



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological observation, investigation,
recording, analysis and publication during
groundworks on land at Camp Farm, Charlton,
Northamptonshire
August 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/143

August 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks on land at Camp Farm, Charlton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	In August 2012 an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for the construction of a new farm building as requested by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor. No archaeological features were observed during the excavations.	
Project type	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication	
Site status	none	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Pasture Field	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County		
Site address		
Study area (sq metres)	c.375 sq m	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR:4530 2350	
Height OD	c.142m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Steve Parry (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr E Gladden	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	1/8/2012	
End date	1/8/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Paper		Site Records
Digital		Client Report (PDF)
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published, forthcoming, unpublished		
Title	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks on land at Camp Farm, Charlton, Northamptonshire at Camp Farm, Charlton Northamptonshire, August 2012	
Author	Paul Clements	
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report No: 12/143	
Date	3/8/ 2012	

Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
 - 2 BACKGROUND
 - 2.1 Location and topography
 - 2.2 Historical background
 - 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
 - 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
 - 4.1 General site stratigraphy
 - 4.2 The groundworks and archaeological evidence
 - 5 CONCLUSIONS
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Front cover: Looking west across the development area

Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The area of archaeological observation

Fig 3: Section 1 facing south-west

Fig 4: Section 2 facing south-west showing the metal water pipe

Fig 5: Section 3 facing south-west

Fig 6: Pillar base 3 looking south-west showing plastic water pipe

Fig 7: Representative sections

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION DURING GROUNDWORKS ON LAND
AT CAMP FARM, CHARLTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,
AUGUST 2012**

Abstract

In August 2012 an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for the construction of a new farm building as requested by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor. No archaeological features were observed during the excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Mr E Gladden to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during the groundworks for the construction of a new farm building at Camp Farm, Charlton, Northamptonshire (NGR: 4530 2350). The work fulfils condition 3 of planning consent (S/2012/0271/FUL) following a request for archaeological investigation by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

