



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of a proposed
cemetery extension to the west of
All Saints Church, Braunston in Rutland

November 2008

Planning application 2008/0150/FUL

Accession number OAKRM: 2008.105



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Report 08/198

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OASIS REPORT FORM

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| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
| Project name | An Archaeological evaluation of a proposed cemetery extension to the west of All Saints Church, Braunston In Rutland | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a trial trench evaluation on land to the west of All Saints Church, Braunston in Rutland during November 2008. Two trenches, measuring a total of 40m were excavated within the 0.6ha application area. Extant ridge and furrow was observed on the site and one furrow was uncovered. A field barn, constructed of ironstone, was noted in the north-east corner of the proposed cemetery extension. The possible date for its construction was between 1801 and 1810. | |
| Project type | Trial Trench Evaluation | |
| Site status | None | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current Land use | Grazing | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| Monument type/ period | | |
| Significant finds | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Rutland | |
| Site address | Land to the west of All Saints Church, Braunston in Rutland | |
| Study area (sq.m or ha) | Approximately 0.6ha | |
| OS Easting & Northing | NGR SK 831 065 | |
| Height OD | 116-117m above OD | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | Rutland District Council | |
| Project Design originator | Anthony Maul, Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Director/Supervisor | Paul Kajewski, Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Anthony Maul, Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Sponsor or funding body | CgMs Consulting | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | November 2008 | |
| End date | November 2008 | |
| ARCHIVES | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | | - |
| Paper | OAKRM: 2008.105 | Context record, site registers, photographic record, plan and section sheet on permatrace |
| Digital | OAKRM: 2008.105 | PDF of client report and illustrations. |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
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| Cover: | Saxon fertility statue Sheela Na Gig, All Saints Church Yard |
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF A
PROPOSED CEMETERY EXTENSION TO WEST
OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BRAUNSTON IN RUTLAND**

NOVEMBER 2008

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a trial trench evaluation on land to the west of All Saints Church, Braunston in Rutland during November 2008. Two trenches, measuring a total of 40m were excavated within the 0.6ha application area. Extant ridge and furrow was observed on the site and one furrow was uncovered. A field barn, constructed of ironstone, was noted in the north-east corner of the proposed cemetery extension. The possible date for its construction was between 1801 and 1810.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2008 for CgMs Consulting on land to the west of All Saints Church, Braunston In Rutland, (NGR SK 831 065; Fig 1). Trial excavation of 40m of trenches followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) for planning application 2008/0150/FUL (Maull 2008). The work was carried as a requirement attached to planning consent for an extension to the cemetery of All Saints Church. The subsequent archaeological works were approved by Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council (LCC HNET) as advisors to the Rutland County Council Planning Authority.

The site archive has been issued the accession code OAKRM: 2008.105 by the Rutland County Museum where it will be deposited at the conclusion of the project. The material archive will be prepared according to the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990), *Standards in the care of archaeological collections* (MGC 1994), *Management of archaeological projects* (EH 1991), the *standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). Copies of the report will be submitted to LCC HNET in support of the current application.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development site lies on the western border of the All Saints Churchyard on the western edge of the Braunstone in Rutland village, 3.3km south-west of Oakham (Fig 1). The site is bounded by gently rolling grazing fields to the south and west and housing to the north. The site lies approximately 116m

above Ordnance Datum.

The development site consisted of a small rhomboid shaped sub-division of a larger field (Fig 1). Heavily disturbed ridge and furrow was observed on the site, aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 2, Plate 1). Ridge and furrow, which was less disturbed, was also observed in the field directly to the west of the study area on the same alignment.

There was a field barn, constructed of ironstone, measuring 5.5m long and 3.8m wide in the north-east corner of the site (Fig 2, Plates 3 and 4). There was no roof and the walls showed significant signs of damage by weathering and root action from plants.

The geology of the site consists of Lower Jurassic Limestone of the Marlstone Rock Formation and mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation (BGS 1978).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

A search of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) included the study area and an immediate 500m radius. Archaeological remains and listed buildings were highlighted by the search. A summary of the search can be seen in Table 1 and in Figure 3.

The development site is located within the historic medieval core of the village. The village has a long history highlighted by its mention in the Domesday Book (Williams 1992: 634). All Saints Church in the village is believed to stand on the site of an earlier Saxon church. The earliest parts of the present church buildings may date from the Norman construction (MLE 5064). Within the village timber-framed buildings dating from the 13th century are present alongside modern homes intermixed with buildings from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries (MLE 5063, 8402, 16803) (Table 1 and Fig 3).

