



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation at

Station Road, Melbourne,

Derbyshire

November 2008

Acc. No. DBYMU 2008-303



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Report 08/204

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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Station Road, Melbourne

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire. A total of 14 evaluation trenches, totalling 700m were proposed, of which 670m were excavated. No significant archaeological features were present. Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were identified in trenches in the northernmost field. Colluvial deposits dated to the early post-medieval period or later overlay an undated buried soil in the south-east part of the site.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)		
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Derbyshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Station Road, Melbourne	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	4.8 hectares	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	NGR SK 3980 2560	
Height OD	50mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA) Karen Francis (CgMs Consulting)	
Sponsor or funding body	Fisher German	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	24/11/08	
End date	27/11/08	
ARCHIVES		
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	DBYMU 2008-303	Pottery, photographs
Paper	DBYMU 2008-303	Site record
Digital	DBYMU 2008-303	Photographs, digital report copies
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire	
Serial title & volume	08/204	
Author(s)	Jason Clarke	
Page numbers	7	
Date	December 2008	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
STATION ROAD, MELBOURNE
DERBYSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2008

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire. A total of 14 evaluation trenches, totalling 700m were proposed, of which 670m were excavated.

No significant archaeological features were present. Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were identified in trenches in the northernmost field. Colluvial deposits dated to the early post-medieval period or later overlay an undated buried soil in the south-east part of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire on behalf of CgMs Consulting and Fisher German during November 2008 (Fig 1).

The work was undertaken in order to inform a planning application for the construction of houses and associated infrastructure (9/2006/0305/M). A recent geophysical survey of the proposed site had identified a number of anomalies, including potential pits and palaeochannels (Roseveare and Roseveare 2008).

The scope of works was set out in a project design prepared by CgMs Consulting (2008).

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is located in an area of pastoral land, situated to the east of Station Road, on the eastern side of Melbourne, covering an area of 4.8 hectares across three fields (centred on NGR SK 3980 2560). The Carr Brook bounds the east of the site, with open fields to the north and Lilypool Industrial Estate to the south.

The geology of the site consists of Carboniferous Moira Grit and Alluvium, with Mercia Mudstones and Millstone Grit outcrops. The site slopes gently downward, from west to east towards the Carr Brooke from a level of about 50m above OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment conducted by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Bocock 2005) records no archaeological sites within the proposed development site, although sites have been recorded within the area of Melbourne.

Two Neolithic pits were discovered 175m to the south-west of the proposed development site, in Castle Street, as well as medieval pottery. An Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery was discovered 500m to the north-east of the proposed development site, during the construction of a cutting for the Derby to Ashby railway in 1886 (CgMs 2008).

Geophysical survey (Roseveare and Roseveare 2008) identified a number of anomalies interpreted as a possible palaeochannel, ditches and pits.

4 METHODOLOGY

All works were conducted in accordance with the IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2001), the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practises of Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001).

Works were carried out in accordance with the Project Design (CgMs 2008) and were monitored by Simon Mortimer of CgMs on behalf of the client and Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council on behalf of the local planning authority.

A total of 14 trenches were excavated, representing a 3% sample of the proposed development site (Fig 2). They were targeted on areas of maximum development impact, house foundations and geophysical anomalies.

A mechanical excavator with a 2m flat ditching bucket was used to excavate topsoil and overburden to archaeological levels. All archaeological features were examined by hand to determine their nature. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2003). All archaeological features were given a separate context number, features were described on pro-forma context sheets, which included details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and associated finds. A photographic record was kept using monochrome and colour slide film and supplemented by digital photography.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Fourteen trenches were excavated totalling 670m in length (Fig 2). Trench 14 was reduced in length to 22m due to the eastern end positioned in a wooded area. Trench 10 was reduced to 45m in length due to rapid infilling of water at the southern end towards the Carr Brook causing a health and safety hazard. Trench 7 was reduced to 45m due to its south-western end being positioned within a natural spring.

A full list of contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

General stratigraphy

Natural geological deposits varied across the site, although they generally comprised reddish brown clays with outcrops of mudstone. Light grey sandy clay subsoil, where present, measured between 0.20m and 0.50m thick. Topsoil throughout the site was dark-black-brown silty clay, measuring between 0.30m and 0.50m thick.

