



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation  
on land at the Double Four public house  
Ringway, Northampton, Northamptonshire  
January 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
County Council

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Checked by	Charlotte Walker		
Verified by	Pat Chapman		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project name	THE DOUBLE FOUR PUBLIC HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire archaeology on land at the Double Four public house (now demolished), Ringway, Northampton, Northamptonshire during January 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.
Project type	Trial Trench Evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Former car park
Future work	None
Monument type/ period	None
Significant finds	None
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	The Double Four Pub, Ringway, Northampton
OS Easting & Northing	SP 74203 59068
Area	0.5ha
Height aOD	76m
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor
Project Manager	Ed Taylor
Sponsor or funding body	VE Parrott (Oakley) Ltd
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>	
Start date	23 January 2012
End date	24 January 2012
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	
Archive location	
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (3), Col slides (6) B+C contact sheets and negs (6) digital photos (1 cd)
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Double Four Public House, Northampton, Northamptonshire
Serial title & volume	11/268
Author(s)	Edmund Taylor
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT DOUBLE FOUR PUBLIC HOUSE, RINGWAY  
NORTHAMPTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
JANUARY 2012**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire archaeology on land at the Double Four public house (now demolished), Ringway, Northampton, Northamptonshire during January 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2011 prior to the construction of new residential dwellings on land once occupied by the Double Four public house and its associated parking, Ringway, Northampton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 74203 59068; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by VE Parrott (Oakley) Ltd in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (Mordue 2011a and b). The investigation followed an approved specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012) and adhered to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The development area is located in the Briar Hill area of Northampton and until recently was occupied by the Double Four public house (now demolished) and its associated car park. The site is at the southern end of Ringway, at the roundabout junction with Rothersthorpe Road and Hunsbarrow Road. The eastern side of the site is bounded by a strip of green space which separates it from the railway line.

