



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological mitigation works on land at
Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire
September 2013



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Report 13/209

October 2013



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: 162087	
Project title	Archaeological mitigation works on land at Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire, September 2013		
Short description	In September 2013, archaeological mitigation works were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by Midlands Developments, on land at Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire. The excavation identified a number of modern features, including quarrying and a linear gully. The gully and an adjacent spread of material probably related to an enclosure, and associated pond/structure, present on maps from the 1880s to the 1950s.		
Project type	Mitigation		
Previous work	Trial trench evaluation (Ladocha 2013)		
Current land use	Scrub/grass land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval/modern		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington		
Easting Northing	487640 264650		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.04ha		
Height aOD	c85m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha (NA)		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (NA)		
Sponsor or funding body	South Midlands Developments		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	09/09/2013		
End date	11/09/2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical		1 small box	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological mitigation works on land at Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire, September 2013		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORKS ON
LAND AT EARLS BARTON ROAD, GREAT DODDINGTON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
AUGUST 2013**

Abstract

In September 2013, archaeological mitigation works were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by Midlands Developments Ltd, on land at Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire. The excavation identified a number of modern features, including quarrying and a linear gully. The gully and an adjacent spread of material probably related to an enclosure, and associated pond/structure, present on maps from the 1880s to the 1950s.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by South Midlands Developments Ltd, on behalf of their client ASRA Housing Association, to undertake archaeological mitigation works on land adjacent to 56 Earls Barton Road, Great Doddington, Northamptonshire (NGR: 487640 264650, Fig 1). The work was undertaken as a planning condition to the development of housing on the site. The archaeological potential of the site has previously been assessed through trial trench evaluation (Ladocha 2013).