Alluvium

Grey-brown silty clay alluvium, 0.20m thick, was present in Trench 10 (1004), overlaid by buried soil (1003). Grey-brown silty clay alluvium, 0.20m thick, was present in Trench 11 (1104), overlaid by colluvium (1103). The alluvium in both trenches overlay the natural geology.

Buried soil

A layer of dark black-brown silty clay buried soil was present in the north of Trench 10 (1003) and east of Trench 9 (903) (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 2). The buried soil overlay the alluvial deposit in Trench 10 and underlay the colluvial build up. It measured 0.1m deep in Trench 9 and 0.15m deep in Trench 10. It contained no datable artefacts although moderate amounts of organic remains, such as small fragments of wood were present within its fill.

Colluvium

A layer of light-brown grey silty clay colluvium was present in Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14. The colluvium was 0.3m thick at the north-west of the slope and up to 0.79m thick at the base of the slope. Four sherds of pottery, probably from the same vessel, dating to the 16th century were recovered from the colluvium layer (1103) in Trench 11.

Plough Furrows

Truncated furrows were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 (Fig 2, Plate 3). The furrows were aligned north-east/south-west and were 20m apart in trenches 3 and 5. The furrows

measured 1m wide and 0.05m deep and were filled with mid grey sandy clay. A fragment of Midland Black type pottery, dating from the first half of the 17th century was recovered from furrow [104] in Trench 1.

The furrows were highly truncated by later agricultural practices.

6 THE POTTERY by Iain Soden

Five sherds of pottery were recovered from two contexts as follows:

A base and body sherd from a Midland Black type, probably from the Ticknall industry was recovered from the fill (103) of furrow [104]. The sherd dates to the first half of the 17th century.

A rim and three abraded body sherds from a wide-mouthed jar with an upright collared rim in a harsh, very gritty oxidised coarseware with possible lid-seating was recovered from a layer of colluvium (1103) in Trench 11. The pottery dated to the 16th century.

While useful for dating the contexts from which they derive, the pottery is not significant.

7 DISCUSSION

No significant archaeological features were present within any of the evaluation trenches. None of the geophysical anomalies examined by the evaluation corresponded to archaeological features or deposits.

Evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing dated to the early post-medieval period was found in the northernmost of the three fields. This reflects the early medieval and probable medieval land usage. The lack of furrows in the other fields may indicate that these lay outside the areas of arable cultivation.

The build up of colluvial and alluvial deposits in the base of the valley near the Carr Brook is not untypical, although the presence of a well preserved buried soil indicates that this may have occurred within a relatively short time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- CgMs Consulting 2008 *A Specification for Archaeological Mitigation at Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire*
- 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects* EH
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- Roseveare, A, and Roseveare M, 2008 *Station Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire: Geophysical Survey Report*, ArchaeoPhysica Ltd

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Deposit Type	Description	Artefact types
1	101	Topsoil	Black silty clay, 0.4m deep	
	102	Natural	Light blue grey clay	
	103	Fill	Fill of furrow [104].	Pottery
	104	Cut	Cut of furrow. 1m wide 0.07m deep	
2	201	Topsoil	Black silty clay, up to 0.45m deep	
	202	Natural	Light blue grey clay	
3	301	Topsoil	Black silty clay, between 0.4 and 0.45m deep	
	302	Subsoil	Light grey silt clay, between 0.2 to 0.5m deep	
	303	Natural	Light blue grey clay	
4	401	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, between 0.4 and 0.7m deep	
	402	Natural	Reddish/yellow brown clay with patches of mudstone	
5	501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, between 0.38 and 0.41m deep	
	502	Subsoil	Light grey silt and sandy clay, 0.64m deep	
	503	Natural	Reddish/yellow brown clay with patches of mudstone	
6	601	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, between 0.3 and 0.39m deep	
	602	Natural	Red and yellow sands and light grey clay with patches of mudstone	
7	701	Topsoil	Mid-grey silty clay, 0.3m deep	
	702	Subsoil	Mid brown grey sandy clay, 0.24m deep	
	703	Natural	Light grey orange brown sandy clays with patches of mudstone	
8	801	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay, 0.3m deep	
	802	Subsoil	Light grey brown silty sandy clay, between 0.1m and 0.4m deep	
	803	Natural	Light grey orange brown silty sandy clays and mudstone	
9	901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, between 0.3m and 0.4m deep	