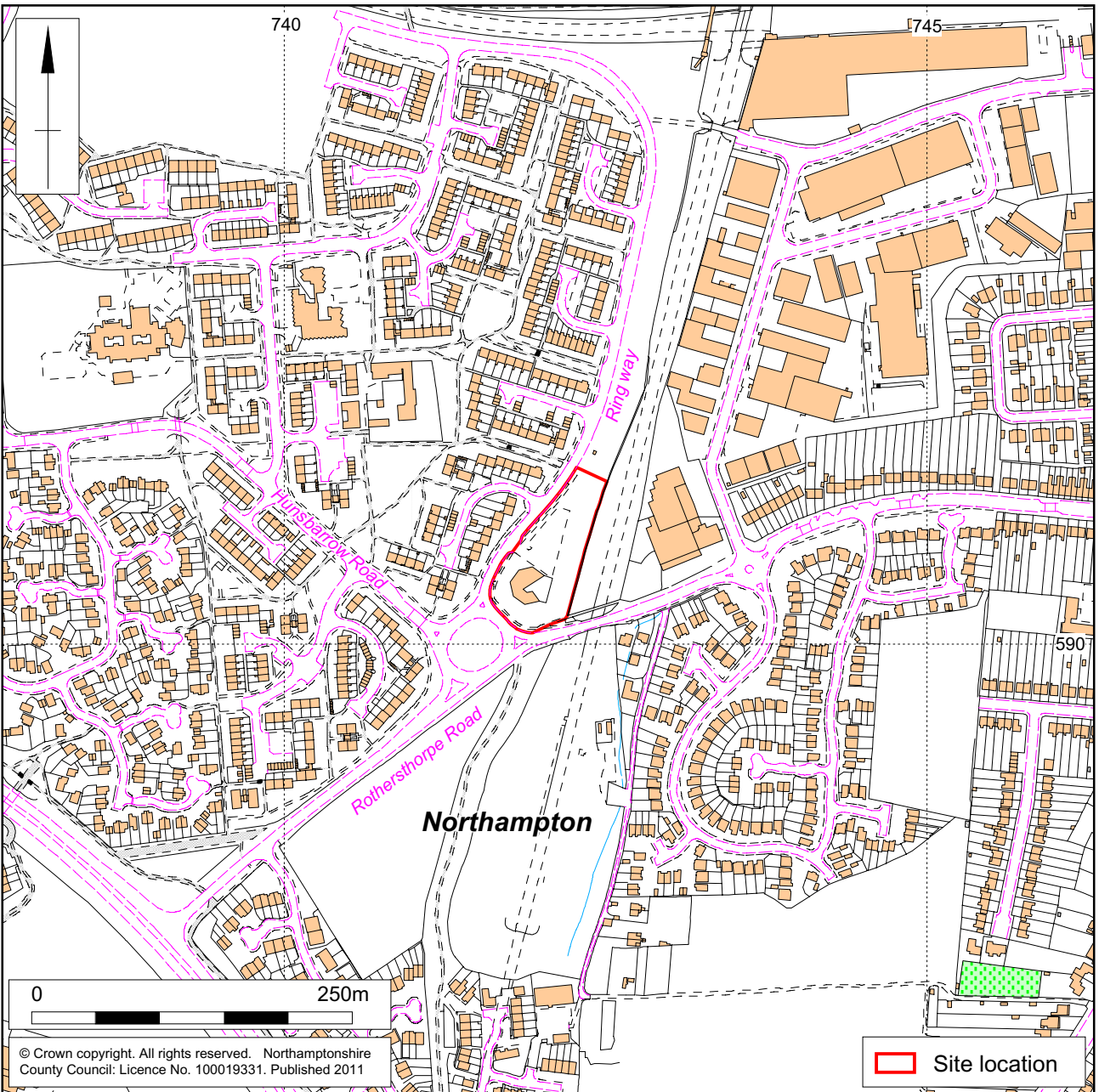
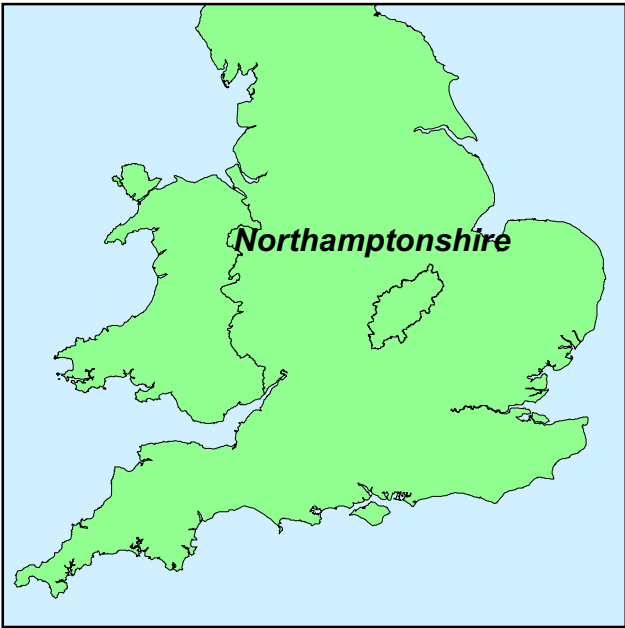
Topographically the site slopes gently from west to east and lies at a height of approximately 76m aOD

The underlying geology is mapped as ooidal ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation (BGS 2012).

