



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation at
Little Orchard and The Red Lion
Warmington, Northamptonshire
March 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Edmund Taylor

Report 13/48

March 2013



STAFF

Project Manager Anthony Maull Cert Arch, Edmund Taylor BSc
Text Edmund Taylor
Fieldwork Edmund Taylor
Anne Foard-Colby Cert Ed
Flint Andy Chapman BSc MIfA FSA
Pottery Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc PlfA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Charlotte Walker		
Verified by	Ed Taylor		
Approved by	Anthony Maull		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 182443
Project name	WARMINGTON, LITTLE ORCHARD	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on two plots of land at Little Orchard and the Red Lion Public House, Peterborough Road, Warmington, Northamptonshire, during March 2013. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. A single, undated ditch was recorded within the plot at the Red Lion. No other 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	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Little Orchard and The Red Lion, Peterborough Road, Warmington	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 07590 91397	
Area	0.09ha	
Height aOD	20m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull and Ed Taylor	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr K Wakefield, Mr R Bright	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	6/3/13	
End date	6/3/13	
ARCHIVES		
Archive location		
Archive contents	Trial Trench forms (2), Col slides (10) B+C contact sheets and negs (10) digital photos (1 cd)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on Land at Little Orchard and the Red Lion Pub, Warmington, Northamptonshire	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
LITTLE ORCHARD AND THE RED LION
PETERBOROUGH ROAD, WARMINGTON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MARCH 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on two plots of land at Little Orchard and the Red Lion Public House, Peterborough Road, Warmington, Northamptonshire, during March 2013. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings. A single, undated ditch was recorded within the plot at the Red Lion. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

