



**Northamptonshire  
County Council**

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# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological desk-based assessment and  
walkover survey at  
Braunstone Park, Leicester

February 2005



J. Brown

June 2005

Report 05/032

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological desk-based assessment & walkover survey at Braunstone Park, Leicester, February 2005	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Archaeological evaluation by desk-based assessment and a site walkover survey identified the line of the suggested Roman road, medieval open field systems, garden features relating to the house and indications of the wartime military base	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Desk-based assessment, walkover survey & project design	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Leicester Forest (Fox & Russell 1948) Old Braunstone (Wilshere 1972) Braunstone Park Historical Evaluation (Plincke Landscape 2004)	
Current Land use	Municipal Park	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Yes	
Monument type/ period	Roman, medieval, post-medieval & WWII	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address (including postcode)	Braunstone Park, Leicester	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	69.76 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	Centred on 44568 23032	
Height OD	Approx 74-76m OD across the site	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Colin Burden, Plincke Landscape Architects	
Project Design originator	Steve Parry & Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steve Parry, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Plincke Landscape Architects	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	February 2005	
End date	February 2005	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		None
Paper		Illustrations & Client Report
Digital		Illustrations & Client Report
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
& WALKOVER SURVEY AT  
BRAUNSTONE PARK, LEICESTER  
FEBRUARY 2005**

*Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a desk-based assessment and walkover survey at Braunstone Park, Leicester. The work was conducted in support of a Heritage Lottery Fund submission by Plincke Landscape Architects, within the Stage I application, as part of an overall scheme to rejuvenate the park in a manner befitting its historical character. The assessment of the site revealed the potential location of a Roman road, widespread evidence for the medieval open field system, features relating to the former 18<sup>th</sup> century house and gardens, and evidence for the former military base during World War II.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned in January 2005, on behalf of Plincke Landscape Architects, to conduct an archaeological desk-based evaluation and walkover survey at Braunstone Park, Leicester (Fig 1: Centred on NGR SP 4568 3032).

The project was conducted under instruction from Plincke Landscape Architects (PLA) to fulfil the requirements of the Stage I Heritage Lottery Fund submission under the Public Parks Initiative. The instruction required particular attention to be focused on evaluating the likely presence and significance of the archaeology, the potential impact of the development, possible mitigation procedures and to broadly outline a project design to deal with these issues.

All of the work was conducted by suitably qualified and experienced staff from Northamptonshire Archaeology. The work was completed in accordance with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety policy.

The site is currently used as a municipal park incorporating a variety of recreational functions including walking areas, sports facilities and play areas for children. The former manor buildings are partially used for offices and are partially vacant. Sports facilities and play areas are currently located on the western and southern sides of the park.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Previous archaeological work

The heart of Braunstone Park comprises the former 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house, the coach yard and stable outbuildings, the walled kitchen garden and the surrounding pleasure gardens. Braunstone Hall is believed to date to 1775 as the country seat of the Winstanley family, following Clement Winstanley's appointment to High Sherriff of Leicestershire in 1774 (MLC1596). No architectural description is given for the house. The stables are situated on its western side comprising two storeys in red brick with a slate roof and brick dentil eaves. There is a central archway with pediment gable including lunette and pigeon holes, and to either side four windows with flat brick arches, stone sills and casements with glazing bars. On the wings are elliptical arch carriageways facing inwards with a lunette in the end wall (MLC1422). The walled garden lies to the rear of the stable yard, west of the house, and comprises a kitchen garden described by Nichols as including hot-houses, large and commodius, with walls well clothed with fruit trees (MLC1423; Nichols 1790-1810, 620). To the north and south are the open parkland vistas, as they would have been viewed from the house, much of which still show evidence of earthworks from former ridge and furrow cultivation, mapped in "*The medieval earthworks of central Leicestershire*" (Hartley 1989, 78).

No previous archaeological investigation has been conducted on the site and no in-depth architectural study has been conducted for the manorial buildings. A thorough investigation of the documentary resource for Braunstone Park has been undertaken by Plincke Landscape Architects (PLA 2004) prior to this assessment being compiled. More general references to the site occur within the broader regional studies of *Leicester Forest* (Fox & Russell 1948) and *Old Braunstone* (Wilshere 1972).

Leicestershire City Sites and Monuments Record references many sites in the vicinity of the parkland that are not related to the Hall. Only one of these is within the parkland and that is an undated circular cropmark enclosure within the northern area of the park (MLC478).

A prehistoric flint arrowhead was found to the south of the park (MLC638) and a prehistoric axe was found to the east of the park (MLC644). Two 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman coins were found to the west of the park, close to the suggested line of a Roman road (MLC1237-8). Potential early Roman occupation evidence was recorded during a watching brief to the

east of the park during development along Rancliffe Crescent (MLC1309; Albone & Snee 2002). A further undated hearth and posthole was recorded at the edge of the parkland to the east, in the front garden of 285 Gooding Avenue, close to the suggested Roman road (MLC1428). A large number of references cite the medieval and post-medieval occupation of Braunstone village, to the south-west (MLC479-484), focused on the historic core of the settlement (MLC1354).

## **2.2 Topography and geology**

The site is situated on the western side of Leicester City, between the Fosse Way approximately 750m to the south, and the Hinckley Road, which runs in front of the north gate of the park. The park forms the lower ground of a small tributary valley running from the north towards the south where it enters the existing ponds and then curves eastward before exiting the park. The eastern valley side forms a low rolling hill upon which a residential estate has been built, whilst the ground to the west is generally less dramatically contoured. The site lies north-east of the centre of Braunstone, centred on NGR SP 4568 3032, at c.74-76m OD across the area of the parkland.

