



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological investigation at
Brookfield, Barnack Road
Bainton, Peterborough
January 2011



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Report 11/45
February 2011



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough
Trial trench evaluation had identified a large pit and a posthole, dated by pottery to the 10th/11th centuries AD, within the area of the former farmyard. An undated ditch and two gullies, which may be of a similar date, were also encountered. Further investigation of the area to the south of the farmyard, comprising the strip and map excavation of an area of c 600m ² , encountered no evidence for archaeological remains, other than a modern boundary or drainage ditch that predated the construction of the farm buildings in the mid-20th century.	
Project type	Strip and map excavation
Site status	None
Previous work	Desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation (Foard-Colby 2011)
Current land use	Farmyard
Future work	None
Monument type/period	Late Saxon/medieval activity
Significant finds	10th/11th-century pottery (evaluation only)
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Peterborough
Site address	Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton
Study area	c 600 m ²
OS Easting & Northing	509356 305966
Height OD	c 17m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service
Project Design originator	Simon Carlyle (NA)
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke (NA)
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (NA)
Sponsor or funding body	Ross Thain and Co Ltd
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	21/1/2011
End date	24/1/2011
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	Accession no: -
Archive contents	Site records (1 small archive box), 1 CD of digital images, client report and mapping files
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	Archaeological investigation at Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough
Serial title & volume	11/45
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT
BROOKFIELD, BARNACK ROAD
BAINTON, PETERBOROUGH
JANUARY 2011**