Station Road, Melbourne

Trench	Context	Deposit Type	Description	Artefact types
	902	Colluvium	Mid grey silty clay colluvium, up to 0.58m deep	
	903	Buried soil	Dark brown organic buried soil with high clay content, up to 0.71m deep	
	904	Natural	Light grey clay with mudstone	
10	1001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay , between 0.34 and 0.44m deep	
	1002	Colluvium	Mid grey silty clay colluvium, up to 0.2m deep	
	1003	Buried soil	Dark brown organic buried soil, up to 0.15m deep	
	1004	Alluvium	Mid grey silt clay alluvium 0.20m deep	
	1005	Natural	Light brown grey silt and clay with red/grey silty clay and mudstone	
11	1101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay loam, between 0.34 and 0.45m deep	
	1102	Subsoil	Friable dark grey/brown loamy silt, up to 0.14m deep	
	1103	Colluvium	Light brown silty clay colluvium, up to 0.18m deep	Pottery
	1104	Alluvium	Brown silty clay alluvium, up to 0.2m deep	
	1105	Natural	Light grey silty clay with frequent patches of mudstone	
12	1201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay, up to 0.41m deep	
	1202	Colluvium	Light brown sandy silt colluvium, up to 0.4m deep	
	1203	Natural	Light grey reddish clay	
13	1301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.45m deep	
	1302	Natural	Light grey reddish clay	
14	1401	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam, up to 0.38m deep	
	1402	Colluvium	Light reddish brown silt clay colluvium, up to 0.52m deep	
	1403	Natural	Light grey reddish clay	



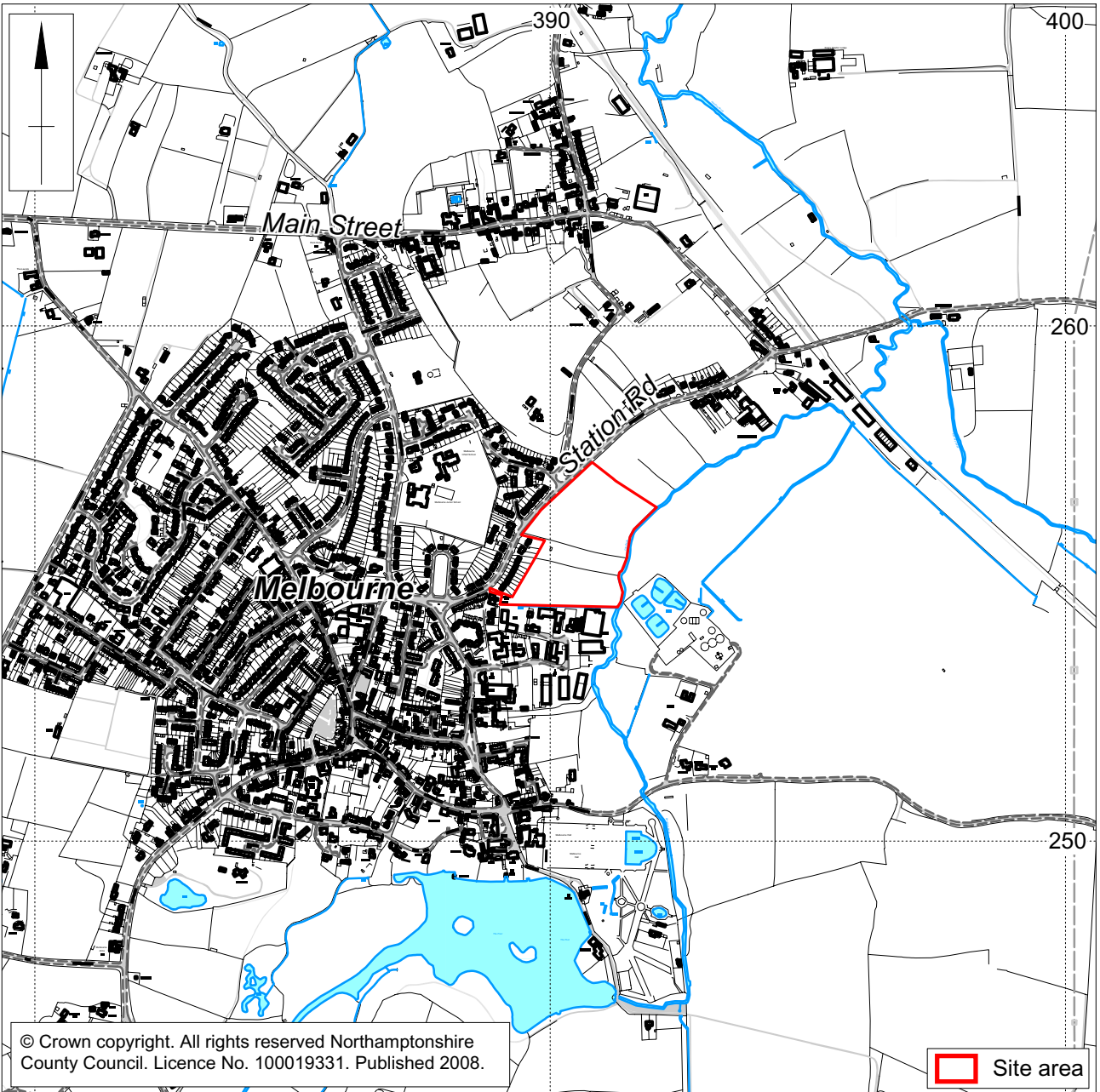
Plate 1: Trench 3, showing an example of evaluation trench in the northern field