The geology of the site consists predominantly of river terrace sands and gravels, boulder clay and morainic drift (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

## **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

This report provides information forming the basis of decisions for archaeological mitigation at Braunstone Park, Leicester, during the proposed scheme and highlights three key features of importance:

- A broad outline of the character and potential date to address the significance of the archaeology identified during the desk-based assessment and walkover survey;
- An evaluation of the proposed scheme in terms of the potential impact upon the archaeology in both areas where a presence has been identified and where it has not;



- A specification for archaeological works outlining mitigation proposals in advance of bid preparation, to enable future site monitoring and the retrieval of a satisfactory archaeological archive.

Work was carried out in two stages, with a walkover survey of the park and gardens being supplemented through the desk-based study of the aerial photographic data and supporting documentation. Full use of the Braunstone Park Historical Report (PLA 2004), and the references that it provided for the Leicester City Sites and Monuments Record, were employed to evaluate the archaeological resource. The walkover survey included site scrutiny, photography and a GPS survey of visible earthworks.

## **4 ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE**

### **4.1 Summary of features**

Until further fieldwork confirms the presence of features and establishes probable period dates through the material evidence, the broad chronology of features identified in this document remain speculative and subject to validation. This investigation identified the following main archaeological features:

- Ditches belonging to a potentially large enclosure of unknown date beneath the football pitches on the western side of the park.
- The line of a suggested Roman road running from east to west across the northern area of the park.
- The distribution and alignment of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation throughout the park. This includes several major headlands and a possible earthwork platform.
- Post-medieval features relating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century house and grounds, including; indications of the former layout of the walled garden, a lawn terrace in front of the house, the ha-ha to the rear of the house and several former field boundaries.
- Features relating to the World War II use of the site as a military camp for the Royal Artillery in 1943 and the U.S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in 1944.

## 4.2 Area A: The northern area of the park

Close examination of the aerial photograph taken in March 1965 (Plate 1) suggests the potential for an enclosure of unknown date in the western arc of the park, beneath the football fields. The outline of the football pitches are clearly visible, under these, a broad dark ditch outline aligned north-west to south-east, which appears to turn at roughly 90° at the edge of the park towards the stream and continue on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch does not turn abruptly, but seems to curve quite sharply like the corner of a playing card. Other possible ditch features are also visible, although heavily obscured by the football pitches. Nothing was visible during the walkover survey, the ground is already level from the creation of the pitches and a degree of truncation is anticipated for the potential features.

Pursuit of evidence to support the existence of the suggested Roman road aligned between Leicester and the Watling Street, south of Mancetter, yielded positive results (Fox & Russell 1948, 56; PLA 2004, 7). By projecting the line of the suggested road through the villages of Fenny Drayton, Kirkby Mallory and Peckleton, along its visible route on the local area map, the road does indeed cross the northern part of Braunstone Park (OS 2003). An examination of an aerial photograph taken in July 1971 (Plate 2) shows a very faint darker band in the grass, aligned west-south-west to east-north-east that is closely comparable to the projected line of this suggested road (Fig 2).

The walkover revealed considerable ridge and furrow earthworks surviving in this area, particularly on the east bank of the stream between the tree line and the main north to south axial driveway to the house (Fig 2). The majority of the cultivation ridges in this area were aligned west-north-west to east-south-east as they were mapped in previous surveys (Hartley 1989, 78). A small group of the ridges located in the northernmost area of the park were aligned north to south, these do not appear in previous surveys and are clearly visible on the aerial photograph (Plate 1). On the northern and eastern bounds of this group a ditch was visible as a low sunken earthwork encompassing the edge of the cultivation area (Fig 2). The ditch does not appear on any known plans or maps and it is obscured on the aerial photograph by the northern spinney. The ditch could well be medieval in origin.

Examination of the lodge building places it well within a later 19<sup>th</sup> century style of architecture (Plate 3), supporting a construction date between 1887 and 1915 (PLA 2004, 21). Little damage or alteration has been made to the original structure visible from the exterior. Access to the interior was not possible as the building is currently sealed. The

outhouse to the rear has been demolished. No earthwork or fencing survives indicative of the former property boundaries, although the garden is clearly visible on the aerial photograph (Plate 1).

#### **4.3 Area B: The southern area of the park**

The walkover of the southern area revealed further ridge and furrow earthworks surviving, together with a number of headlands clearly forming some substantial field divisions (Fig 2). The general layout and alignments reflected the results of earlier surveys (Hartley 1989, 78), although visual consultation of the ridges closest to the stream, south of the walled garden, placed them on a north-west to south-east alignment, not a north-east to south-west alignment as Hartley had mapped them. The majority of ridge and furrow was aligned north-west to south-east, although a smaller area to the south was aligned north-east to south-west. The headlands were not recorded in previous surveys and a small rectangular earthwork, comprising a low platform terrace, was noted in close association with the cultivation in the central area. This rectangular platform may represent a former building or animal enclosure and is visible on the aerial photograph taken in March 1965 (Plate 4). A speculative medieval or post-medieval origin is anticipated for this feature.