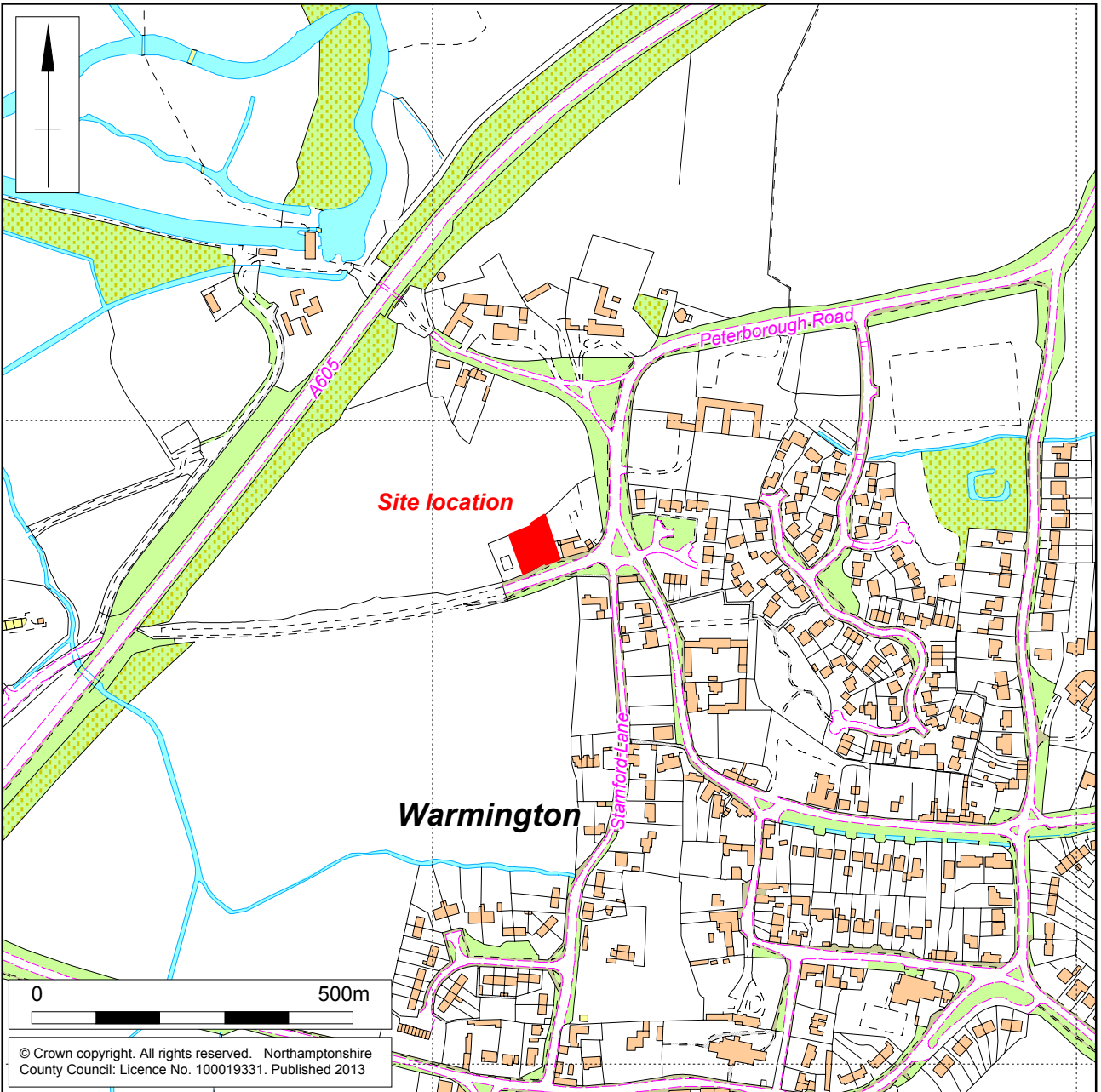
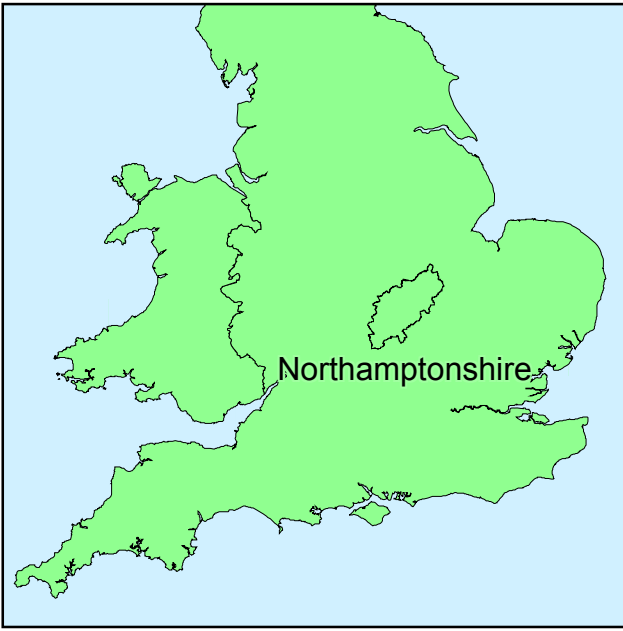
An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in March 2013 prior to the construction of new residential dwellings on two separate plots of land at Little Orchard and the Red Lion Public House, Peterborough Road, Warmington, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 07590 91397, Planning Ref: 13/00004/FUL; Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr K Wakefield and Mr R Bright in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (Mordue 2013a and b). The investigation followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013) 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