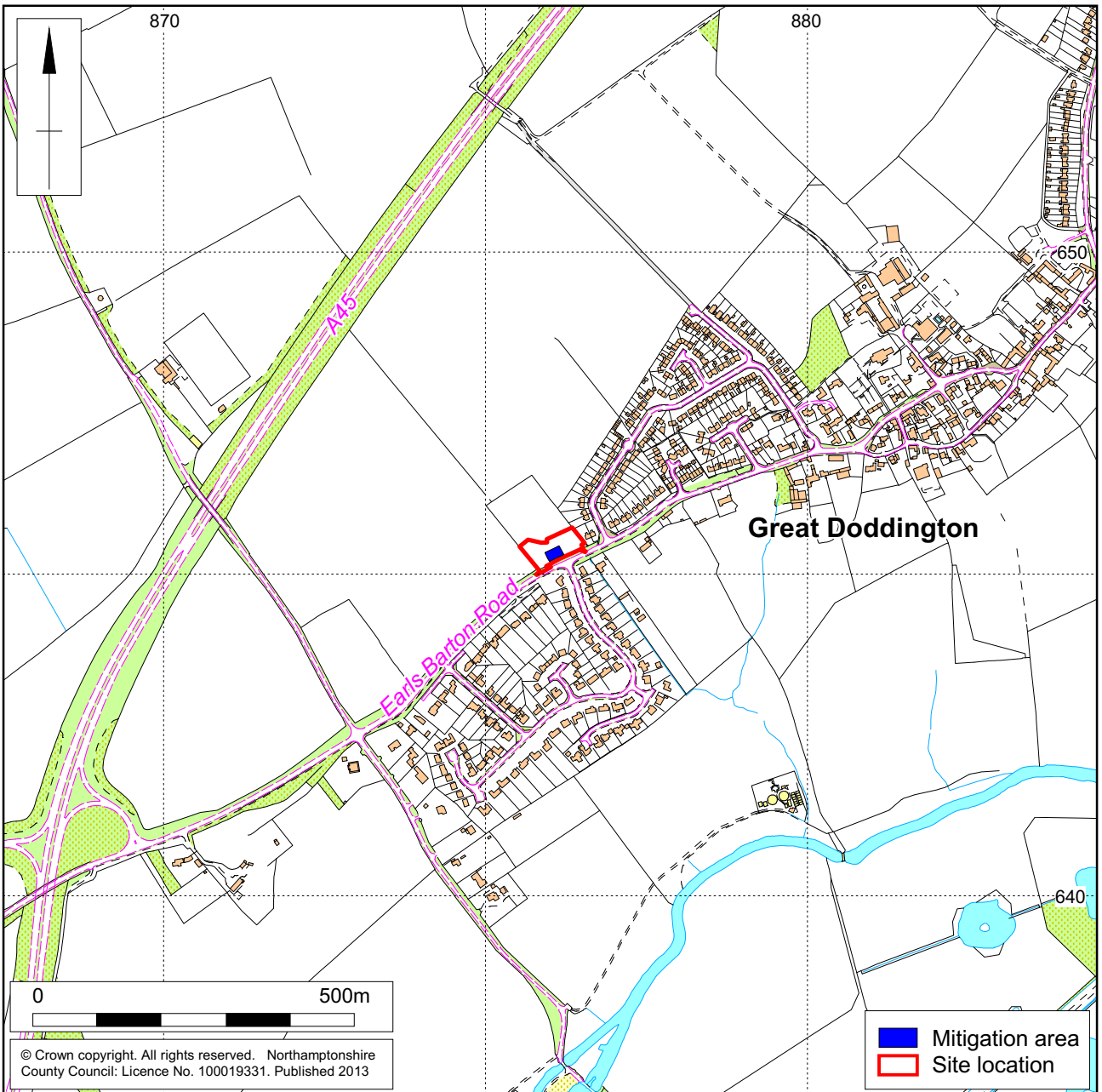
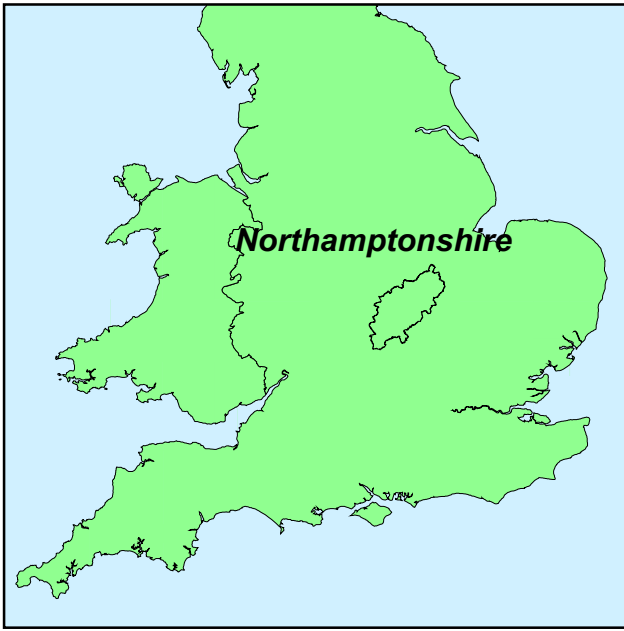
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013). Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation and all works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 2006; 2008) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a-b). The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council attended the site during the works.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The site is located towards the western end of Great Doddington, to the north of Earls Barton Road. It is currently arable farmland of which 0.34ha will be developed. The site is situated on a ridge of high ground on the south facing slope of the River Nene Valley at a height of c85m above Ordnance Datum. To the south it is bounded by Earls Barton Road, to the west and north is open farmland and to the east it is bounded by residential housing.

The geology comprises Oadby Member- Diamicton (glacial till) overlying both Wellingborough Limestone Member and Rutland Formation - Mudstone (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 2/08/13).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

There are few records of archaeological remains within the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the development area and its immediate environment. However, this is likely to reflect a general absence of modern development in the area of the village rather than a true reflection of the archaeological potential. A rectangular enclosure has been observed on aerial photographs in the field immediately to the west of the development area, but its date and function is unknown. Artefacts have been recorded from the wider area of the village from fieldwalking, including pottery of uncertain date and prehistoric worked flint.

The field, in which the development area lies, appears on maps from the 1810 Ordnance Survey map to the present day with the same overall shape. However, from the 1880s to the 1938-1952 maps the eastern corner of the field is enclosed (approximately a quarter of the overall field). On the 1938-1952 map there is a possible pond, or small structure, on the outer south-western edge of this enclosure. This feature, and the enclosure, has been overlain on current mapping in Figure 2. Any discrepancies between the two are likely due to errors in the earlier mapping and the exact coordinates taken with GPS. On the 1958 map, the enclosure has gone but the pond/structure remains. By the 1972-1977 map this pond/structure has gone and the field is as it is today.

The historic core of the village lies to the east, centred on the medieval church of St Nicholas. A number of listed buildings are recorded in the vicinity of the church in the HER.

