	-
606	fill of 607	friable mid-brown silty clay with orange mottling	-	pot, bone
607	ditch	steep sides and U-shaped cut	1.10m wide 0.60m deep	-

Trench 7				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.42m thick	-
702	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	-
703	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
704	fill of 705	friable mid-brown clay loam	-	bone
705	gully	steep sides, curved towards a pointed base	0.44m wide 0.28m deep	-
706	fill of 707	friable light brownish-orange clay loam	-	-
707	gully	steep sides, curved towards a pointed base	0.50m wide 0.30m deep	-
708	fill of 709	friable mid-brown loam	-	-
709	ditch	45° sloping sides and a narrow flat base	0.83m wide 0.39m deep	-

Trench 8				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.30m thick	-
802	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.22m thick	-
803	natural	orange clay, frequent stone and flint	-	-
804	fill of 805	friable mid-brown clay silt	-	-
805	ditch recut	broad and shallow with slightly rounded base	0.66m wide by 0.21m deep	-
806	fill of 807	friable mid-brown clay silt	-	pot
807	ditch	broad and shallow with slightly rounded base	1.30m wide by 0.34m deep	-
808	fill of 809	firm mid-brownish-grey silty clay	-	-
809	gully	narrow rounded scoop	0.40m wide by 0.16m deep	-
810	fill of 811	firm mixed mid-brownish-grey and orange silty clay with charcoal flecks	-	-
811	ditch	steep sloping sides and a narrow flat base	0.90m wide by 0.40m deep	-

Trench 9				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.45m thick	-
902	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	-
903	fill of 904	firm dark brownish-grey silty clay loam	-	-
904	posthole	circular with shallow rounded profile	0.43m wide 0.15m deep	-
905	fill of 906	firm dark brownish-grey silty clay loam with infrequent stones	-	-
906	posthole	circular with dish-like profile	0.48m wide 0.07m deep	-
907	fill of 909	compact dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-
908	fill of 909	compact mid-greyish brown clay silt with orange clay patches	-	-
909	ditch	shallow U-shaped dish profile	1.88m wide 0.26m deep	-
910	fill of 911	firm mottled yellowish-orange and brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	-	-
911	ditch	steep sides 45-50° and broad flat base	1.10m wide 0.38m deep	-
912	fill of 913	firm dark grey silty clay loam, frequent burnt stones & root disturbances	-	-
913	gully	steep sloping sides and narrow flat base	0.38m wide 0.23m deep	-
914	fill of 915	light mottled orange-brown clay silt, few small pebbles	-	-
915	ditch	gentle 30-45° sloping sides with a broad flat base	0.90m wide by 0.06m deep	-
916	fill of 917	firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with few large stones	-	pot, bone
917	ditch	U-shaped profile heavily disturbed by ancient root activity	1.45m wide 0.40m deep	-

Trench 10				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.40m thick	-
1002	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.20m thick	-
1003	fill of 1006	firm greyish-green silty clay	-	-
1004	fill of 1005	firm mottled greyish-brown and green silty clay	-	-
1005	ditch	V-shaped cut	not measurable	-
1006	ditch recut	V-shaped cut, slightly asymmetrical	1.08m wide 0.50m deep	-
1007	fill of 1008	firm light brown silty clay, few stones	-	pot, bone, sample 2
1008	ditch recut	steep 45-60° sloping sides and a narrow flattish base	1.10m wide 0.54m deep	-
1009	fill of 1010	firm mid-brown silty clay, occasional stones	-	-
1010	ditch	steep 45-60° sloping sides and a narrow flattish base	1.08m wide 0.51m deep	-

Trench 11				
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	topsoil	firm dark grey-brown clay loam	0.35m thick	-
1102	subsoil	light brown sandy clay	0.18m thick	-
1103	fill of 1105	firm orange-brown silty clay loam	-	-
1104	fill of 1105	firm light orange-brown silty clay with mottling	-	-
1105	ditch	steep sloping sides and a broad rounded base	1.05m wide 0.35m deep	-
1106	fill of 1107	firm brownish-yellow clay silt with chalky flecks	-	-
1107	ditch	gently sloping sides and a broad flat base	0.80m wide 0.16m deep	-
1108	fill of 1113	firm dark greyish-brown clay silt with charcoal flecks	-	-
1109	fill of 1113	firm light yellowish-orange clay with chalky flecks	-	-
1110	fill of 1112	firm dark reddish-grey brown silty clay	-	-
1111	fill of 1112	firm brownish-yellow clay silt with chalky flecks	-	-
1112	ditch	broad with slightly uneven gently sloping sides at 45° with a broad flat base	2.55m wide 0.60m deep	-
1113	ditch recut	similar to 1112, smoother and shallower	1.74m wide 0.45m deep	-



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology



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



Northamptonshire
County Council