Abstract

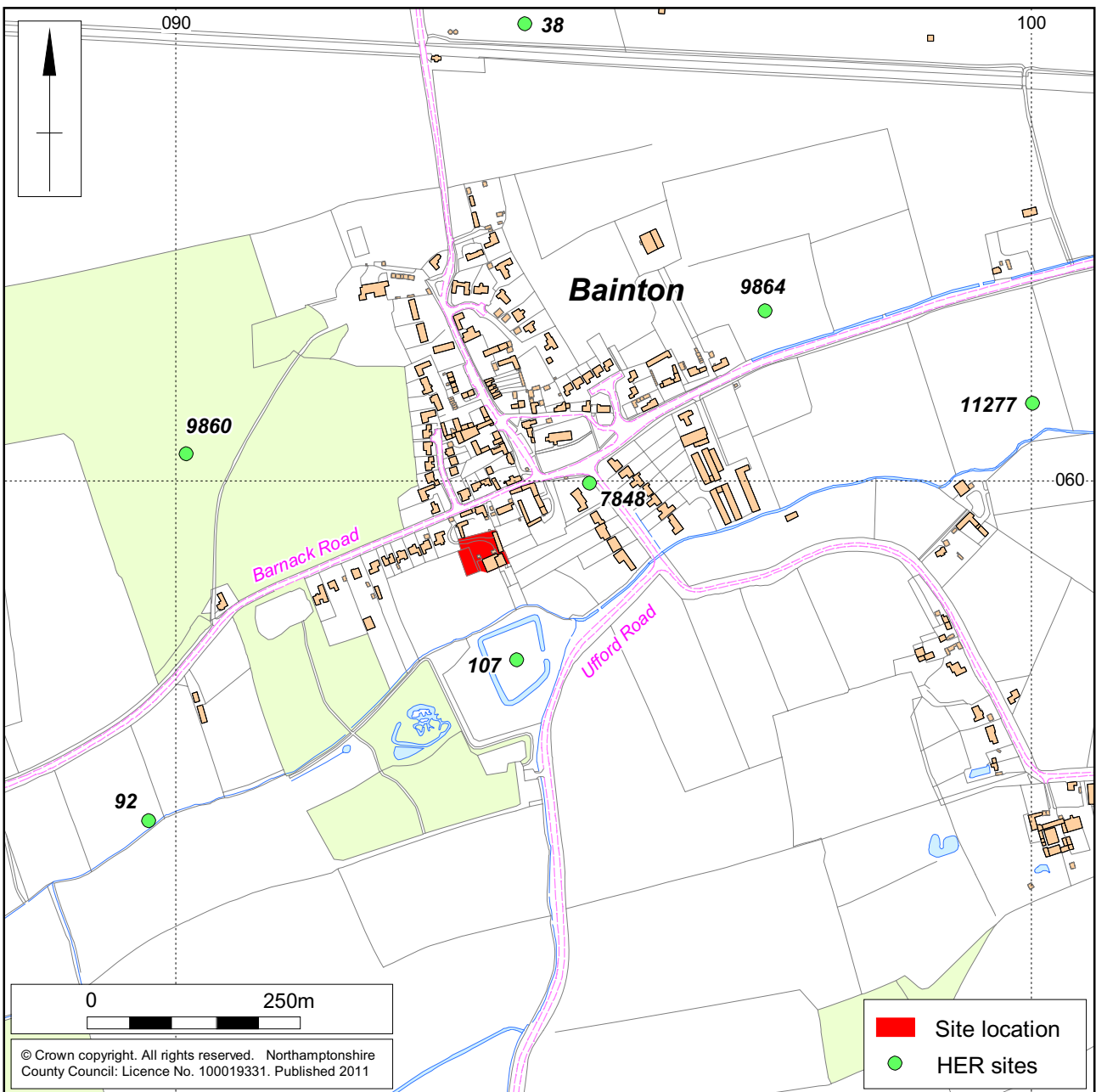
Between December 2010 and January 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and mitigation works on a plot of land off Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough. The trial trench evaluation had identified a large pit and a posthole, dated by pottery to the 10th/11th centuries AD. An undated ditch and two gullies, which may be of a similar date, were also encountered. Following consultation with Peterborough City Council's Archaeological Service and the developer, Ross Thain and Co Ltd, the decision was made to investigate the area of the footprint of the proposed building. This area, which had previously been occupied by barns and other farm buildings until their recent demolition, was located immediately to the south and east of the remains identified in the evaluation trenches. Four roughly rectangular blocks of land, with a combined area of c 600m², were stripped under archaeological supervision. No archaeological remains were encountered within these areas and the only feature was a modern boundary or drainage ditch that predated the construction of the farm buildings in the mid-20th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2011, a strip and map excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on a plot of land at Brookfield, Barnack Road, Bainton, Peterborough (NGR: TF 09356 05966; Fig 1). The work followed on from a desk-based assessment and archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site that were carried by NA in December 2010 (Foard-Colby 2011). The work was commissioned by Ross Thain and Co Ltd and was undertaken prior to the construction of a new two-storey dwelling with associated outbuildings.

The evaluation had identified evidence for late Saxon/medieval activity in the area of the former farmyard, so at the request of Peterborough City Council's Archaeological Service further archaeological investigation was required, in accordance with the condition attached to the planning consent. The scope of works for the strip and map excavation was outlined in the brief issued by PCCAS (2011) and detailed in the project design prepared by NA (2011). The investigation aimed to:

- provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all uncovered archaeological remains, and to define the sequence and character of activity at the site,
- interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context.



Scale 1:7,500

Site location and Historic Environment Record (HER) sites Fig 1

This report, which presents the results of the strip and map excavation, has been prepared to meet the requirements of Appendix 4 of the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991), relevant sections of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment MoRPHE* (EH 2006), and appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