Other possible, undated, rectangular features are visible on the same aerial photograph from March 1965 (Plate 4) that were not visible on the ground as earthworks during the walkover survey. Features in the central area have been subject to heavy plough damage, the last period of cultivation having taken place in 1946 (PLA 2004, 25-26), and surviving earthworks are not as prominent as might otherwise be expected in a parkland landscape. Several subdivisions of the area by former field boundaries, pre-dating the municipal park and relating to post-medieval enclosures, are visible on the aerial photograph. A large hollow in the central area, overgrown with vegetation, indicated the possible proximity of the suggested 19<sup>th</sup> century farm building (PLA 2004, 21). There is no evidence in the vicinity of the ponds to suggest the presence of a mill.

#### **4.4 Area C: The house gardens**

The walkover survey of the gardens confirms several important points which are not immediately visible on the March 1965 aerial photograph (Plate 5). At the front of the house is a small group of ornamental garden beds arranged in an avenue from the circular beds on the front lawn. These no longer exist, but between where the beds were, is a terrace into which stone flagged steps are set, formerly flanked by two shrubs (Plate 6). To the

north-east the ground slopes away gently into the woodland with no indication for the continuation of the terrace. To the north-west the ground drops away sharply into the woodland forming an arcing bank that roughly meets the alignment of the terrace, west of the drive sweep, but no indication of a ditch is present.

To the rear of the house a ha-ha is clearly visible. There is no indication of a stone facing and it is little more than an overgrown embankment interspersed with scrubby fragments of hedgerow (Plate 7). An examination of the map evidence from 1887 suggests this may not be the original ha-ha, and that it may be a later realignment designed to extend the rear lawn during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The terrace platform of the rear lawn is not a levelled lawn as one might expect, it is a lumpy uneven area of grass, suggesting that this rear terrace may conceal former gardens that predate the aerial photography. It is also likely that the earlier alignment of the ha-ha is buried beneath this terrace that joins the former field boundary ditch concealed amongst the trees to the south of the walled garden (Fig 2).

Within the walled garden clear indications of the former quartered division are visible on the existing lawn surface, as they are in the aerial photograph (Plate 5). However, the presence of a central water hydrant is indicative of some earlier central ornamentation within the garden having existed. Several anomalous hollows in the lawn may be indicative of the positions of the former fruit trees. The general mounded effect of the lawns themselves suggest that the central north-east to south-west path has always been present, causing soil to be raked up towards the centre of each area. The former paths down the sides of the walled garden have been replaced by the lawn.

A visual inspection of the stable yard shows the rather uncharacteristic change in ground level between the existing car park and the level of one of the former school playground extensions. The stable yard also appears somewhat smaller than might be expected and it is likely that a substantial overburden was built up to create the playground terrace at the same level as the main building. It is possible that this was the result of safety considerations at the former school, suggesting that access to the stable yard was considered hazardous, such as a set of steps descending into the yard.

#### **4.5 Area D: The eastern area of the park**

The former military camp lay in the east of the park, immediately adjacent to the house, and spread along the side of the park. The camp is well recorded in an aerial photograph c.1949 (Plate 8). Many of the central roads are preserved in the paths of the park and the

layout of buildings gives a strong indication of where the 1943 military base has removed pre-existing ridge and furrow alignments. This area is almost devoid of surface features and very little is visible on later photographic evidence. A small patch of ridge and furrow survives in the spinney of trees by the modern entrance. These are aligned north-east to south-west and were mapped by previous surveys (Hartley 1989, 78). It is likely that the alignment continued in a similar vein across much of this area, not visible on the ground in the present day, but is indicated on the March 1965 photograph (Plate 9). The south-east road within the 1943 military camp was still visible on the ground with some of the tarmac showing (Plate 10).

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION**

Throughout the park a range of features are still visible relative to a potentially wide chronological spectrum. Some indications of Roman activity are possible in the north of the park where the suggested Roman road crosses and where a possible enclosure may lie in close proximity to this earlier communication route. The majority of the visible features comprise evidence of the former medieval and post-medieval agricultural economies comprising ridge and furrow, headlands, possible earthwork platforms and post-medieval field boundaries. These features are most prolific in the southern area of the park, although ridge and furrow is evident throughout. Potential evidence for the former layout of the house gardens is most likely to be encountered on the front and rear lawns, and inside the walled garden. Some surface anomalies in these areas form hollows and raised areas that are indicative of surviving garden archaeology. World War II archaeology may be encountered within the perimeter of the former military base, although much evidence of the former military base is likely to have been removed. Earlier deposits present before its construction will have been severely damaged.

Development in the park will encounter archaeological remains of significance in localised areas. The locality and nature of individual works will define the best methods of mitigation.

Most archaeological remains appear to be identified by concentrations and general areas of interest. A focused approach to the needs of the scheme in the areas of development will allow for the creation of an appropriate archaeological archive. Some areas, particularly in the south, may well produce no evidence beyond the agriculture of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Close examination of the garden archaeology, the condition of the surviving ha-ha earthwork and that of the front terrace may provide information to inform future decisions on implementing plans to recreate the historic character of the gardens.

## **6 AREAS FOR MITIGATION (Fig 3)**

### **6.1 Area A: The northern area of the park**

Targeted investigation is particularly important if the Roman road is to be marked out with bollards. Where features are to be preserved, there would be no requirement for excavation unless any drainage channels were to cut the existing surface.

Works on and in the vicinity of the lodge building will have a low impact in terms of ground disturbance and are unlikely to encounter buried archaeology. Some consideration for a degree of building recording on the lodge itself may be necessary, depending on the extent of any alterations.