### **2.2 Historical background**

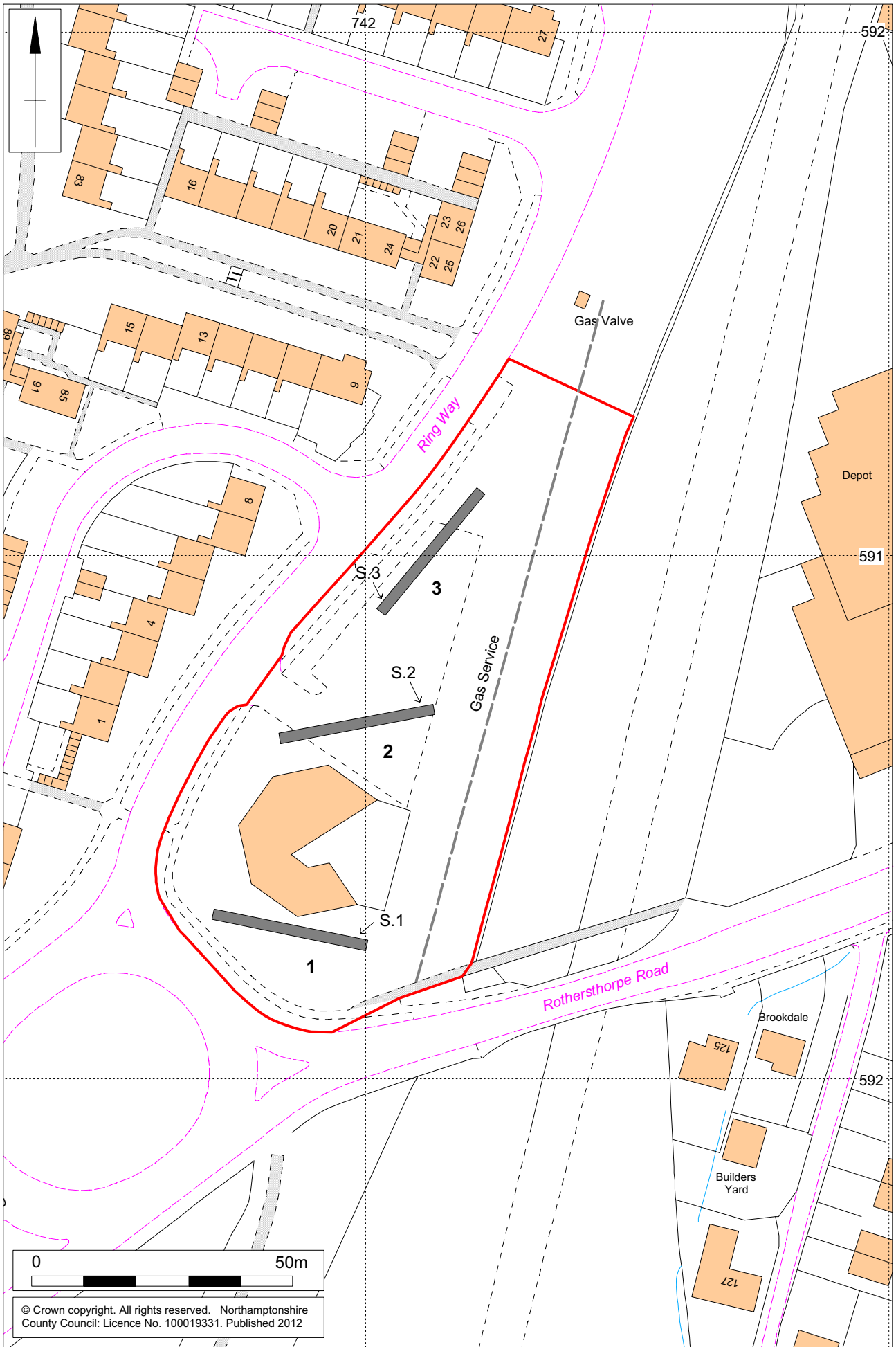
A c1km radius search of Northamptonshire's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has been undertaken. The following presents a brief summary of the notable entries.

Approximately 450m to the north-west of the site there is the Briar Hill Neolithic causewayed enclosure (MNN129426) which was excavated during the 1970s (Bamford 1985). Fieldwalking conducted in 1973, 300m to the west of the site, retrieved a number of prehistoric worked flints (MNN24819)



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000 (A4)

The excavated trenches Fig 2

A large Iron Age double ditched enclosure which was identified by aerial photography and trenched in the 1970s, lay 320m to the south-west of the site (MNN129421).

A pit alignment and other settlement features of probable Iron Age date were recorded approximately 150m to the south-west of the site during construction work in 1969 (MNN 25004) (Jackson 1974).