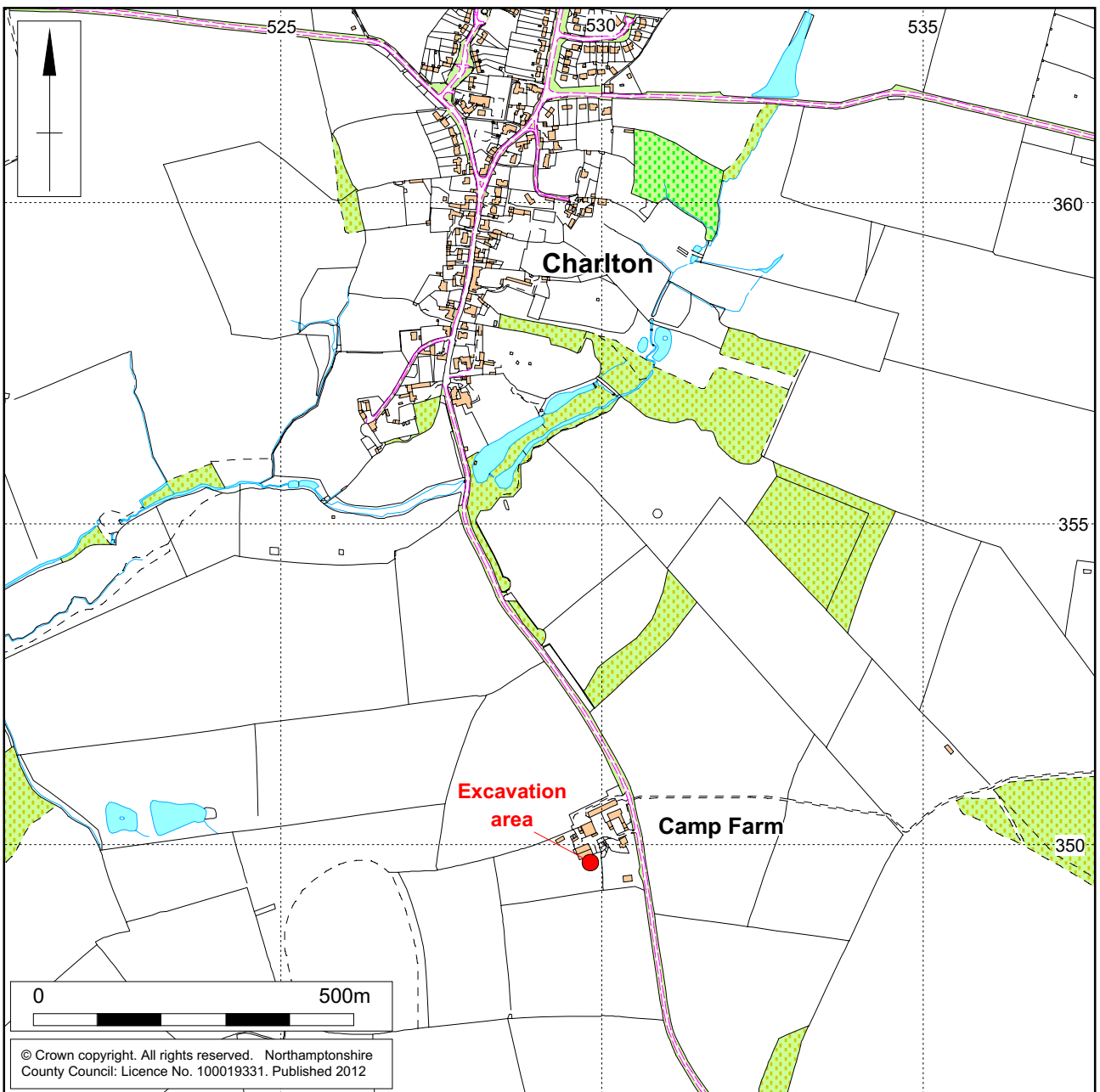
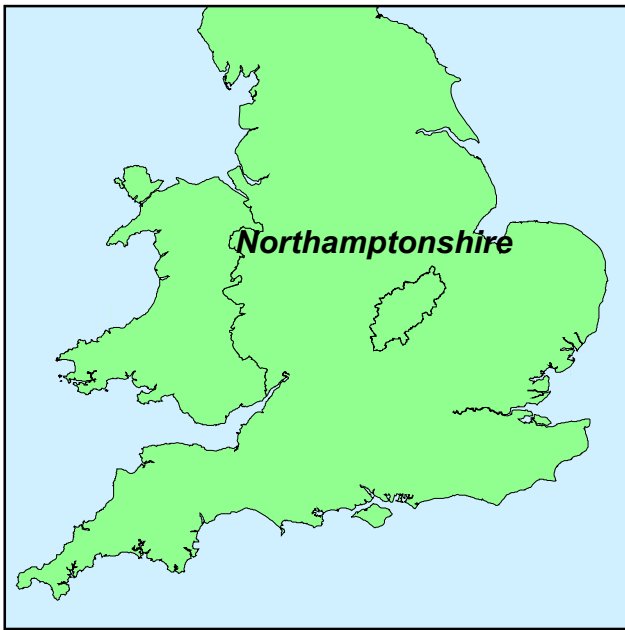
The scope of works was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) following guidelines in the procedural document MORPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