Plate 2: Section 1 in trench 10, showing buried soil below a layer of colluvium

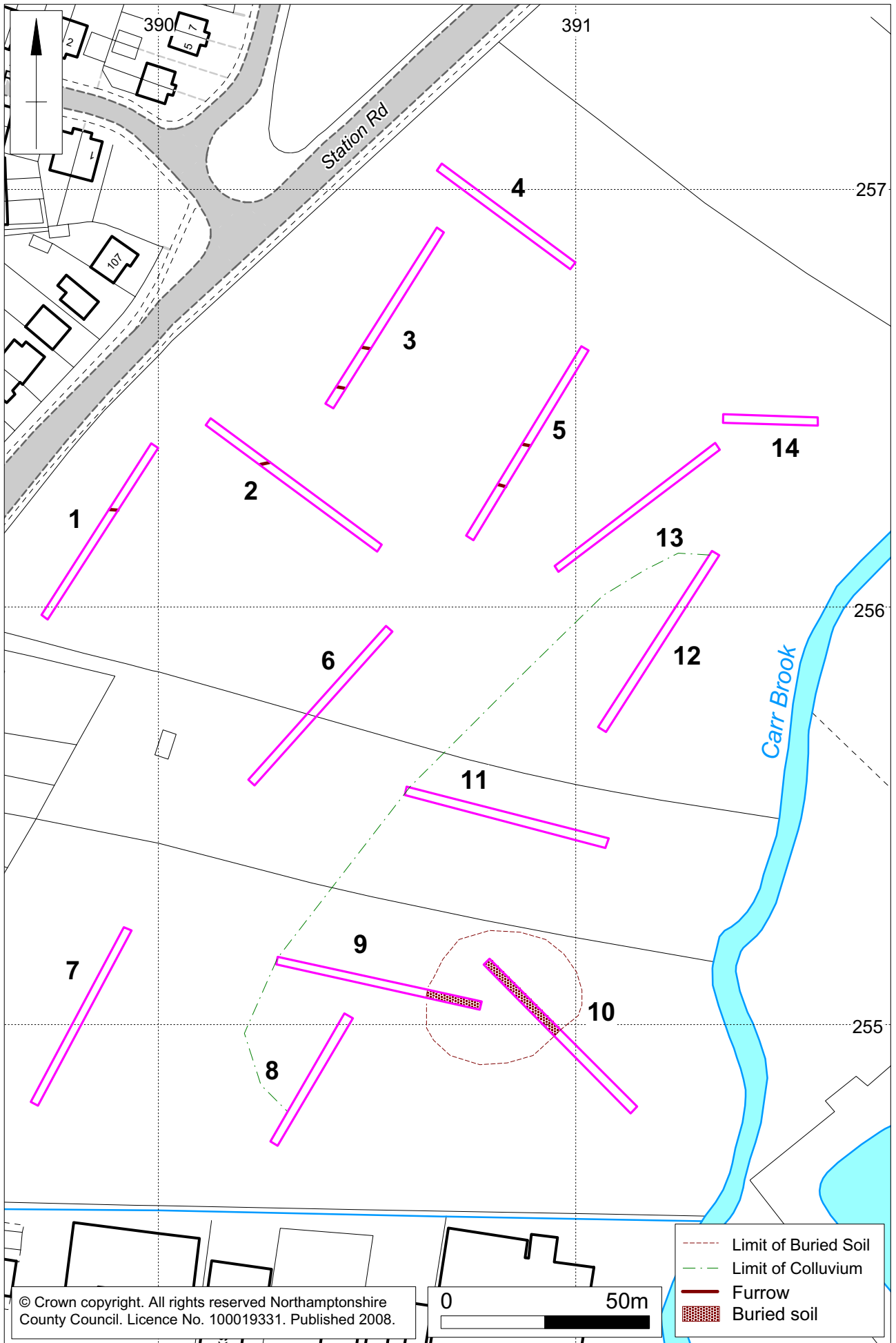


Plate 3: Furrow in trench 5, showing example of furrows located in the northern field



Scale 1:12,500

Site location Fig 1

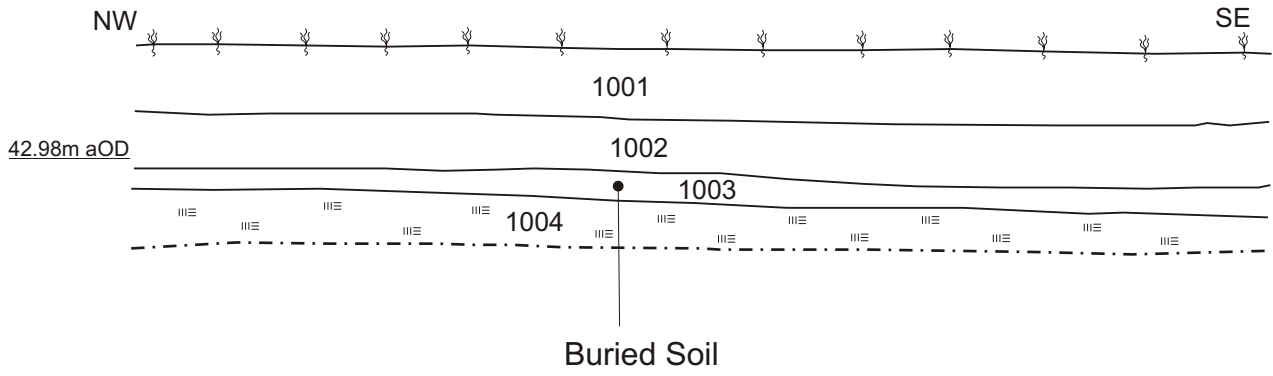