Low impact works in the general vicinity include new footbridges, new footpaths, re-grading the stream bank, re-grading earth banks and tree planting. Where the trees are of sufficient maturity to warrant mechanical excavation, these can be monitored by means of a watching brief if considered necessary.

### **6.2 Area B: The southern area of the park**

Low impact development in the southern area of the park includes the establishment of an informal golf practise area to the south. While it is unlikely that many features will be encountered beyond the known medieval and post-medieval field systems, geophysical survey and trial trench excavation is suggested to confirm this hypothesis. Preliminary investigation may confirm that the area is devoid of archaeological features thereby obviating the need for a watching brief.

Other works in the general vicinity include a new play area, new footpaths, removing the concrete channel along the stream, re-grading earth banks and tree planting. Archaeological features, if present, are sealed beneath cultivation soils. The new play area lies to the south-east outside the surviving the ridge and furrow earthworks. These works can be monitored by means of a watching brief if considered necessary.

### **6.3 Area C: The house gardens**

The majority of work in this area can be used to inform the development scheme for restoring the historic character of the gardens prior to any development taking place.

Important points for consideration include the restoration of the ha-ha, improvements to the front and rear lawns, and a new management regime inside the walled garden. Limited geophysical survey by means of both an earth resistance meter and a fluxgate gradiometer in the region of the lawns and walled garden may reveal the historic pattern of the garden features. Combined targeted excavation on the ha-ha, the terrace to the front of the house and within the walled garden will enable an evaluation of the current state of preservation of these features, essential to choosing an appropriate method for the restoration works. Trenching and geophysics may provide evidence of former paths and planting arrangements with information pertinent to the nature of the restoration. Such information gathered would include constituents of garden features, materials used on path surfaces, the type of edging used, the location and extent of former hot-houses and the planting arrangements of the fruit trees. A general picture of the historic gardens would thus be retrieved sufficiently to enhance the basis for the proposed garden landscaping.

Should development of a community performance and events area in the stable yard include the construction of a new built facility, the proposed locality on the raised playground of the former school may necessitate a watching brief for any foundations. This is suggested to facilitate the recording of any features relating to the former stable yard access to the house or the stable yard surface that have been buried beneath the playground extension.

Improvements in other areas of the gardens; the outer woodland, the arboretum, the stream and the azalea garden are less likely to have significant archaeological considerations unless major earthmoving is to take place as part of the tree planting. It is not thought that significant features are likely to be encountered, although such works could be covered by means of a watching brief if necessary.

### **6.4 Area D: The eastern area of the park**

No high impact improvements are scheduled within this area of the park that would encounter remains relating to the World War II military camp. The majority of works in the

area; the heritage core playground, widening of roads, additional parking facilities and establishing a new memorial garden, layout are thought to be fairly low impact, set on the periphery of the military camp and may not warrant extensive monitoring. These could be handled during a watching brief.

## **7 PROPOSED SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS**

### **7.1 General overview**

Plincke Landscape Architects are seeking support from the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Public Parks Initiative to develop and enhance the existing recreation and leisure facilities at Braunstone Park, Leicester. The scheme will include groundwork in localised areas of the park to provide new facilities such as play areas, a community performance and events area, parking and an historic garden environment. The scheme also aims to improve the existing grounds, such as the football pitches, cleaning and re-grading the stream bank, tree planting, restoring the ha-ha and reinstating the historic character within the walled garden.

This specification has been prepared on behalf of Plincke Landscape Architects to meet many of the standard requirements and considerations often of interest to the Planning Archaeologist. This specification is valid until such a time as an archaeological brief is issued, whereupon the proposed specification will be subject to review to meet the recommendations of the Leicester City Planning Archaeologist.

### **7.2 Objectives**

The objectives of further archaeological field work in general will be as follows:

- To keep the Planning Archaeologist informed of any discoveries which merit archaeological investigation so that appropriate action may be discussed either for preservation *in situ* or excavation. This will be achieved by means of a pre-emptive evaluation supplemented by an intermittent watching brief as work proceeds.
- To identify, characterise, record and date, by means of archaeological excavation, any features exposed during ground works in the park and provide detailed information on the presence or absence, area of extent, depth of burial and degree of survival for archaeological deposits and features exposed within the park. This



will form the basis of the archaeological archive for all archaeological works undertaken.

Specific attention will be focused on confirming evidence for archaeological features identified during the desk-based assessment and walkover survey. Areas where no archaeological features have been identified will be covered by the more general objectives above. All proposed areas of the development scheme have been considered for the possible mitigation that will be required. These will include:

#### **Area A**

- Confirming and recording evidence for the survival of the suggested Roman road crossing the northern area of the park. This will be achieved by two trial 50m trial trenches across the line of the Roman road to mark its position correctly.
- A degree of building recording will be conducted on the existing Lodge House prior to conversion to accommodate the artist in residence and offices for the park wardens. The level, extent and nature of this building recording will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist and fieldwork completed, prior to any conversion works on the upstanding structures being undertaken.

#### **Area B**

- Investigation of the informal golf practise area will comprise geomagnetic survey using a fluxgate gradiometer followed by a 2% sample of trial trenching. The results of this fieldwork will inform the need for any further work.

#### **Area C**

- Investigation of the front and rear garden terraces, and the inside of the walled garden for features relating to former paths and planting arrangements. This will be achieved through detailed geophysical survey using an earth resistance metre and fluxgate gradiometer combined with a 2% sample of targeted trial excavation. The results will be used to establish the true extent and degree of survival for features and to provide information upon their historic character and constituents.