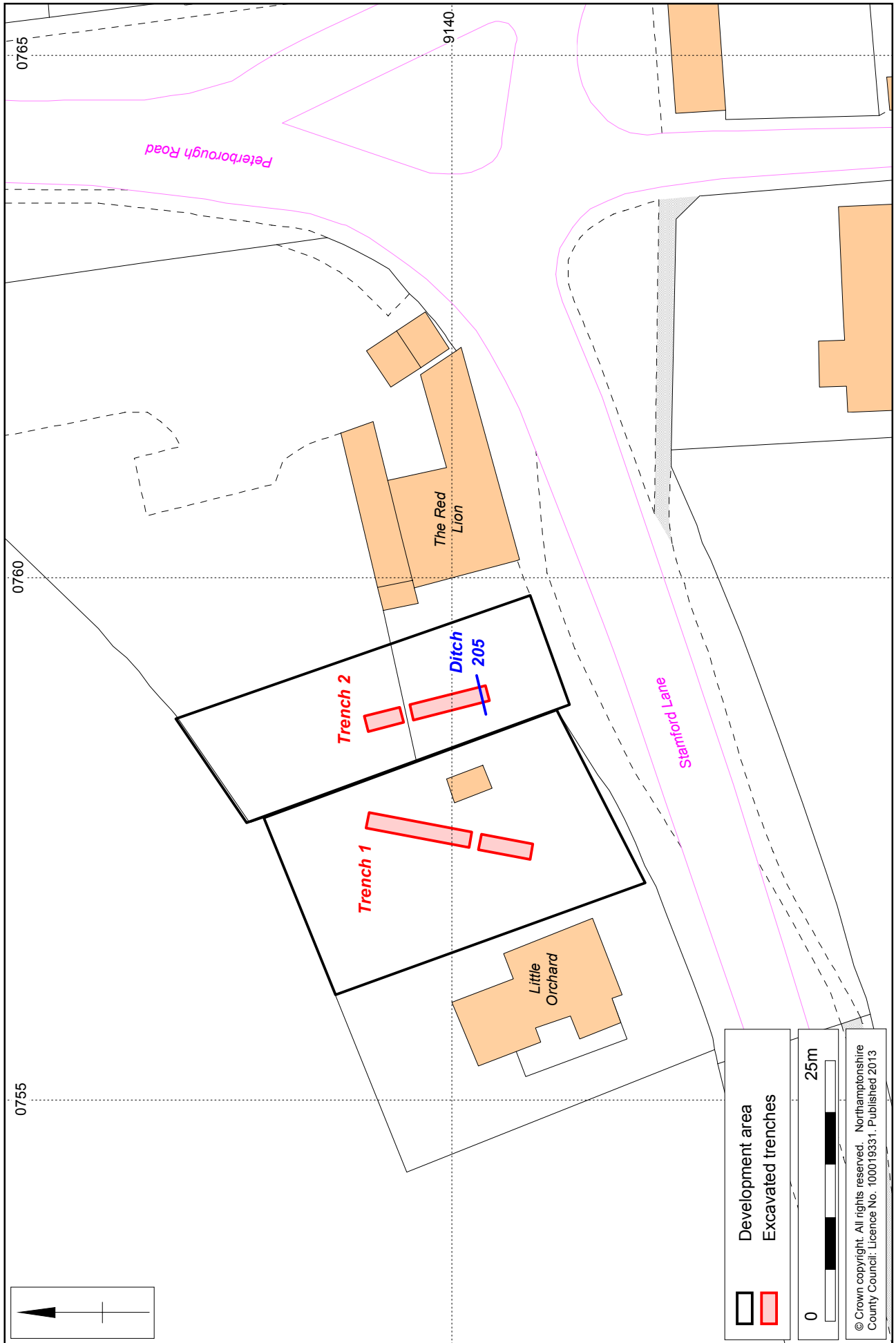
The site comprises two adjacent areas, the Little Orchard site is c 0.05 hectares, the Red Lion site is c 0.04 hectares, and both are currently gardens attached to existing properties. The development area is located towards the north-west edge of the village and is to the north of and accessed from Stamford Lane off Peterborough Road.