Three find spots were returned from the HER search, a late Iron Age quern stone (MLE 6597) was found 150m east of the site. During a watching brief in the village Roman building remains and Saxon pottery was recorded 220m east of the site (MLE 16804, MLE 16805) (Fig 3).

Possible medieval village earthworks on the grounds of Manor Farm immediately to the west and into the western half of the study area were noted in the HER (MLE 5069) (Fig 3).

Table 1: Historic Environment Record summary

| SMR Number | NGR | Date | Details |
|------------|----------------|---|--|
| MLE 5063 | SK 83279 06756 | Medieval to Modern - 1250 AD? to present | Possibly 'Swaffield Manor'. An earlier hall was encased in stone in the 16th-century. It may be one of the earliest base-cruck halls in England. There is a 17th-century outbuilding to the south with re-used stonework. |
| MLE 5064 | SK 83254 06592 | Medieval 1067 AD to 1349 AD | Saxo-Norman church rebuilt 1728-9. Older features include a plain 13th-century north doorway, Norman responds, a small Norman doorway from the chancel to the modern vestry. In addition, there are medieval wall paintings and a strange re-used carved stone figure (see cover). |
| MLE 5069 | SK 830 065 | Medieval - 1067 AD to 1539 AD | Near the church there are faint village earthworks. |
| MLE 5067 | SK 827 064 | Medieval - 1067 AD to 1539 AD | Various earthworks including natural river channels, ridge and furrow and a levelled terrace that may have been the leat to a mill. There are also possible remains of a dam. |
| MLE 6597 | SK 833 066 | Late Iron Age - 100 BC to 42 AD | A Late Iron Age beehive quern was found in front of the manor house in 1902, about 30cm below the ground surface |
| MLE 8402 | SK8327406414 | Early Post-medieval to Modern - 1650 AD? to present | Probable mid 17th century coursed rubble farmhouse with a slate roof. |
| MLE 16803 | SK 833 065 | Late Post-medieval to Modern - 1720 AD to present | Building survey undertaken in the 1990s suggested the house dated from 1720-50 but was on the site of an earlier building. The earliest fabric (roof timbers) dated from the early 18th-century. |
| MLE 16804 | SK 834 066 | Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD | A watching brief carried out in 1995 revealed evidence of a Romano-British building in the immediate vicinity. Pottery and building material was found in a sandy layer in many of the trenches. |
| MLE 16805 | SK 8340 0664 | Early Anglo Saxon - 410 AD to 649 AD | During a watching brief in 1995 four early Anglo-Saxon sherds of pottery were recovered |

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the trial trench evaluation were to determine:

- The location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains, and identify those with the potential to provide useful and informative research data.
- The production of illustrated records with attention to level heights related to Ordnance Datum, and to identify zones of importance.
- Provide sufficient information to inform future planning decisions regarding the proposals for further development.

3.2 Methodology

Two evaluation trenches, 20m long x 1.6m wide were located using an SMG grade GPS Leica System 1200. The locations of the trenches were subject to the position of an extant field barn in the north-east corner of the site and a public footpath in the southern half of the site. The position of the trenches was agreed with LCC HNET.

The topsoil and subsoil were removed by a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizons, whereupon excavation continued by hand. All potential archaeological features were investigated and a site record was maintained using standard Northamptonshire Archaeology recording procedures (NCC 1985). All works were conducted in accordance with the *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, (1994, revised 2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991). All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the welfare policies of Northamptonshire County Council. A full search of buried services was conducted for the areas of intervention prior to commencement of the works and a CAT scan used before machine excavation.

The trenches were cleaned, planned and features sampled sufficiently to determine their character and date. All archaeological features and deposits were given separate context numbers. Deposits were described on *pro-forma* trench and context sheets to include details of the deposit or feature, its relationships, an interpretation and a check-list of associated finds. This field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing. In addition a photographic record was maintained, comprising 35mm black and white negatives, related contact prints and colour slides. Section photographs, trench and overall site photographs, were also taken. A digital record was maintained as a supplement to the main archive for reporting purposes.

Trenches with archaeological features were planned at 1:50 scale. The section profiles of features were drawn at scales of 1:10. The excavated area was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey Grid with spot heights for plans and

sections recorded in relation to the height above Ordnance Datum.