- Investigation of the ha-ha using a 50m trial trench under the rear lawn to establish its earlier course, together with the south-west field boundary, and confirm the hypothesis that the surviving bank is a later extension of the lawn.

#### **Area D**

- To monitor works at the periphery of the former World War II military camp, east of the Hall, by means of an intermittent watching brief as earthmoving is required.

#### **All Areas**

- A watching brief will be maintained where any development involving significant ground disturbance is to occur, this is to cover smaller interventions in different areas of the park such as works in the stable yard, small footprints, tree planting or areas of earthmoving and levelling. Any significant archaeological deposits that are identified will be recorded, planned and sampled sufficiently to determine their date and character. If features or deposits are encountered which cannot be adequately investigated within the framework of the watching brief, the client and the Leicester City Planning Archaeologist will be consulted on the scope of any additional investigation required.

### **7.3 Fieldwork**

The work will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). The Institute of Field Archaeologists procedural documents published in 1999 include; “*Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*”, “*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*”, “*Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*”, “*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*” and “*Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*”. These cover the majority of works which may be incorporated within this project.

Geophysical survey will follow the standards set down by English Heritage in “*Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation*” (EH 1995), and by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in “*The use of geophysical techniques in archaeological evaluations*” (Gaffney, Gater & Ovenden 2002).

Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief procedures will be applied, with observations and records made on pro-forma Watching Brief Record sheets, supplemented with more detailed information where preliminary or emergency recording work has been undertaken.

Where archaeological features are present, recording will follow the standard Northamptonshire Archaeology single context recording system with context sheets, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs, both in 35mm black /white and on colour slides. The record will be supplemented by direct annotations of the site general plan as required.

The location of archaeological features will be plotted at an appropriate scale with complex features being planned in more detail at 1:10 or 1:20 scale. Plans will be annotated as appropriate and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Measured plans and sections will be drawn as appropriate and spot heights will be linked to Ordnance Datum.

In the unlikely event human remains are encountered, they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. The Leicester City Planning Archaeologist will be consulted immediately for the appropriate course of action to be agreed upon. Removal will only take place under appropriate statutory consents, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

Finds coming under the definition of ‘treasure’ (Treasure Act 1997) will be reported to the Coroner and dealt with under the procedures of the Treasure Act and Code of Practice. Suitable measures will be taken to ensure their security where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery (i.e. they are associated with a human burial).

Should archaeological deposits be encountered where organic residues remain, sufficient samples will be taken to provide environmental evidence for the site. These samples will be taken from secure contexts, particularly where water-logging has aided preservation conditions. Such sampling will adhere to the “*Working papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2: Environmental evaluations, September 1995*” (AEA 1995).

#### **7.4 Report and archive**

All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed for appropriate archive in accordance with the “*First Aid for Finds (revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*” (Watkinson & Neal 1998). They will be prepared following the “*Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long term storage*” (UKIC 1990). Provision will be made for specialist analyses where necessary.

The report will be prepared as a single document forming a synthesis of the archaeological works for the overall scheme. It will include:

- The location of the excavations and archaeological plans related to the Ordnance Survey, together with other illustrated information on archaeological features as appropriate;
- Supporting photographic evidence of the archaeology and monitoring works;
- A summary of artefacts together with their interpretation;
- Specialist reports for any environmental samples, artefacts and burial remains;
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results;
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of any deposits encountered during the fieldwork;
- A discussion of the evidence within its regional context highlighting areas for future research.

An archive of all the fieldwork results will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 of the English Heritage procedural document, “*Management of Archaeological Projects*” (1991).

Four paper copies of the report will be prepared. Two copies of the report will be submitted to the client, two copies will be submitted to the Leicester City Planning Archaeologist, one of which will be retained within the Leicester City Sites and Monuments Record.

Within nine months of the completion of fieldwork the archive formed by the site records and artefacts will be finalised and made available for transfer to the Leicester City Museum Service in accordance with their recommendations on archive preparation. An Accession number will be obtained for the project as a whole, prior to fieldwork commencing.

In the event that significant results are obtained a microfilm copy of the site archive and narrative will be made to RCHM(E) standards and submitted to the National Archaeological Record, English Heritage, Swindon.

A summary of results will be submitted to the editor for inclusion in the journal "*Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society*" (c/o The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester, LE1 5FQ). Findings of regional or national importance will be published in an appropriate journal.

## 7.5 Organisation and resources

The Planning Archaeologist will be given 1 weeks notice in writing of the commencement and progress of each stage of works so that arrangements can be made for monitoring.

All Northamptonshire Archaeology Projects are carried out under the overall management of **Steve Parry MA MIFA**, Principal Archaeologist. A Senior Project Officer may be assigned to act on his behalf.

Day-to-day management of the project and conduct of the trial trench excavation is likely to be done by **Jim Brown BSc PGDip PIFA**, Project Supervisor. Site personnel will be confirmed prior to commencement of the project when an assessment of staff resources can be undertaken to meet the needs of the approved Project Design. Geophysical survey work will be undertaken concurrently with the trial excavations by an Assistant Project Supervisor or Project Supervisor, who may also conduct any watching briefs. Project Assistants will be assigned to the site as required and will be fully competent for the tasks given to them.

All finds will be examined by **Tora Hylton**, Finds Specialist with Northamptonshire Archaeology in the first instance. She has previously published a wide variety of reports on material from the Midlands and the Southeast over a period of more than 10 years, and will co-ordinate other specialists as appropriate.