Romano-British activity was recorded approximately 110m to the south-east of the site during quarrying in the late 19th century. This is thought to have included a kiln (MNN25047) and a stone-lined well (MNN25046).

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the development site;
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover paleoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The trenches were positioned using a Leica System 1200 GPS and were excavated, under continuous archaeological supervision, using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in NA's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2006). Trenches containing possible archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, sufficient to define the features. Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number (eg 402, Trench 4, context 2). The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned (scale 1:50) and section drawings were made at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20) where necessary. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative and colour slide film, supplemented by digital images.

The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).



All works were carried out in accordance with the specification prepared by NA (2011), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 1985, revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology's Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.



Trench 1, looking south-east

Fig 3



Trench 2, looking south-west

Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The evaluation comprised three 30m long trenches located within the proposed development area (Fig 2). The trenches were positioned to avoid the footprint of the former public house where associated cellarge was expected and to give at least a 10m stand off from a medium pressure gas service which ran parallel with the site's eastern boundary.

The natural substrate across the site comprised mid brown-orange loose ironstone fragments with patches of dark yellow sandy clay. In Trench 1 the natural sloped from 0.65m to 1.41m below current ground level (Fig 3). It was overlain by two layers of mid reddish-brown subsoil, 0.31m-0.72m thick, which contained frequent inclusions of ironstone fragments and occasional brick fragments. The upper subsoil was overlain by a light yellow stone aggregate, 0.06m-0.12m thick which in turn was overlain by a dark brown sandy loam topsoil, 0.15m-0.28m thick (Fig 6, section 1).

In Trenches 2 and 3 the natural substrate was encountered between 0.38m and 0.75m below current ground level (Figs 4 and 5). It was overlain by a reddish-brown subsoil with frequent ironstone inclusions, 0.12m-0.40m thick. Overlying this was a light grey stone aggregate, 0.16m-0.28m thick, which in turn was overlain by the tarmac of the present car park surface, 0.10m thick (Fig 6, sections 2 and 3).

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the investigation area.