At all stages of the programme the monitoring authority from LCC HNET was kept apprised of developments in the field allowing for strategic discussion as work proceeded. NA maintained full compliance with the government regulations under the 1997 Treasure Act and the 1981 Disused Burial Ground (Amendment) Act.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphic sequence

The natural clay geology of the site was sealed below a layer of red-orange-brown silty clay topsoil with a significant degree of root activity and an orange-brown subsoil. The topsoil and subsoil together constituted an average thickness of approximately 0.50m distributed unevenly across the site and subject to the movement by ridge and furrow field management.

4.2 Archaeological features

Two trenches were excavated in the proposed cemetery extension, one of which contained archaeological features (Fig 2). Trench 2 contained a furrow that was centrally located. For a full archive list see Appendix 1 and for a full context list and soil description see Appendix 2.

Trench 1

The natural substrate (103) comprised orange-brown clay with occasional small to medium sized rounded flint pebbles, was present in the trench at an average depth of 0.50m. No archaeology was revealed in this trench (Fig 2).

The subsoil (102) sealed the natural and was consistently 0.25m-0.30m in depth. Topsoil (101) sealed the subsoil and was 0.20-0.25m thick throughout the trench. The ground surface lay at 117.50m above Ordnance Datum in the north of the trench and 116.66m above Ordnance Datum in the south of the trench.

Trench 2

The natural substrate (203) comprised orange-brown clay with occasional small to medium sized rounded flint pebbles, was present in the trench at an average depth of 0.50m.

In the centre of the trench was a furrow [205], aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 2, Plate 2). This feature had a shallow U-shaped profile with equally graduated sides and was 1.6m wide by 0.15m deep. The fill was orange-brown silt clay (204) with occasional charcoal flecks. This feature produced no finds.

The cut feature was sealed by the subsoil (202) and was consistently 0.15m-0.30m in depth. Topsoil (201) sealed the subsoil and was 0.20-0.30m thick throughout the trench. The ground surface lay at 116.91m above Ordnance Datum in the west of the trench and 116.18m above Ordnance Datum in the east

of the trench.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

Site records

Plans: **1** A2 sheet at 1:50
Sections: **1** A2 sheet at 1:10 and 1:20
Contexts: **2** *pro-forma* record sheets
Supporting records: **2** *pro-forma* record sheets
Colour slides: **1** film
Black and white: **1** film
Digital photographs: **21**
Documents: Site report and specification

Finds

No finds were recovered from the trial trench evaluation

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation did not produce any evidence of the possible medieval village earthworks that were noted in the HER (MLE 5069) (Fig 3). The proposed cemetery extension site exhibited disturbed extant ridge and furrow on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 2, Plate 1). The furrow [205] uncovered in Trench 2 was on the same alignment. No other archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the trial trench evaluation.

The corralling of stock into the field barn, located in the north-east corner of the site, has caused a considerable amount of damage to the ridge and furrow and some erosion of the ground surface in this area of the site (Fig 2, Plates 3 and 4). The construction of this pen would appear have been between the enclosure act of 1801 (OPSI 2008) and the appearance of the pen on the 1810 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 3). The ridge and furrow was further damaged in the north-west and west of the site with the addition of a gate used for access (Fig 2).