It is expected that the fieldwork will be conducted as one stage of pre-emptive evaluation prior to development works and excluding contingency arrangements, to be followed by intermittent watching brief visits as required by the earthmoving. Pre-emptive fieldwork is anticipated to take approximately one working week for each area to be completed. The project cost estimates are inclusive of post-excavation analysis, reporting & archive, estimated at about 50% of fieldwork.

<b>Gradiometer survey (all areas)</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>Resistance survey (house and gardens only)</b>	<b>£650.00</b>
<b>Trial trenching (2% sample of geophysics + 180m targeted on earthworks &amp; APs)</b>	<b>£8485.05</b>

The cost of trial trench excavation breaks down in the following manner and includes certain basic assumptions and considerations:

**Trial trench excavation (390m x 2m)**

Staff time	£4130.00
Travel and sundries	£650.00
Plant hire (JCB type & mini-excavator for inside the walled garden)	£1200.00
Fencing	£800.00
Reporting and archive	£1705.05
<b><u>SUB-TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>£8485.05</u></b>

*Assumptions*

- 1 No excavation will take place below 1.2m of surrounding area except where contingency for deep features is activated.
- 2 Northamptonshire Archaeology take no responsibility for any loss of business relating to the full or partial closing of the parkland, or for resulting compensation claims, incurred during the process of excavation.
- 3 Northamptonshire Archaeology will not be responsible for negotiating land access. It is assumed that ready access will be available to the excavated area when works commence.
- 4 The costing assumes that all the fieldwork areas will be accessible. Machine delivery costs are allowed for one delivery and one collection for each machine. If multiple deliveries and collections are required then additional costs may be incurred. It is assumed that spoil disposal areas adjacent to the excavated area will be available.
- 5 Contingency has been made for substantial fencing as trenches are sufficiently far apart they must be fenced individually. If fencing is provided then these costs will not be incurred.
- 6 Invoices will be issued on completion of fieldwork and on submission of client report.

Note:

The above costs exclude VAT, which should be added at the prevailing rate of 17.5%.

The above cost is valid for a period of three months after which it may be re-assessed.

The above cost includes up to five copies of any report, additional copies are charged at £50 per copy.

Watching brief attendance is charged on a daily rate of £250 per day, which includes the cost of investigating and recording isolated features that may arise during stripping of topsoil and subsoil. If deposits were encountered beyond the scope of one man to handle in a day, then the scope of further work would be discussed with the client and the Leicester City Planning Archaeologist before proceeding further. The need for watching briefs is only considered likely during excavation of surface deposits in localised areas (Fig 3).

## **7.6 Title and confidentiality**

Agreement will be sought with the landowner for the eventual transfer of all artefacts recovered to the Leicester City Museum Service for long term storage.

The deposition of a copy of the report with the Leicester City Sites and Monuments Record is deemed to place all information into the public domain, unless specific written consent is given for confidentiality. Such material held in confidence must have a timescale, not exceeding six months.

## **7.7 Health and safety**

All works will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety policy of the Northamptonshire County Council Planning Transport and Environment.

The on-site contractor will act as Principal Contractor under the terms of CDM Regulations. Northamptonshire Archaeology staff will come under the Site Safety Plan and regulations of the Principal Contractor.

It is expected that normal site welfare facilities will be provided.