The local geology comprises Blisworth limestone bedrock, although the superficial geology is not recorded (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex). The development area is generally level and lies at approximately 20maOD.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Trench locations Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

The development area is within an area of archaeological interest. In the field to the south of Peterborough Road, cropmarks indicate prehistoric activity including ring ditches, boundaries and a pit alignment. Stamford Lane is on the projected line of a Roman road from Water Newton to Thrapston and Romano-British coins have been recovered near the road. Fieldwalking to the south of the Development Area has produced early to mid Saxon pottery. North of the Red Lion previous archaeological investigation found evidence for a 17th to 18th-century building and some evidence for Saxon to medieval activity in the vicinity. In the field to the north of the development area, medieval and post-medieval boundaries and a possible trackway have been recorded.

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* (2011). 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 202, Trench 2, 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 WSI prepared by NA (2013), 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.



Trench 1, looking north-east

Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

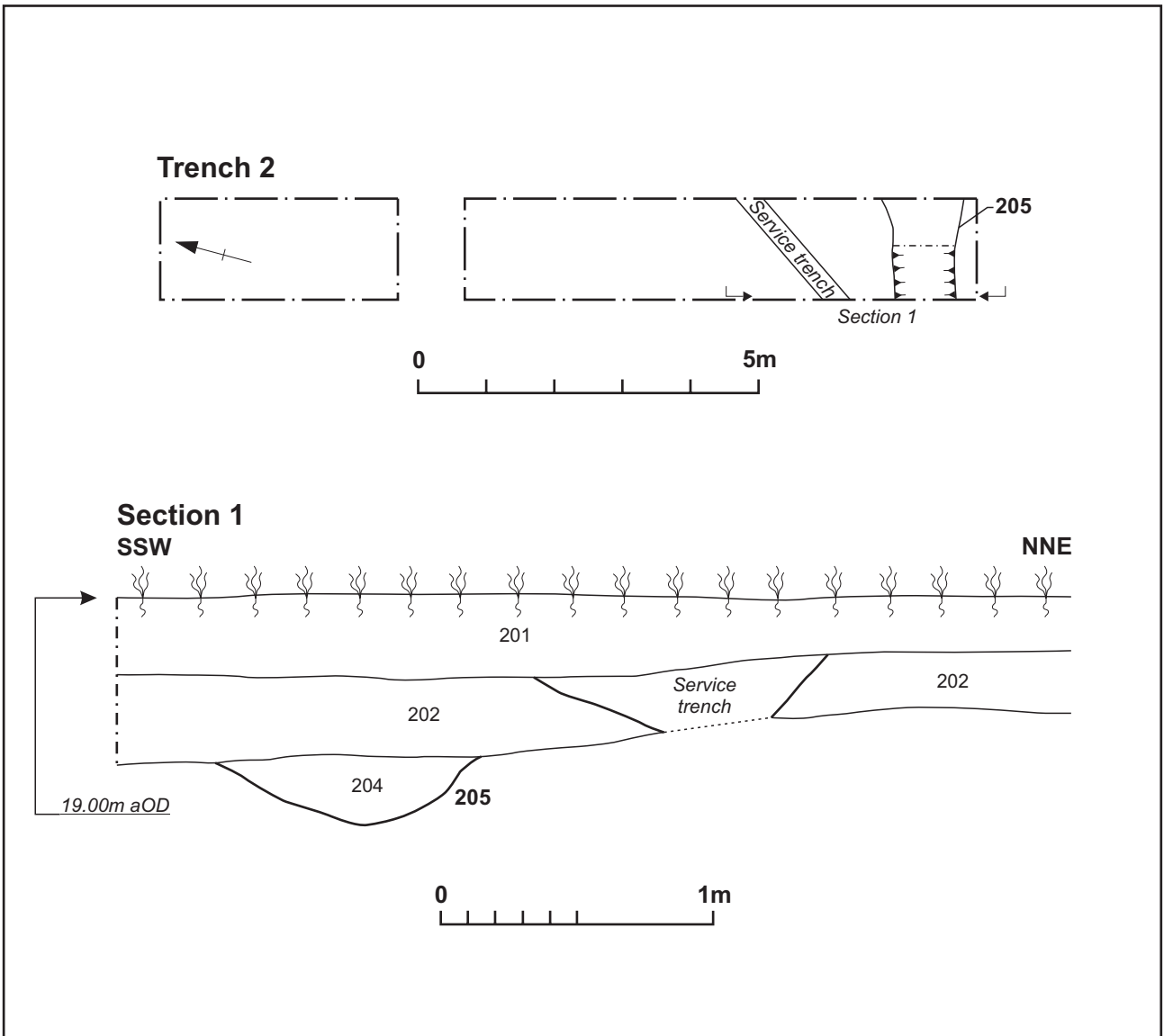
The evaluation comprised two trenches, Trench 1 was 16m long and Trench 2 was 11m long. Both were 1.6m wide and positioned within the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. Trench 2 was moved from the agreed position due to access restrictions. Both trenches had to be split into two sections (Fig 2). In the case of Trench 1 (Fig 3) this was to avoid an existing drain run and in Trench 2 this was to avoid damage to existing fenceposts.