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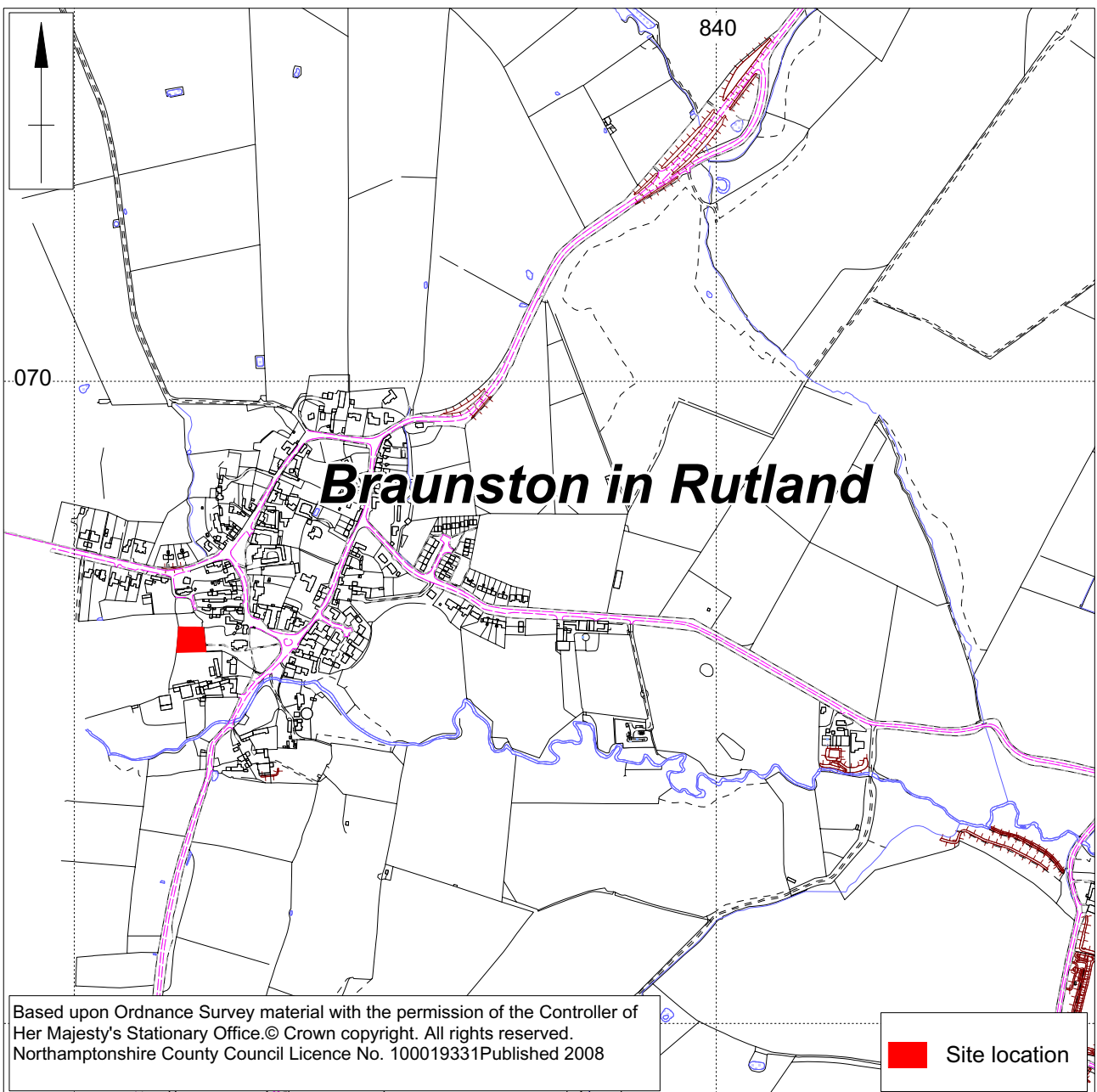
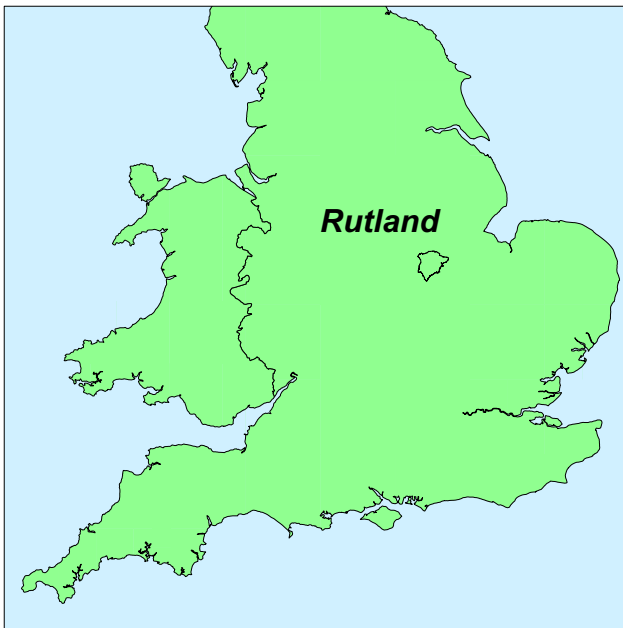
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench | Context | Type | Description | Width (m) | Depth (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 101 | Topsoil | Red-orange-brown silty clay, large amount of worm and root activity | - | 0.25-0.20m |
| | 102 | Subsoil | Orange-brown silty clay, medium amount of root penetration and worm activity | - | 0.25-0.30m |
| | 103 | Natural | Orange-brown clay mixed with occasional small to medium rounded flint pebbles, minimal amount of root penetration | - | - |
| 2 | 201 | Topsoil | Red-orange-brown silty clay, large amount of worm and root activity | - | 0.20-0.30m |
| | 202 | Subsoil | Orange-brown silty clay, medium amount of root penetration and worm activity | - | 0.15-0.30m |
| | 203 | Natural | Orange-brown clay mixed with occasional small to medium rounded flint pebbles, minimal amount of root penetration | - | - |
| | 204 | Fill of 205 | Orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks medium amount of root penetration and worm activity | 1.6m | 0.15m |
| | 205 | Cut | Cut of furrow, shallow U-shaped evenly sloping sides with a curved base | 1.6m | 0.15m |