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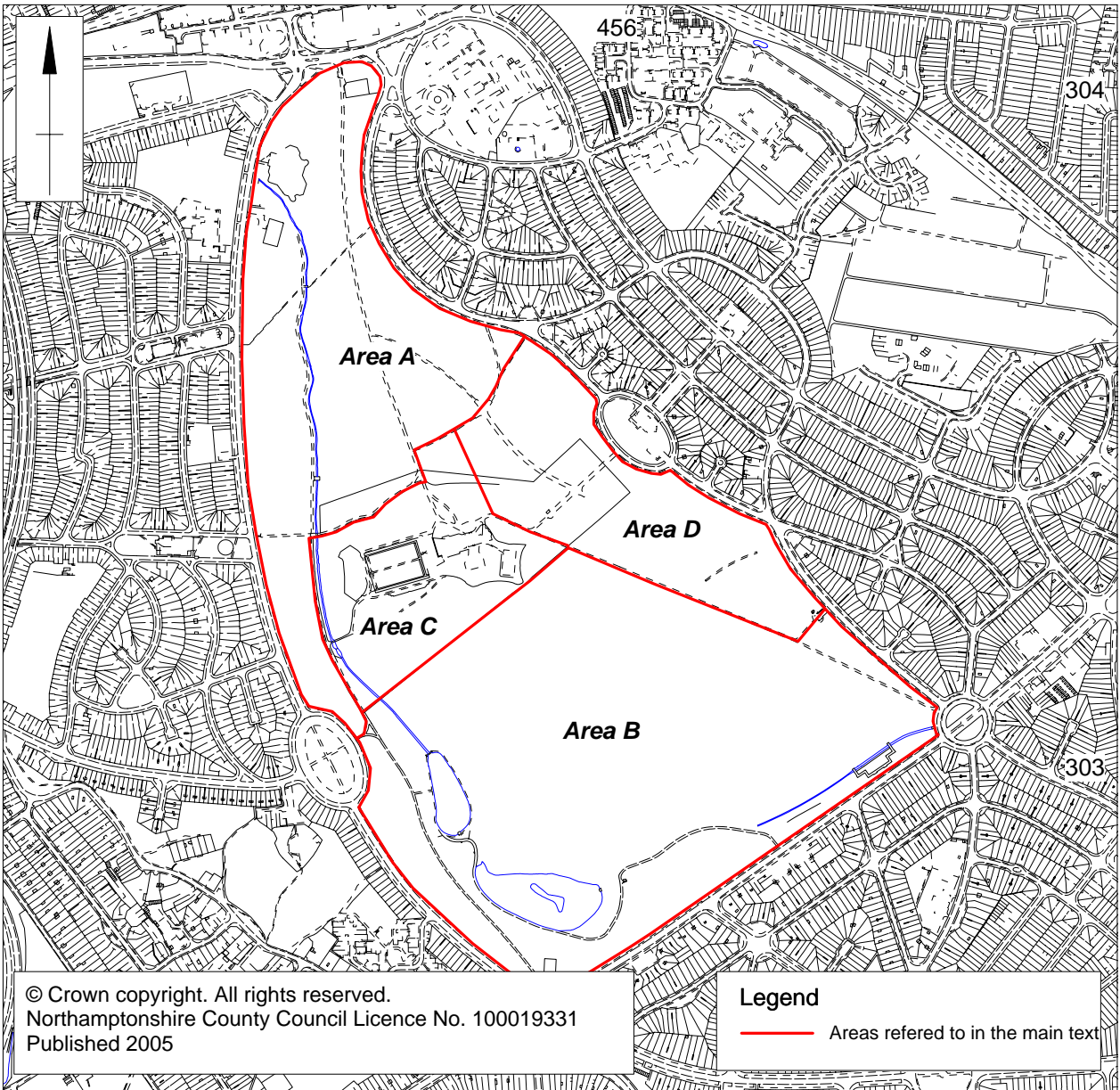
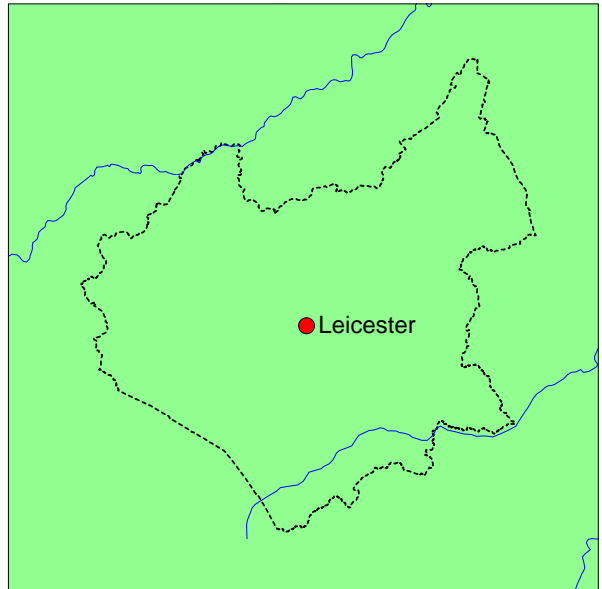
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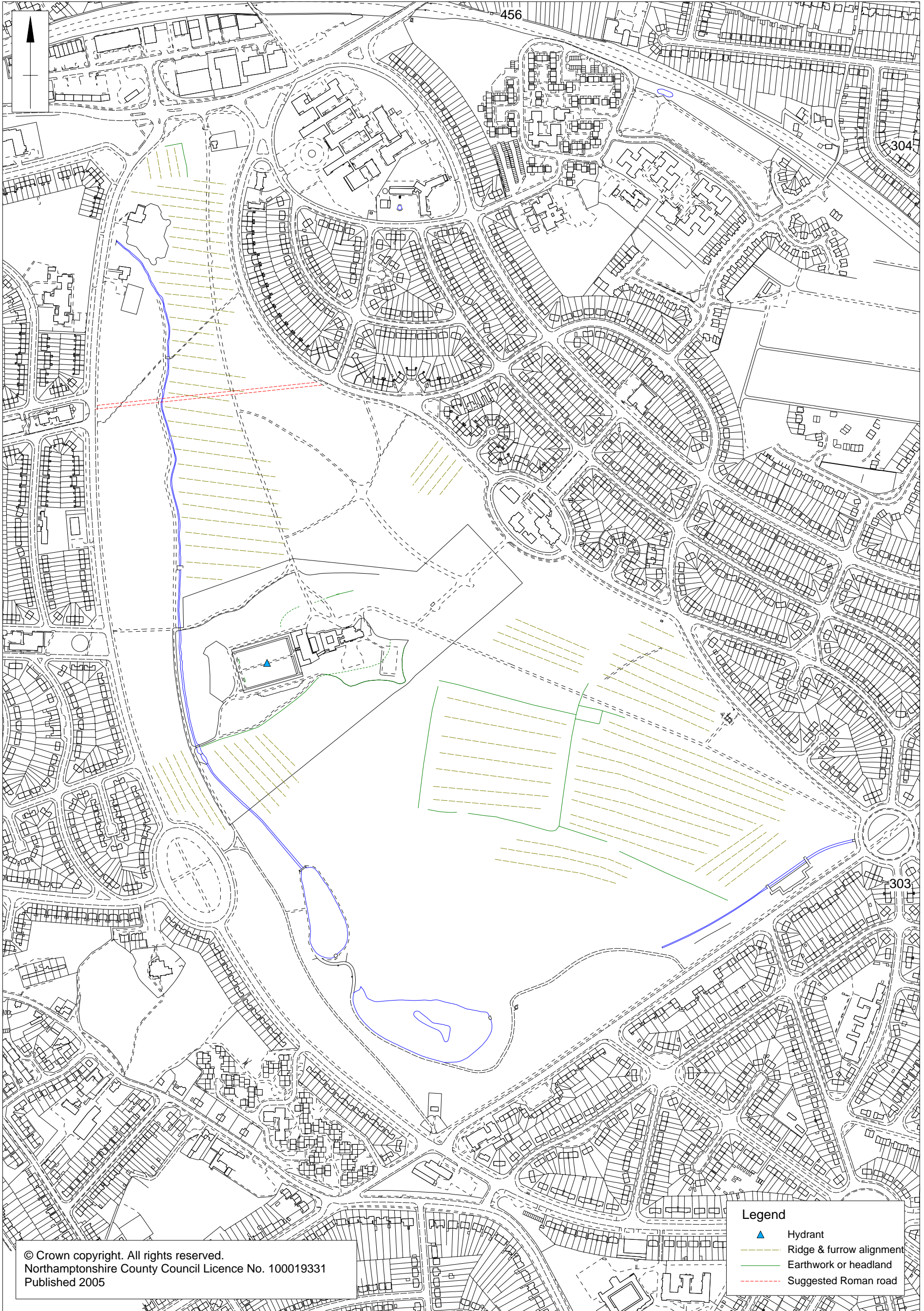
Wilshire, J, 1972, *Old Braunstone*





