



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Observation, Investigation,
Recording and Analysis at The Bakehouse
1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire
July 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording and Analysis at 1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire.
Short description	Archaeological works were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire in July 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new residential property. A possible archaeological feature was revealed in the south-western corner of the works. Abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil above and around the feature but no artefacts were recovered from the feature itself. The majority of the area encompassed by the works was highly disturbed by the footings for the now demolished buildings.
Project type	Observation, Investigation and Recording
Site status	None
Previous work	Archaeological building survey
Current land use	Residential
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/ period	19th-century stables, now demolished
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire
OS Easting & Northing	SP 4965 3625
Area	0.005ha
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir
Project Manager	Adam Yates
Sponsor or funding body	Stable Architecture Ltd
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	31st July 2012
End date	July 2012
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	An archaeological watching brief at 1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire.
Serial title & volume	12/145
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING AND ANALYSIS AT 1 WALES STREET, KINGS SUTTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

JULY 2012

Abstract

Archaeological works were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at 1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire in July 2012. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new residential property. The remains of a pit was revealed in the south-western corner of the works. Abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil above and around the feature but no artefacts were recovered from the feature itself. The majority of the area encompassed by the works was highly disturbed by the footings for now demolished buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological O/I/R was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in July 2012 prior to the construction of a new house on the site of former stables and outbuildings at 1 Wales Street, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 4965 3625; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Stable Architecture Ltd and follows a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2011). 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). All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology's Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The site lies within the village of Kings Sutton and is bounded to the east by Wales Street. The gardens of several properties back onto the site to the south and north. An open communal area lies to the west, separated from the development area by a cast iron fence and railings. The site slopes from the south towards the north-west where the River Cherwell forms a natural boundary at the west of the village. The village is also bound to the west by the Oxford Canal and a railway track.

The underlying geology is mapped as mudstones, sandstones, siltstones and limestones of the Lias Group. (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html).