Across the site the natural substrate comprised a mid brown-yellow sandy clay with pale blue clay patches and sand and gravel lenses.

There was a dark brown sandy clay loam subsoil, 0.30m to 0.50m thick. This contained occasional brick and coal fragments and, in Trench 2, sherds of medieval and 17th-18th century pottery (see paragraph 5.2). The overlying topsoil, 0.30m thick, comprised a dark brown sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions.

Ditch [205]

In the south-east end of Trench 2, cutting the natural substrate, there was a linear ditch, [205], which was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2, 3 and 4). It was 0.95m wide, 0.25m deep with gradual sloping, slightly irregular edges and a broad concave base (Fig 4, Section 1 and Fig 5). The fill comprised a mid brown sandy clay which produced a single flint flake (see paragraph 5.1). It was overlain by subsoil.



Scales, Plan 1:100, Section 1:25 (A4)

Trench 2, plan and section Fig 3



Trench 2, Ditch [205], looking south-west

Fig 5

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The flint by Andy Chapman

A single small cortical flake, in vitreous grey flint, 18mm long by 17mm wide, and struck from a core with previous removals, came from the fill (204) of ditch [205]. It is undiagnostic of date, beyond broadly Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

5.2 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised four sherds with a total weight of 106g. They all occurred in the sub-soil layer (202). They were recorded using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 13g.

F426: Iron-Glazed Coarsewares, c late 17th – 18th centuries. 2 sherds, 93g

Both fabrics are common finds in the region. The two sherds of F330 are from the same vessel, probably a jar. Those in F426 are from two vessels, although one is a rimsherd from a bowl, a typical form in the tradition.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation identified a single shallow ditch in the trench to the west of the Red Lion. It produced a single undiagnostic flint flake which is likely to be residual and therefore the ditch remained undated. It was aligned parallel to Peterborough Road and may have been a former plot boundary.

No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench associated with Little Orchard.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IfA 1994 revised 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

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Mordue, E 2013b *Brief for a programme of archaeological field evaluation of land at Little Orchard, Peterborough Road, Warmington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

NA 2006 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2012 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Little Orchard and The Red Lion, Warmington, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Websites

www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex

APPENDIX: INDEX OF CONTEXTS BY TRENCH

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth and height of natural
1	16m x 1.6m NE-SW	507570/291400	19m aOD	0.56m, 18.44m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.28m-0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.28m-0.30m thick	-
103	Natural	Mid brown/yellow sandy clay with pale blue clay patches and sand and gravel lenses	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	511m x 1.6m NW-SE	507580/291400	19m aOD	0.58m, 18.42m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.28-0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.30m-0.50m thick	11th-14th century pottery, 17th-18th century pottery
203	Natural	Mid brown/yellow sandy clay with pale blue clay patches and sand and gravel lenses	-	-
204	Fill of [205]	Mid brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	Fint
205	Ditch	Linear, NE-SW aligned. Gradual irregular edges with concave base	0.95m wide, 0.25m deep	-



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