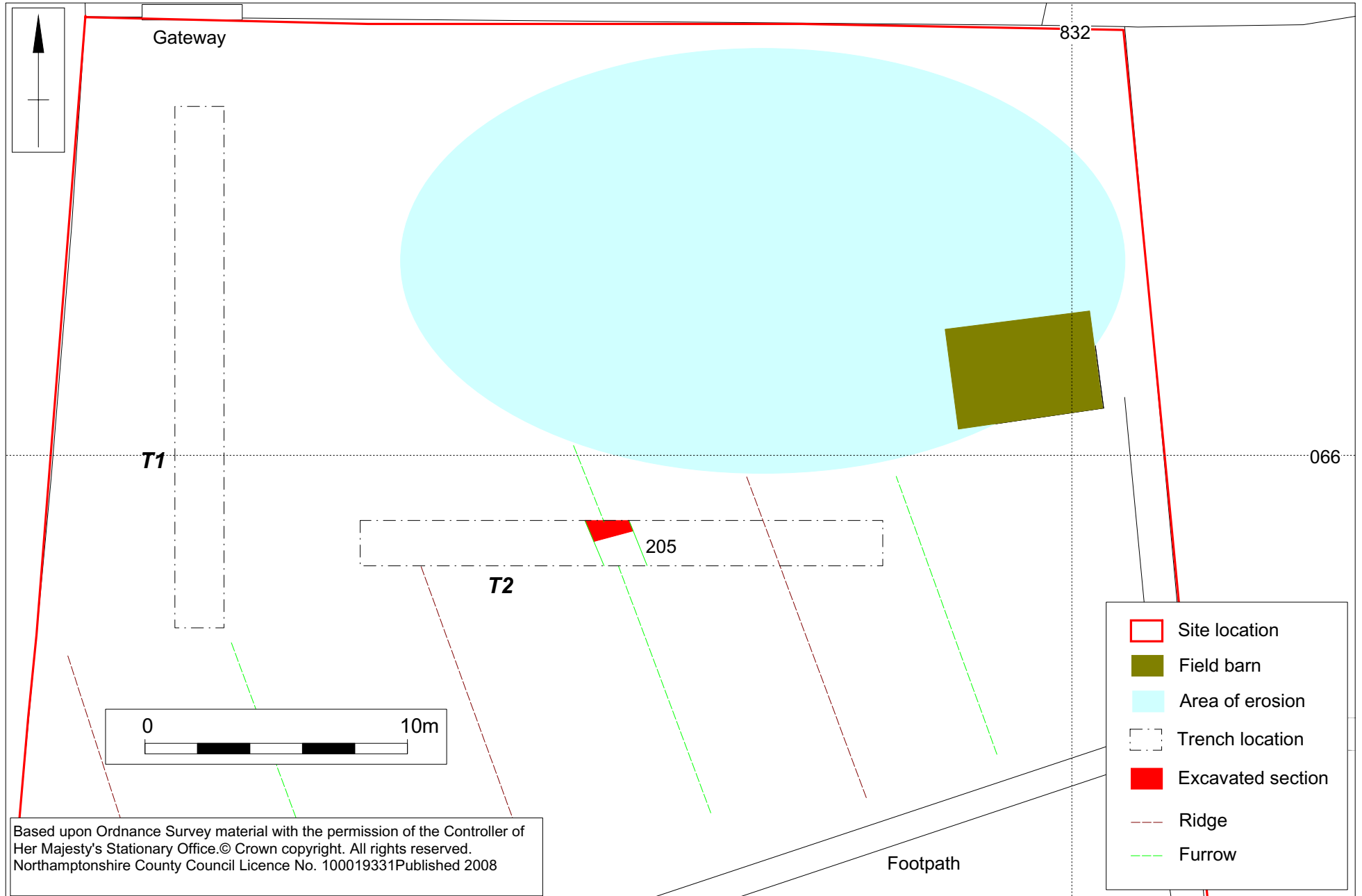


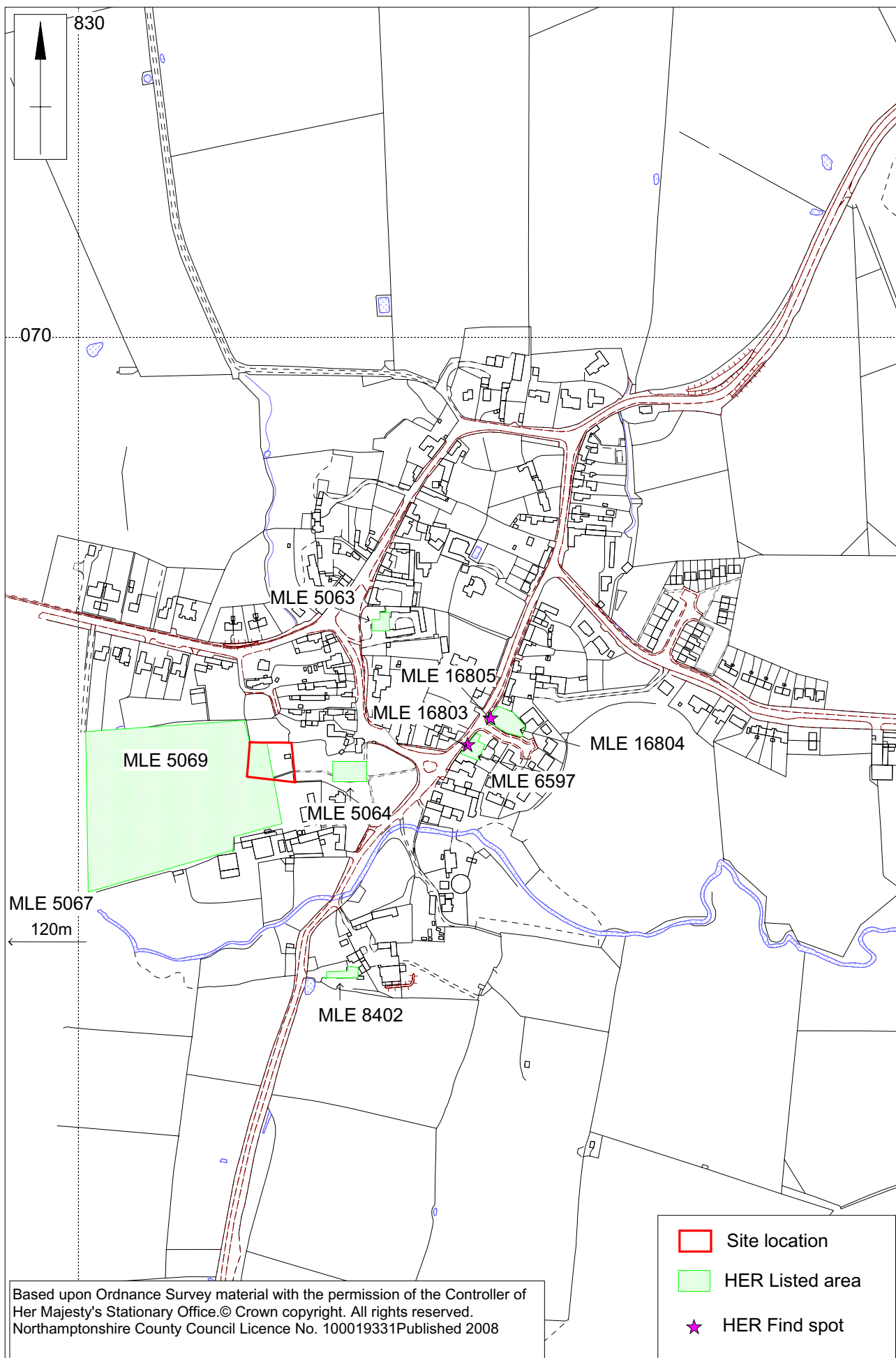
Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:200