Trench 3, looking north-east

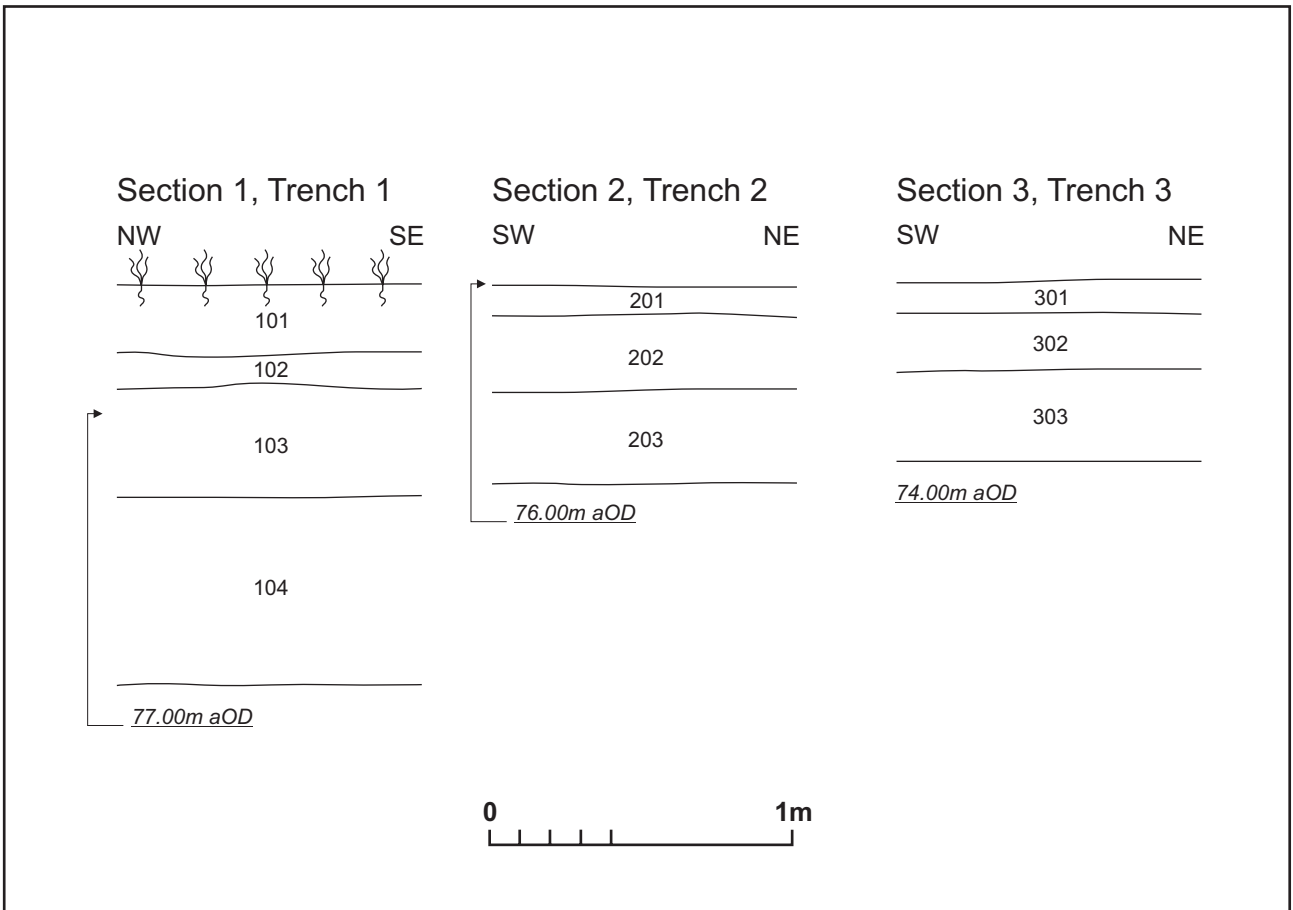
Fig 5

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has shown that the north-eastern part of the site appeared to have been truncated and levelled with imported materials probably during the construction of the car park.

The depth of naturally accumulated subsoils present at the south-east end of Trench 1 suggested that this area of the site had been subject to less disturbance.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the investigation area



Scale 1:25 (A4)

Sections 1-3 Fig 6



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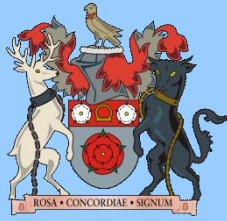
NA 2012 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological investigation of land at the Double Four public house, Ringway, Northampton, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

## APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	30m x 1.8m NW-SE	474185/25903	77m aOD	1.30m, 75.70m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam	0.15m-0.28m thick	-
102	Hardcore	Light yellow stone aggregate	0.06m-0.12m thick	
103	Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown sandy loam. Brick inclusions	0.31m-0.35m thick	-
104	Subsoil	Dark reddish-brown sandy loam. Ironstone inclusions	0.46m-0.72m thick	-
105	Natural	Mid brown-orange loose ironstone. Sandy patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	30m x 1.8m NE-SW	474198/25907	76m aOD	0.65m, 75.35m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Tarmac	Current car park surface	0.10m thick	-
202	Hardcore	Light grey stone aggregate	0.20m-0.28m thick	-
203	Subsoil	Dark reddish-brown sandy loam. Ironstone inclusions	0.30m-0.40m thick	-
204	Natural	Mid brown-orange loose ironstone. Sandy patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	30m x 1.8m NE-SW	474210/259103	75m aOD	0.60m, 74.10m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Tarmac	Current car park surface	0.10m thick	-
302	Hardcore	Light grey stone aggregate	0.16m-0.20m thick	-
303	Subsoil	Dark reddish-brown sandy loam. Ironstone inclusions	0.12m-0.30m thick	-
304	Natural	Mid brown-orange loose ironstone. Sandy patches	-	-



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