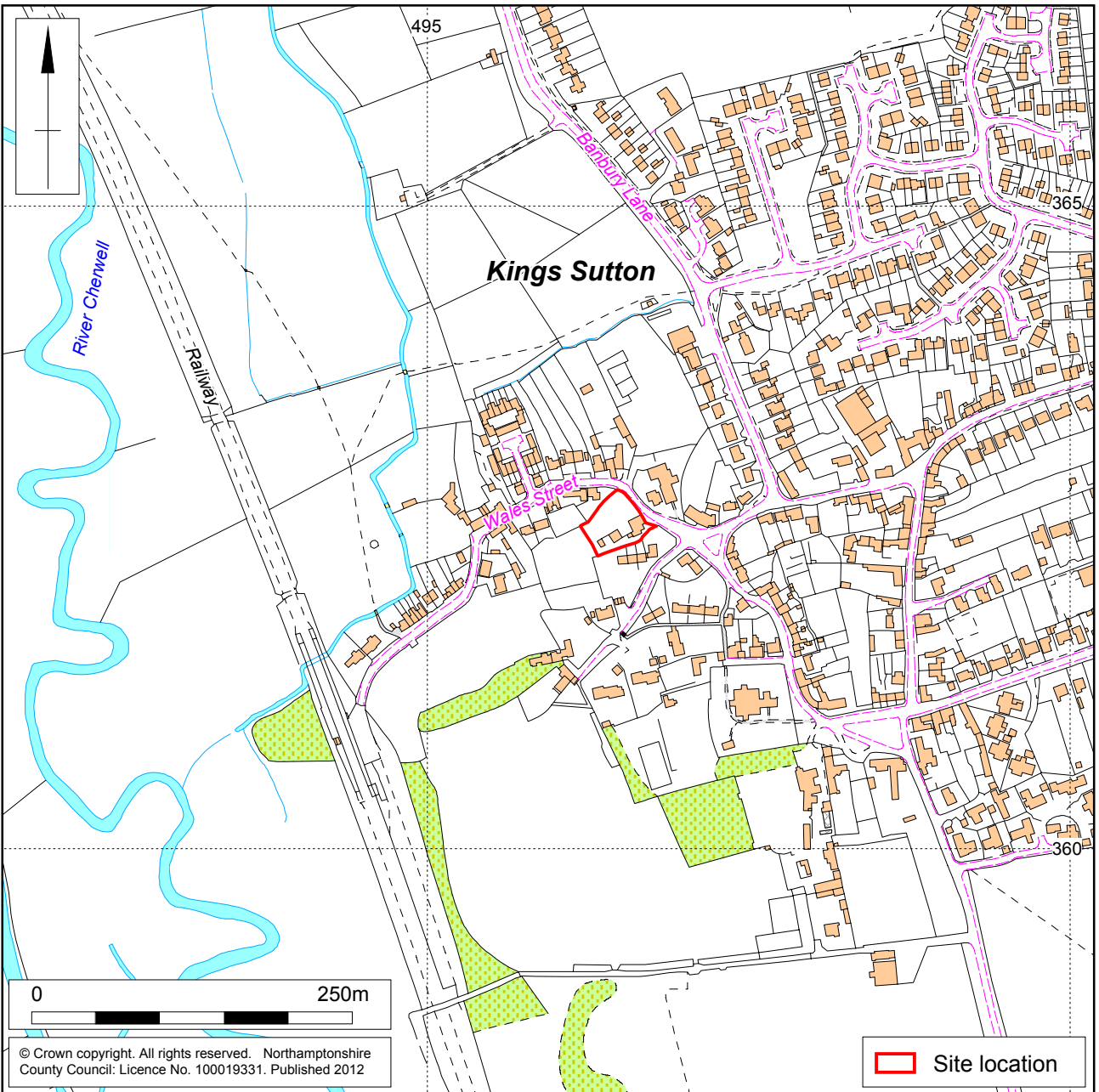
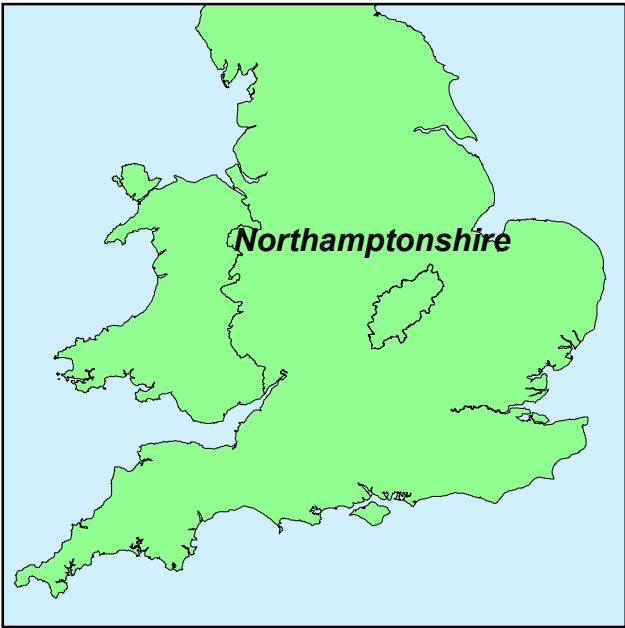
2.2 Historical background

The Bakehouse was a bakery during the 19th and 20th centuries, and it can be assumed that the outbuildings served as storage and workshops or stables for the bakery. These outbuildings were demolished in 2012 prior to this O/I/R as part of development works.

The site lies within the historic core of Kings Sutton. Previous works in the area have provided evidence of activity ranging from the Prehistoric through to the present in and around the village. Aerial photography has also revealed the presence of archaeological features in the area including circular enclosures and linear ditches.

The presence of several round barrows has been noted around the village. Unfortunately, these have been lost to ironstone mining and farming so no physical remains survive. Prehistoric inhumations as well as Roman and Saxon burials have also been recorded in the area. Artefacts such as prehistoric pottery, polished axes, flint tools, Roman coins and Roman pottery have been recovered. (RCHM 1982)

The Portway, a presumed prehistoric – medieval trackway runs c150m the east of the site through the village. A possible medieval hollow-way lies c300m north of the site.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

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 date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

The footings were excavated under archaeological supervision, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless bucket 0.7 wide. Mechanical excavation was carried out to the required depth of approximately 0.3m.