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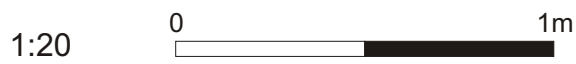
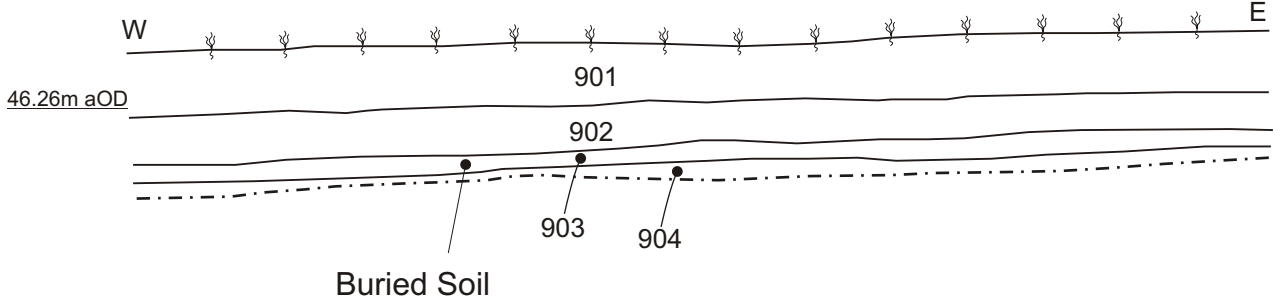
Trench locations showing furrows and buried soil

Fig 2

Section 1



Section 2



Sections in trenches 9 and 10 showing buried soil layer Fig 3