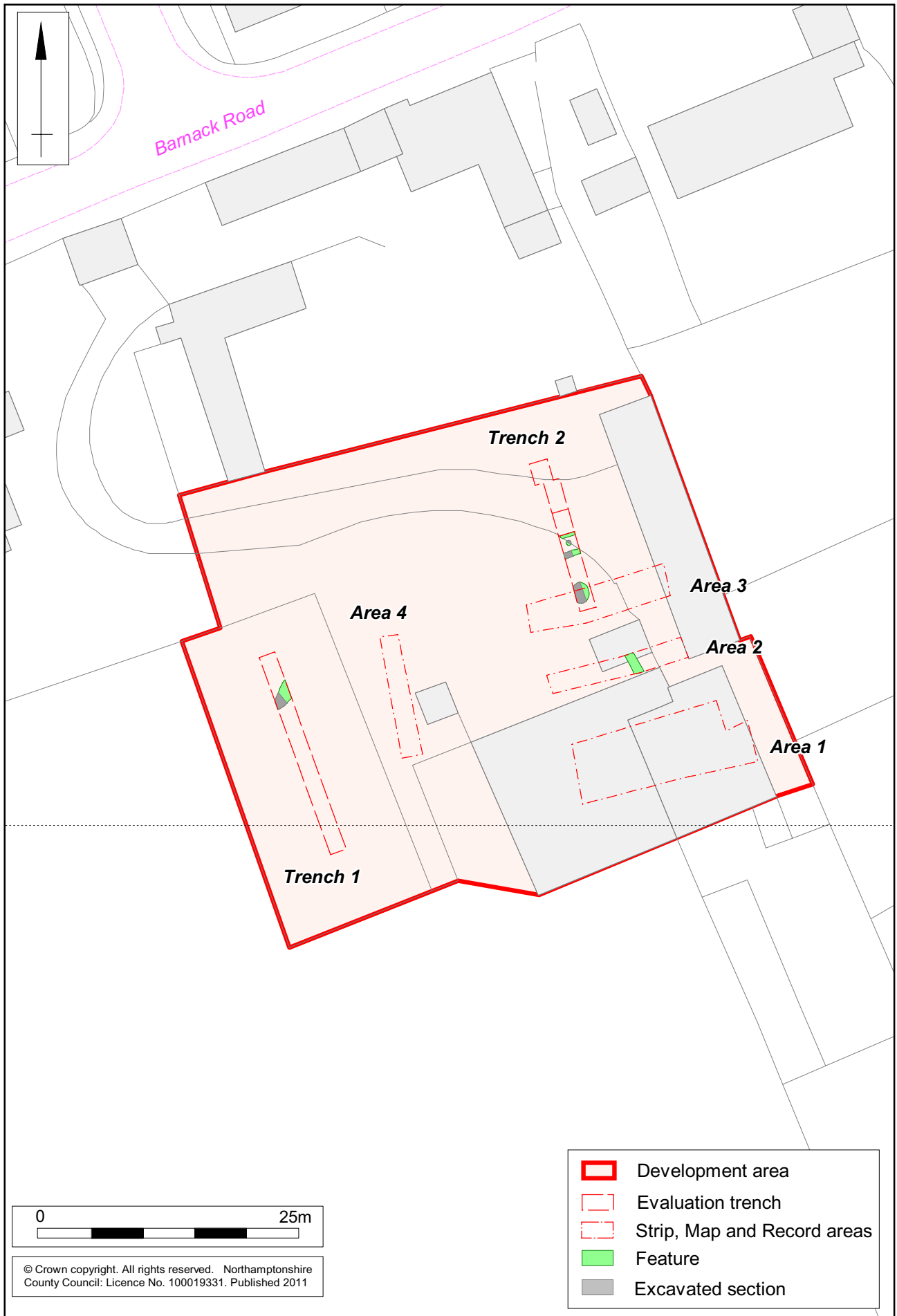
The village of Bainton lies c 6.4km to the east of Stamford, on low-lying ground (c 17m aOD) at the southern edge of the floodplain of the River Welland. The site lies within the historic core of the village, to the south of Barnack Road and approximately 90m to the north of a small stream that flows roughly eastwards from springs that rise in the vicinity of the limestone escarpment at Barnack. The site was, until recently, occupied by farm buildings surrounding a farm yard and a tennis court, but these have since been demolished prior to redevelopment.