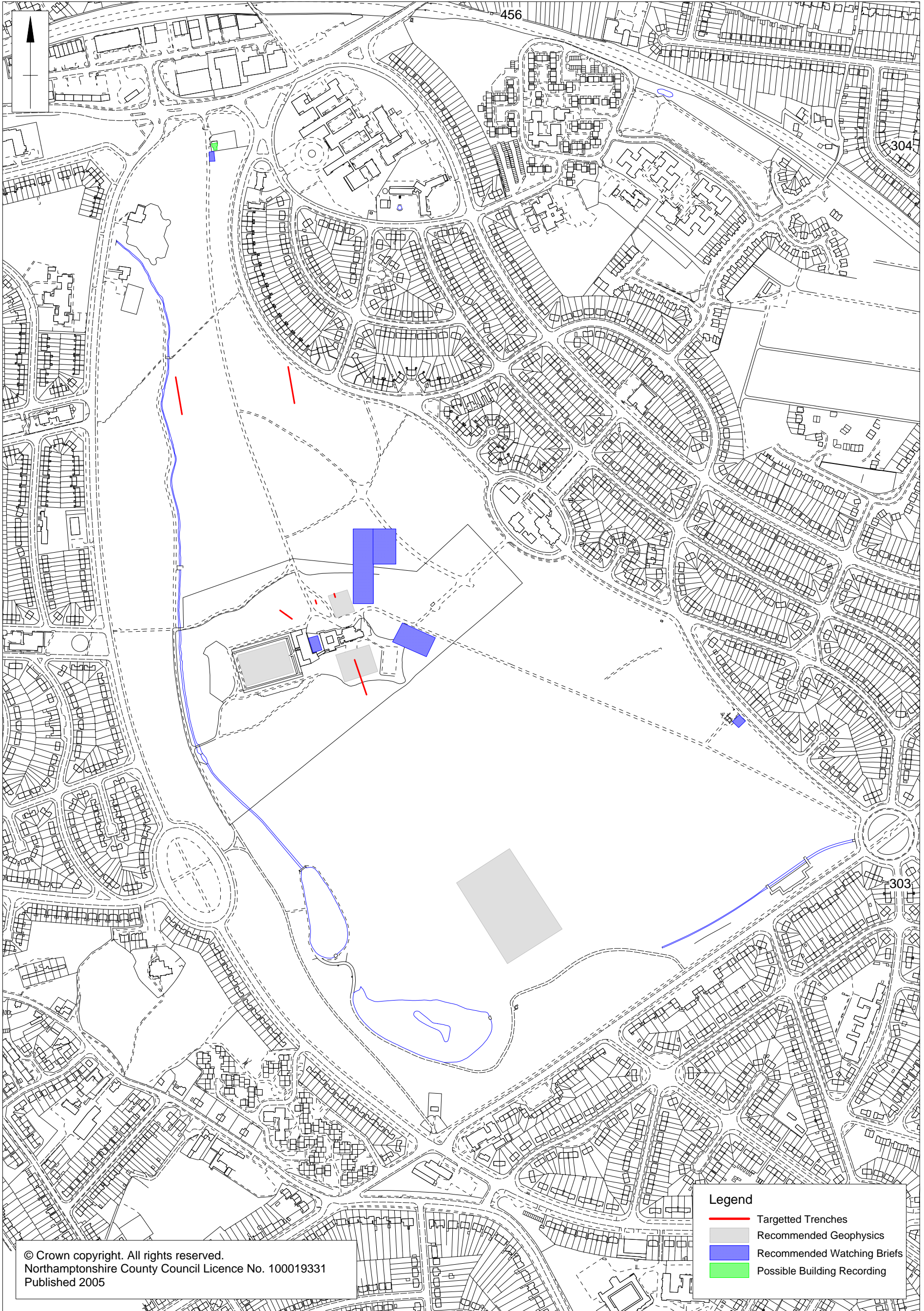
Scale 1:10,000

Fig 1



Scale 1:5000

Fig 2





**Plate 1**



**Plate 2**



**Plate 3**



**Plate 4**



**Plate 5**



**Plate 6**



**Plate 7**



**Plate 8**



**Plate 9**



**Plate 10**