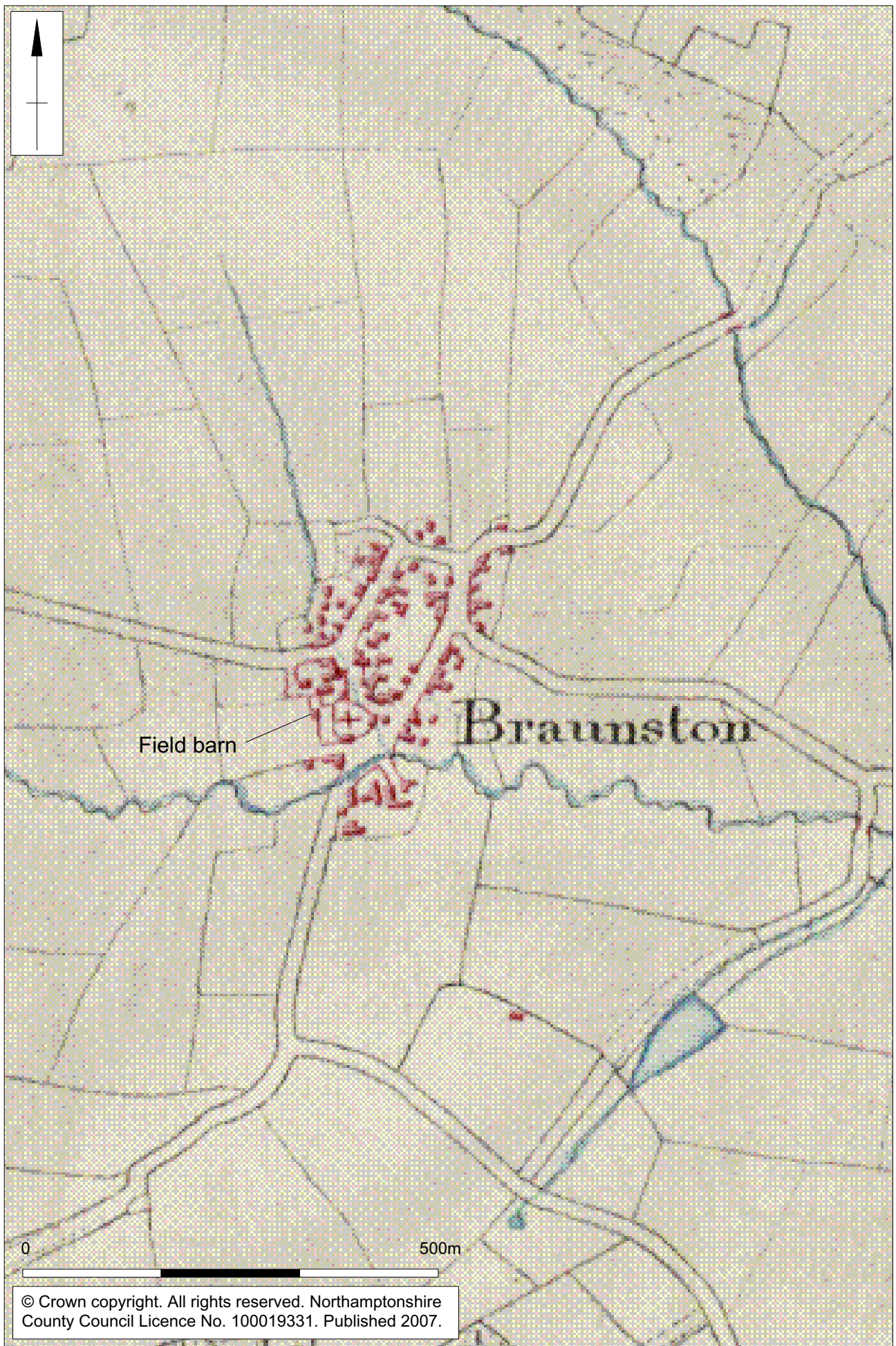
Trench location and archaeological features Fig 2





Scale 1:5000

Historic Environment Record information Fig 3



1810 Ordnance Survey map Fig 4

PLATES



Plate 1: Area of disturbed ridge and furrow close to field barn



Plate 2: Excavated furrow [205] in Trench 2, facing south-east



Plate 3: Field barn, facing south



Plate 4: Field barn, facing north