The underlying geology comprises Kellaways Clay, with Oxford Clay immediately to the south (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>). The soils on the site belong to the Badsey 2 (511i) Soil Association, comprising well-drained, calcareous, fine loamy soils over limestone gravel, which are variably affected by groundwater (SSEW 1983).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

Research undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment (Foard-Colby 2011) identified a range of archaeological sites and historic buildings in the vicinity of the development area. The Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted and a search was also undertaken of the National Monument Record (NMR) held by English Heritage. There are no nationally designated sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Conservation Areas) within the development area.

There are extensive prehistoric and Roman remains recorded in the vicinity (Fig 1). To the north of the village there is a large, multi-period settlement that encompasses an area of 172ha (HER 38). The cropmarks include enclosures, ring ditches and linear features. In particular, aerial photography has identified an interrupted ring ditch, a possible henge and cursus, and a timber building with ten parallel foundation trenches. Small scale excavations revealed a large basilican building of the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Further enclosures and ring ditches have been identified from aerial photographs in the fields immediately to the east of the village (HER 9864 and 11277), and a Bronze Age chisel was found 0.8km to the south-west (HER 92). Within the village, c 150m to the east of the development site, three flint scrapers were recovered in Ufford Road (HER 7848).



Scale 1:500

Location of trial trenches and excavation areas Fig 2

Badington is mentioned in a Saxon document of about 980 but the village was not mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. Furthermore, although Peterborough Abbey held land in the parish this was not mentioned in descriptions of the possessions of the abbey sent to the king in the 1120s. However, by 1148 two parts of the tithes of Richard Salide de Badington were confirmed to the abbey by Pope Eugenius.

Bainton does not appear to have ever been a separate manor but held as part of Torpel manor, which also extended into Maxey, Barnack and Helpston and most of Ufford and Ashton parishes. Torpel manor was also not mentioned in the Domesday Book and it seems likely that the name originated with the first holders (VCH 1906). The manor was first mentioned in 1198, when Roger de Torpel created a park of about 60 acres, enclosing woods of Torpel, La Hage, Ravenesland and Cnihtecroft. It was disparked by 1554.

The site of the manor has been identified at the end of West Road, Helpston (but actually lying within Bainton parish). The remains comprise a motte and bailey and a series of adjoining enclosures, possibly the remains of the hamlet noted in 1276. A further stone building to the east may have been a later manor house replacing the earlier motte and bailey. The manorial seat may have moved here in the 14th century when the last mention of the village occurs. Lolham Mill, which lies just within the parish of Bainton, was also part of the Torpel manor.

A medieval moated site lies directly to the south of the site (HER 107). Nothing is known of its history, but moated sites were commonly constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries and usually contained a range of buildings. Often manorial in origin, they may also have been constructed by wealthier peasants. The HER records that a farmer recalled removing a considerable quantity of rough stonework in about 1955; it may be that the stonework was the remains of buildings. The entire moat circuit appears to have been re-excavated in about 1988. Further medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow are present to the west of the village (HER 9860).

3 EXCAVATION RESULTS

3.1 Excavation methodology

The investigation comprised the strip and map excavation of four blocks of land (Areas 1 to 4), with a combined area of c 600m², in the locations agreed with PCCAS at the site meeting held on 24th January 2011 (Fig 2). The overburden was mechanically stripped, under archaeological supervision, using a toothless bucket to reveal archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. The stripped surface was examined and where necessary cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features. A survey grade Global Positioning System (GPS) was used to produce a base plan of archaeological features within the investigation area.

Recording followed standard procedures, as detailed in Northamptonshire Archaeology's *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). All archaeological deposits and features were fully recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Hand-drawn plans and sections were produced at an appropriate scale and a photographic record was

maintained using 35mm colour slide and black and white film, supplemented with digital images. Spoil heaps and the stripped surfaces were scanned with a metal detector to maximise metal finds retrieval.