A buildings recording action was undertaken by NA on the stables and outbuildings prior to their demolition (Bassir 2012). This survey showed the buildings had a 19th-century agricultural origin. The remains of a fourth room (Room 4) were partially revealed at the west of these structures. A corner of this structure was revealed after the demolition of the stables and the clearing of the vegetation which covered this area prior to the demolitions.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The excavation

The works comprised a series of footings trenches, c0.7m wide by 0.3m in depth with a total length of approximately 83m (Fig 2).

The site lies on a slope with higher ground to the south. The base of the footings in the northern extent of the site encountered the topsoil-subsoil horizon. A natural substrate of mid orange-brown silty clay was revealed in the more southerly footings approximately 0.6m below ground level. The natural was overlain by a subsoil of mid brown silt with occasional gravel. This was approximately 0.2m thick and was in turn overlain by a topsoil of dark- mid brown silt 0.3m thick.

Deposits of modern material and modern disturbance were encountered in the southern footings, in the areas formerly occupied by stables and outbuildings. Modern debris such as drains, fragments of flowerpots, brick, tile, animal bones and plastics were present in the topsoil and subsoil across the whole site.

A possible archaeological or vegetational feature (Figs 10 and 11; [104]), was revealed in the south-western corner of the footings (Figs 2 and 3). Despite investigation, the full extent of this feature was uncertain. Upon excavation, the sides of the feature were uneven and appeared to undercut the natural in places. Abraded fragments of pottery and animal bone were recovered from the subsoil surrounding the feature but no artefacts were recovered from the feature itself.

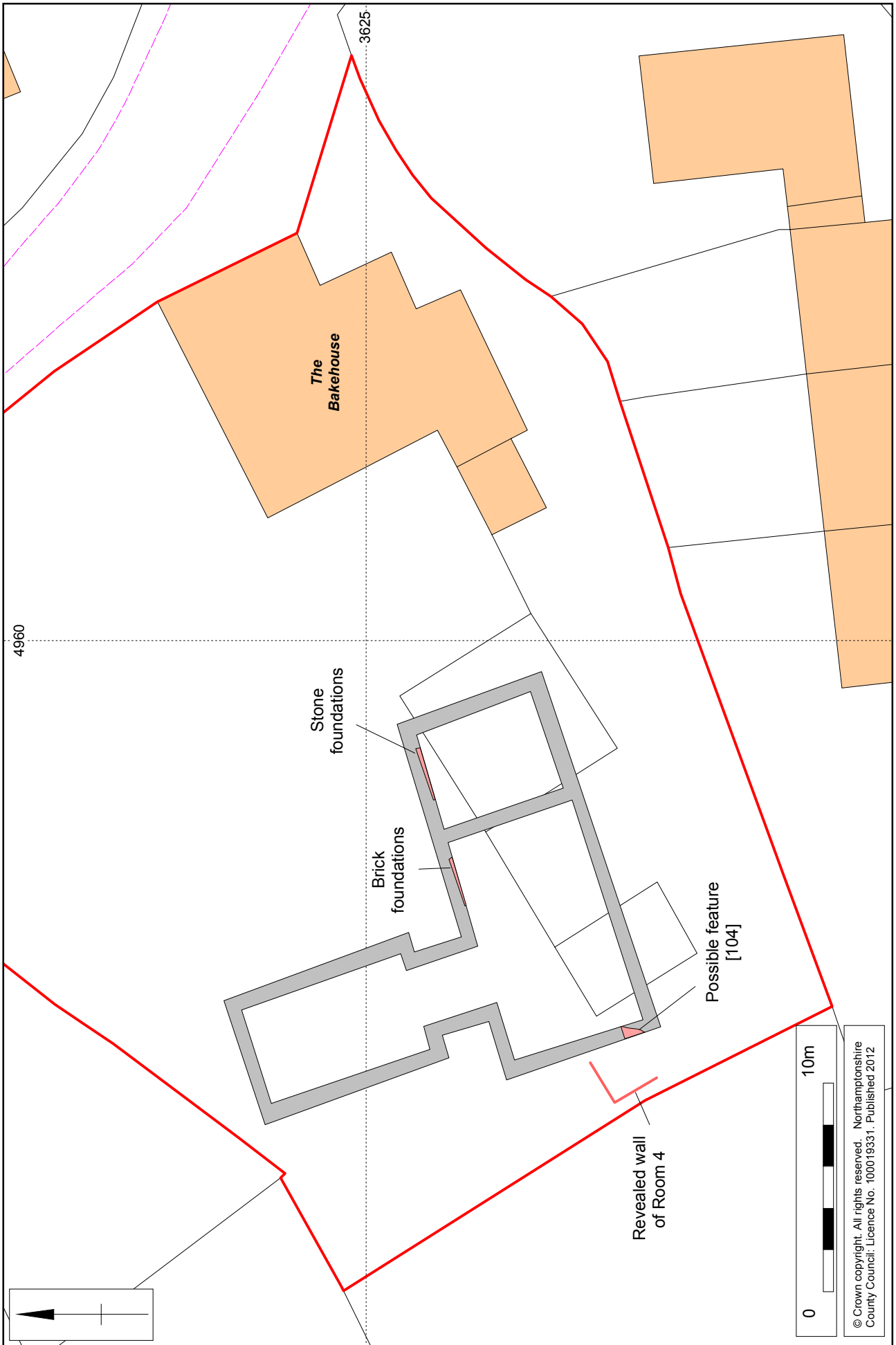
The central and south-eastern extent of the footings trenches encountered footings of previous structures cutting into the natural (Fig 2). These comprised brick and stone foundations on alignment with the demolished stables and outbuildings.