The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed through trial trench evaluation (Ladocha 2013). Three trial trenches were excavated over the development area, all identifying evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, which were on the same alignment as the current field boundaries. A possible post-medieval ditch and a series of modern features were also identified and are likely to relate to an enclosure present on maps from the 1880s to the 1950s. A large hollow within Trench 2 coincided with a small pond/small structure seen on the 1938-52 and 1958 maps. However, the lack of modern debris in the hollow and the presence of a Roman coin meant that this area required further mitigation to determine its significance.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The general aim of the investigation was to mitigate the potential impacts from the proposed development of the site through archaeological recording, analysis and dissemination. The specific objectives, as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation, to achieve this aim were (NA 2013):

- To refine the date, nature, character and extent of the activity on the development site;
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions;
- To create an organised and indexed site archive;

- To provide analysis, interpretation and reporting of the findings from the field work.

The excavation was carried out within the parameters suggested by the published research priorities set out for the East Midlands (EH 1997; Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2012).

3.2 Methodology

An area measuring 25 x 20m (0.05ha) was identified for excavation, focussed on a hollow (203) and adjacent undated linear ditch [205] found within Trial Trench 2 (Ladocha 2013). However, this had to be reduced slightly to avoid trees along the southern boundary. The excavation area was accurately measured in and marked out using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment, operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.1m to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 2).

A JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of possible archaeological features. Deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A base plan of all deposits was produced using Leica System 1200 GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m. A photographic record was compiled using 35mm black and white film, and colour digital images.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

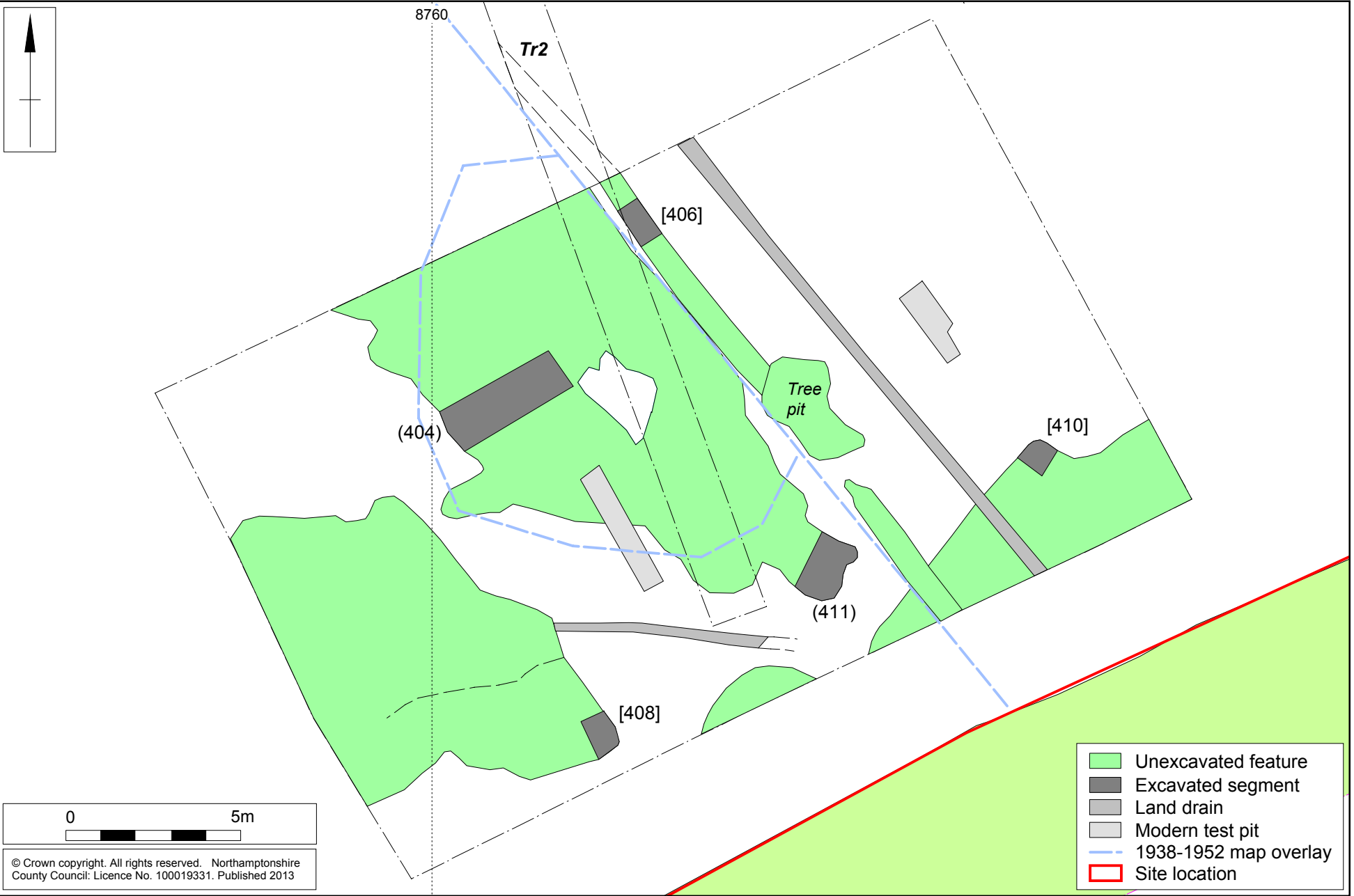
The natural substrate was light-mid orange-yellow clayey sand with occasional limestone fragment inclusions. The depth at which the natural substrate was encountered was on average 0.30m in the north of the site, increasing to 0.60m along the southern boundary.