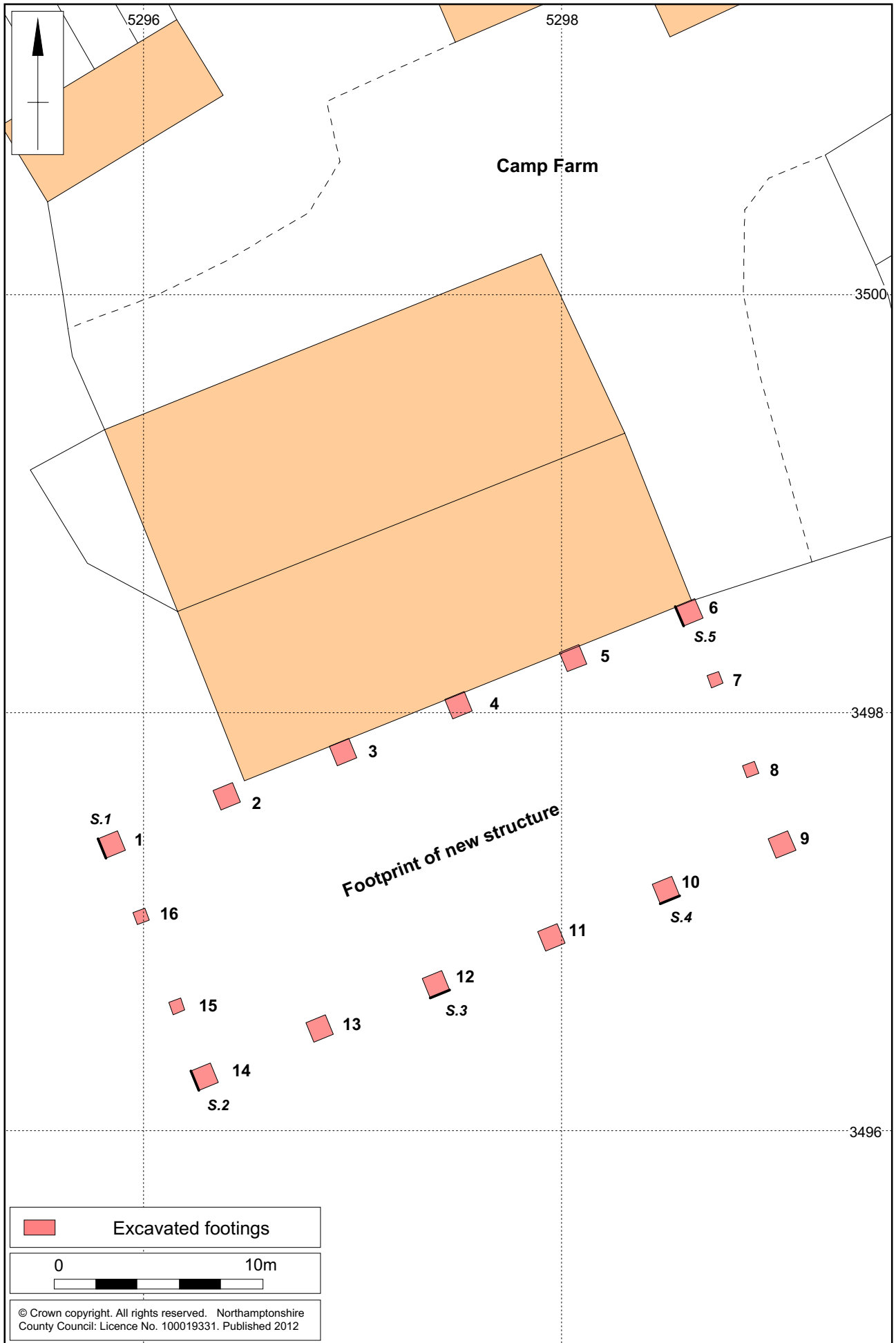
The area of development was located south of the adjacent farm building in the south-west of Camp Farm, Charlton at a height of c.142m above Ordnance Datum (Fig 1). The site is located in a pasture field with evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation observed as low earthworks to west. The area under the development slopes gently eastwards.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50 000 scale as Great Oolite Group interbedded Limestone and Argillaceous Rocks (BGS 2012). The soils are classified as freely draining lime rich and loamy soils (Landis, 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:250

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

As part of the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) a historical background search was undertaken and is reproduced here.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest as it is located approximately 280m to the west of Rainsborough Camp (Scheduled Monument No:339180). Excavation during the 1960's dated the earthwork defences to the 5th century BC, although a possible these may be pre-dated by an earlier enclosure. To the east of the site cropmarks of possible prehistoric date are also recorded. Close by to the south-west lies the possible site of Charlton's medieval chapel (Scheduled Monument 339045).

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site, however two gold Roman coins were found in the 18th century. One of Titus found at Charlton and one of Vespasian found near Rainsborough camp (RCHME 1982, 103).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new agricultural building and any associated groundworks.
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits.
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised continuous monitoring of the excavations for 12 concrete bases, each measuring 1m by 1m, and four 1.20m by 0.60m bases, two on each of the gable ends, for the door posts for the new building. No overburden was removed between these bases as the ground level was being raised. The foundation plan was changed from the original plan to extend 5m further north-east to be aline with the edge of the adjacent building (Fig 2).