The remains of the foundations of Room 4 (Bassir 2012) were uncovered to the immediate west of the footings trenches (Figs 2, 13 and 14).

When digitised onto the Ordnance Survey map base, the brick and stone foundations revealed in the footings did not correspond with the position of the stables as shown on Ordnance Survey. Looking at the aerial photographs available on Google Maps, it is clear that the position of the stables and outbuildings as shown on the map base are incorrect and should be rotated further North which would bring them in line with the foundations as revealed in the footings trenches.

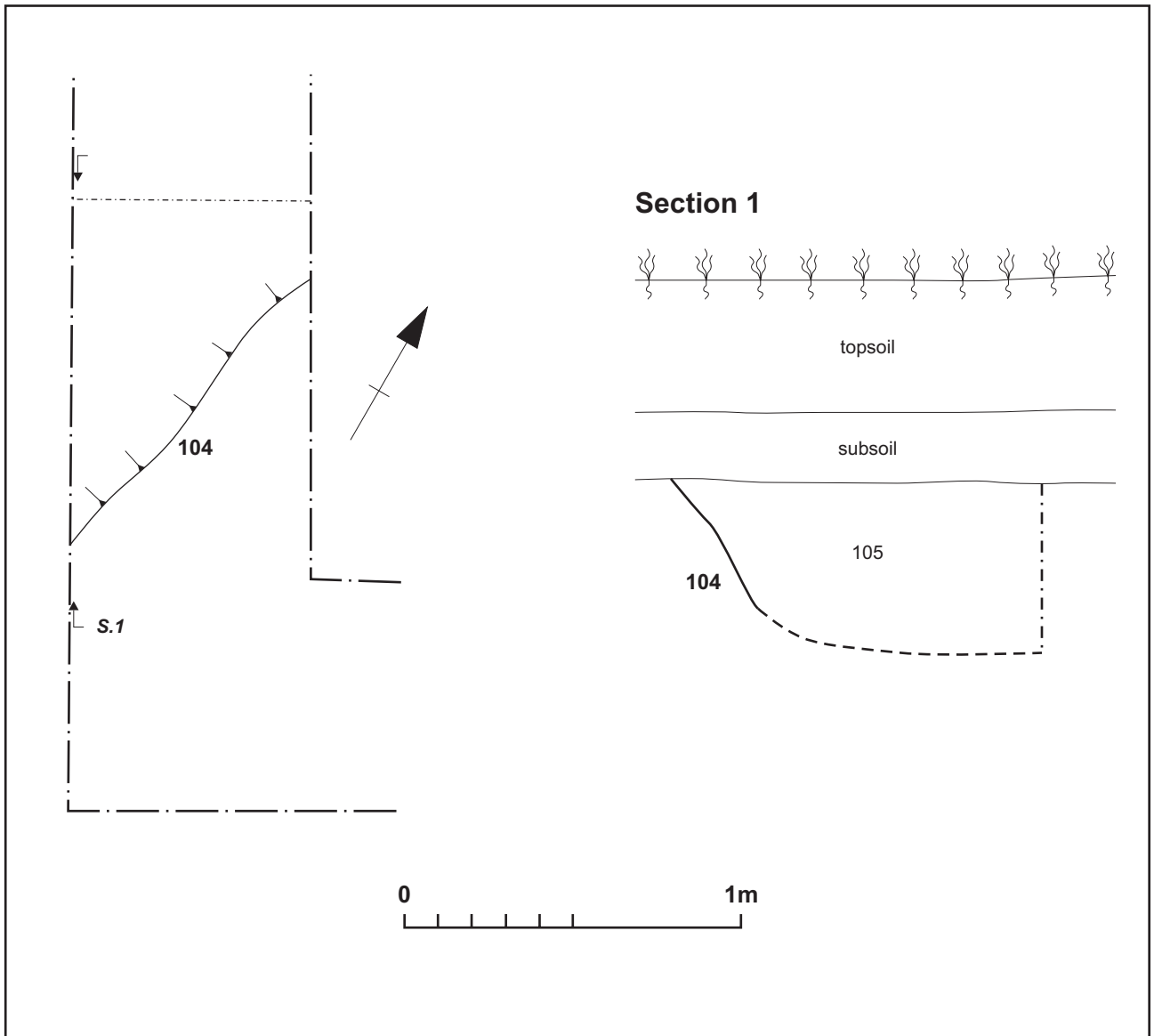
4.2 The pottery by Tora Hylton

Three sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 26.8g were recovered from the subsoil in the south-west corner of the footings, around the area of the possible archaeological feature. The lack of diagnostic features makes dating difficult, but the colour and finish suggest that they may be Roman date. The sherds are wheel-turned and they have been made from fossiliferous clay which has been fired to dark brown/black colour, the interior surface is buff and the core is grey. It is possible that they originate from the kilns at Harrold (Brown 1994).



Scale 1:250 (A4)

The excavated footings Fig 2



Scale 1:20

Plan and section of feature [104] Fig 3



The site prior to excavation of the footings Fig 4



The northern footings, looking east Fig 5



The northern footings, looking south Fig 6



The northern footings, looking south Fig 7



The western footings, looking north with foundations of Room 4 to the left Fig 8



The brick foundations of Room 4, looking north-west Fig 9



Feature [104], looking south Fig 10



Feature [104], looking north Fig 11



The southern footings looking east Fig 12



The central footings showing brick foundations, looking east Fig 13



The brick foundations Fig 14



The central footings, looking south Fig 15



The southern footings, looking west Fig 16



Stone foundations in the southern footings, looking east Fig 17



General view of the excavated footings, looking north-west Fig 18



General view of the excavated footings, looking south Fig 19



General view of the site prior to demolition of the outbuildings, looking south-west
Fig 20



General view of the site prior to demolition of the outbuildings, looking south-east Fig
21

5 CONCLUSIONS

The works revealed that much of the southern area of the site is dominated by modern deposits and disturbed by the footings of previous buildings. The excavations in the north of the site did not extend deep enough to reach the archaeological horizon.

A single possible archaeological feature was encountered in the south-west corner of the excavation area. Due to the narrow area of excavation, a full investigation of this feature was not possible and the full extent of it was not determined.

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