In the south-west of the excavation area there was a large irregular-shaped pit, [408], cut into the natural substrate (Fig 2). This was steep-sided and cut through limestone resulting in an irregular profile. Pottery dated to the 19th/20th-century was recovered from its fill, (407), and as a result the feature was not fully excavated. Fill (407) was mid orange-brown loamy clay, with occasional inclusions of charcoal, limestone fragments and re-deposited natural, at least 0.33m thick. The fill in the northern half of the pit was more red-brown in colour than fill (407) but was not excavated as there was no clear boundary between the two and modern pottery was recovered from its surface (Fig 3).

Another large irregular-shaped pit, [410], was exposed in the south-eastern corner of the excavation. Pit [410] was steep-sided with a flattish base, 0.23m deep, and was filled by (409). Fill (409) was mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent limestone inclusions (Fig 4).

There was also a possible further pit, which was only partially exposed on the southern boundary of the excavation between these two pits. This was not excavated but the fill was similar to fills (407) and (409).

Scale 1:150 (A4)



Mitigation area Fig 2



Pit [408], looking north-west Fig 3



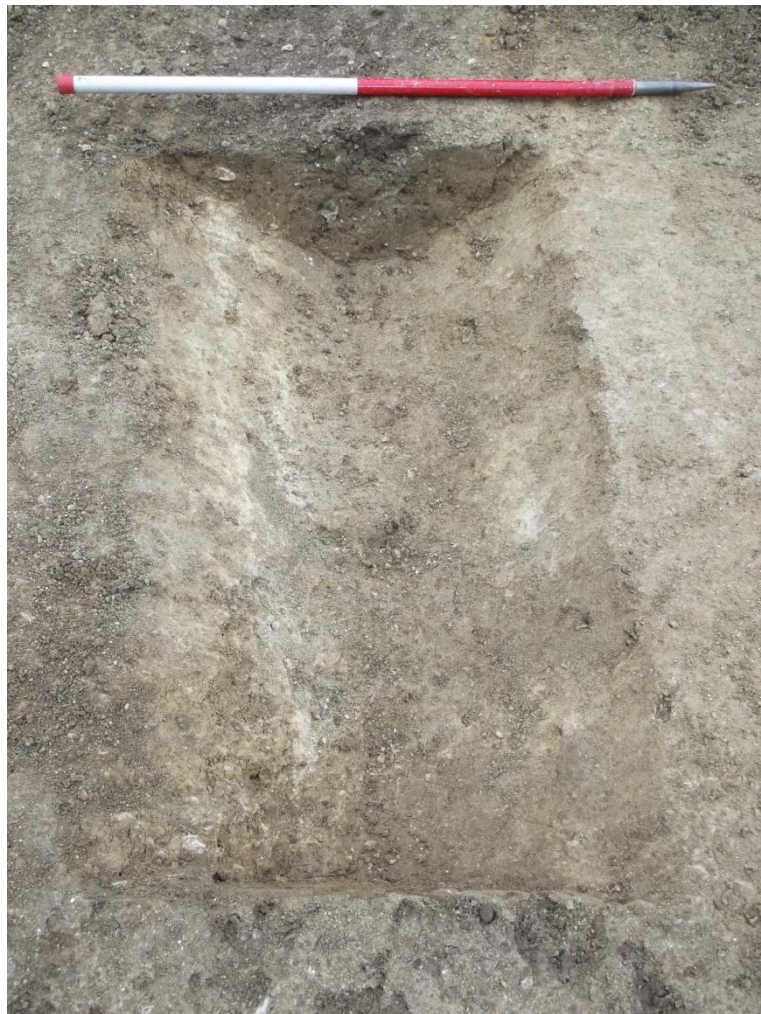
Pit [410] section, looking south-east Fig 4