The works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (1995, revised 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (1985, revised 2010). In addition, all works complied with the guidelines detailed in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2002).

3.2 General stratigraphy

The original ground surface had been heavily disturbed during the demolition of the farm buildings and vehicle ruts caused by moving plant were evident across the site. As a consequence, the topsoil, subsoil and farmyard surface layers which covered the site had become very mixed and the definition between horizons was often difficult to determine (Fig 3). In addition, modern building debris had become mixed into the upper horizons and the site was criss-crossed by modern services, several of which were still live.



Area 3, representative section, looking north Fig 3

The natural substrate, which lay c 0.7m below modern ground level, was glacial till. It occurred as mid greyish-orange slightly silty clay (3) with bands and patches of sand and pebbles, and in places there was evidence of extensive root action, possibly the remains of former hedges. Overlying the glacial till was a disturbed subsoil layer, comprising brown silty clays (2), up to 0.56m thick, mixed with topsoil and building debris, including large timber posts and railway sleepers that may have come from the now-demolished barn. The topsoil, which was similarly mixed, was dark brownish-grey silt (1) with a consistent thickness of c 0.3m.

In section at the western end of Area 1 there were four successive layers of made ground, (4) to (7), including Type 1 stone chippings, which are probably the remains of floor surfaces within the former barn that stood on the site.

The late Saxon pit, previously investigated in Trench 2 of the evaluation, was noted at the northern edge of Area 3.

3.3 Modern ditch

The only feature encountered within the footprint of the building was a modern ditch, 9, in Area 2 (Figs 2 and 4). It was aligned south-east to north-west, measured 1.2m wide by up to 0.76m deep and had a steep-sided, U-shaped profile. It was filled with light grey silt (8) and contained modern glass bottles and pottery. The ditch cut the subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil.



The modern ditch, 9, (in section), looking south Fig 4

4 FINDS

4.1 The pottery by Iain Soden

Four sherds of modern pottery were recovered from the fill (8) of ditch 9. Two small sherds were of underglaze transfer printed earthenware of 19th/20th-century date. One marked sherd of white glazed earthenware was of 20th-century date; the mark (Johnson Brothers, England, with a crown) is of Johnson Brothers, of Hanley, Stoke on Trent. They began production of tablewares in 1883, but the mark is of the type they began to use from c 1913. The pottery is not of significance and may be considered for disposal.

4.2 The animal bone by Karen Deighton

A single animal bone, a cattle metacarpal (lower foreleg), was recovered from the subsoil (2). It displayed evidence of canid gnawing on the proximal epiphysis and on the distal shaft. The distal epiphysis is absent, possibly as a result of canid gnawing. No evidence for butchery is apparent. The bone appears to be a particularly large and robust specimen that could suggest a later post-medieval date, after stock improvements of the 18th and early 19th century; however, with only one bone this remains extremely conjectural.

5 DISCUSSION

The late Saxon/medieval remains identified by the evaluation in the area of the former farmyard (Foard-Colby 2011) were found, upon subsequent investigation, not to extend to the south, into the footprint of the proposed development. Given the level of disturbance in this part of the site associated with the use of the farm yard, the installation of services, and the construction of the barn and other buildings, it is likely that any archaeology, had it survived, would have been extensively truncated.

The pit and posthole identified in one of the evaluation trenches, dated by pottery to the 10th/11th centuries, appear to be the remains of peripheral, 'back yard' activity associated with settlement nearby. The ditch and gullies, although undated, may belong to the same period and form part of a system of land divisions or plots within the settlement. The village was mentioned in a document dating to AD980, so it is known that there was Saxon settlement here at the end of the 10th century.

The only feature encountered within the current investigation area was a modern ditch in Area 2, which contained 19th/early 20th-century glass bottles and pottery. The ditch was probably a drainage or boundary ditch within the former orchard. It predated the farm buildings that were constructed in the mid-20th century. Modern made-ground and floor surfaces associated with the former barn were identified in Area 1.

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