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (NA 2011). All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2010) and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008). A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 General site stratigraphy

The underlying natural geology was encountered at a depth of between 0.20m and 0.30m below the modern ground surface. This comprised of light orangey grey clay sand overlying compacted layered limestone. A subsoil of mid reddish brown sandy clay loam was present across the whole site and was between 0.15m and 0.25m thick. A dark grey-brown clay loam topsoil containing small angular limestone pieces overlay the subsoil. It varied between 0.12m and 0.20m thick. Towards the north-east, in pillar bases

6, 7, 8 and 9 the soil contained modern building debris including bricks and roofing slates used as hardcore for the gate entrance into the field.

4.2 The groundworks and archaeological evidence

The pillar base foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.60m and 0.95m dependant upon the depth of the limestone beneath the natural sands. No archaeological features were identified during the excavations. Two modern water pipes were observed. One disused plastic pipe was followed through pillar bases 2, 3, 4 and 5 at a depth of 0.50m and one disused metal water pipe that once connected the small pump house in the same field as the development area to the farmhouse (Fig 4).



Fig 3 Section 1 facing south-west



Fig 4 Section 2 facing south-west showing metal water pipe



Fig 5 Section 3 facing south-west

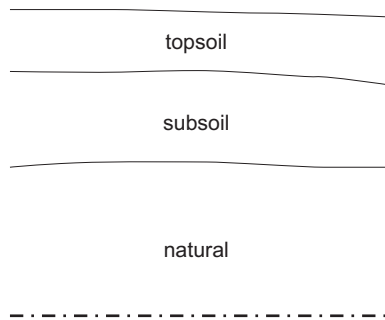


Fig 6 Pillar base 3 looking south-west showing water pipe

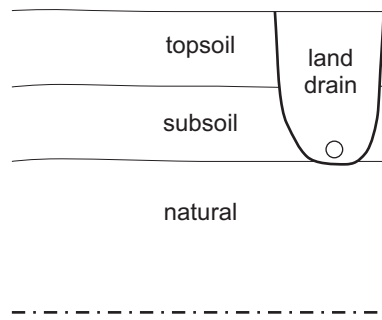
5 CONCLUSION

Despite the potential for archaeology the excavation of the foundation trenches for the pillar bases revealed no archaeological features. No residual finds were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil. As the subsoil was undisturbed by modern intrusion the results can be considered as a reliable indicator that there was no ancient remains in the immediate area. Outside of the development area ridge and furrow cultivation was observed as low earthworks, but did not continue east into the area of development.

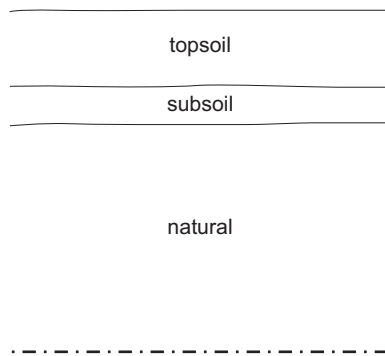
Section 1



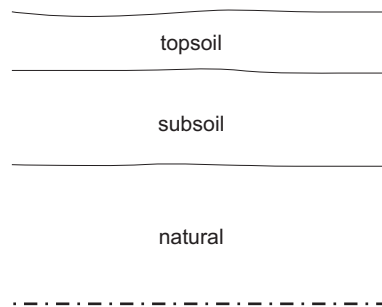
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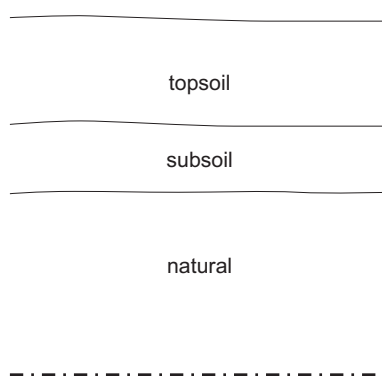
Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



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Landis 2012 <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> Cranfield University National Soils Resources Institute



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