Pit [410] was cut by a linear ditch, [406], aligned north-west south-east. Ditch [410] was the same feature as ditch [205], which was exposed in Trench 2 of the trial trench evaluation (Ladocha 2013). Ditch [406] had a wide U-shaped profile, 0.64m wide and 0.30m deep, with a fill of mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments (405) (Fig 5). Fill (405) only contained a brick fragment, however there was a modern iron bar noted on the surface. Ditch [406] was disturbed by a tree pit.

To the west of ditch [406] was a large irregularly shaped spread of mixed mid orange-brown and grey-brown silty clay, (404)/(411). This spread contained 19th/20th-century pottery, and was on average between 0.05-0.15m thick; however, it did thicken to 0.26m in the area of Trench 2. This spread is the same as that noted in the south of Trench 2. What was interpreted as a furrow in Trench 2 was part of this larger spread of modern material (Fig 6).

Two stone-filled land drains were also noted crossing the site, along with two modern test pits related to the proposed development.

In the south, and to a lesser extent the east, of the excavation area there was a build up of mid brown silty clay subsoil, or colluvium, up to 0.30m thick at the southern boundary (402). This was overlain by 0.30m of mid-dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil.



Ditch [406], looking north-west Fig 5



Spread (411), looking north-west Fig 6

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Post-medieval pottery and other finds by Tora Hylton

Ten sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 21.3g, were recovered from spread (404) and fill (407) of pit [408]. The sherds are small and fragmentary with an average sherd weight of 2.13g. Few display diagnostic features; therefore the fabric has been used as an indicator of date. The assemblage dates to the 19th/20th centuries.

The other finds recovered comprise three iron nails and a small fragment of green bottle glass from the surface of pit [408] and a clay tobacco-pipe stem from spread (404), the pipe stem has a bore of 7/64, suggesting an early 18th century date.

5.2 Brick and tile by Pat Chapman

A small fragment of brick, weighing 25g, comes from fill (405) of gully [406] and is probably handmade from fine sandy orange to red-brown clay. Two small fragments of ceramic roof tile, weighing 27g, come from spread (404). They are 11mm thick and made with fine silty pale orange-brown clay. The tile and brick are randomly scattered fragments, post-medieval in date.

6 DISCUSSION

The mitigation works identified a number of modern features. Pit [408] is probably a 19th/20th-century quarry pit for limestone. Pit [410], and the partially exposed pit at the southern limit of excavation, may also represent quarrying. If this is the case then the subsoil/colluvium, (402), may actually represent a spread of material to level this area of quarrying.

Gully [406] is in the right position, and alignment, to be related to the enclosure depicted on maps from 1880-1952. The spread (404)/(411) is also approximately in the right position to be related to the possible pond/small structure seen on the 1938-1952 and 1958 maps. The Roman coin found in the trial trench evaluation is therefore a residual find deposited within this larger spread of modern material.

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22 October 2013

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay	0.30m thick	
402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay subsoil, accumulated in south and east of excavation area	Up to 0.30m thick	
403	Natural	Light-mid orange-yellow clayey sand, occasional limestone fragment inclusions		
404	Spread	Large irregular-shaped spread of mid orange-brown and grey-brown silty clay	Up to 0.26m thick	19th/20th-century pottery, tile, clay tobacco pipe
405	Fill of [406]	mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments	0.64m wide 0.30m deep	Brick fragment, modern iron bar on surface
406	Gully	Linear, aligned NW-SE, U-shaped profile	0.64m wide 0.30m deep	
407	Fill of [408]	Mid orange-brown loamy clay, occasional inclusions of charcoal, limestone fragments and re-deposited natural	>0.33m thick	19th/20th-century pottery, glass, iron objects
408	Quarry pit	Large, irregular-shaped, steep but irregular profile as cut through limestone, not fully excavated	>0.33m deep	
409	Fill of [410]	Mid orange-brown silty clay, frequent limestone inclusions	0.23m thick	
410	Quarry? pit	Large, irregular-shaped, steep profile with flattish base	0.23m deep	
411	Spread	Same as 404	Same as 404	



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