



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation of
Land at Mill View Farm,
Bedfordshire, near Hargrave
November 2008
Accession No: BEDFM 2008.328



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December 2008

Report 08/208

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Mill View Farm, Hargrave, Bedfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	In November 2008 Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of a plot of land at Mill View Farm, Bedfordshire, near Hargrave, immediately to the north of an extensive cropmark complex. One trench 16m long was opened within a flat field. Only two small furrows and three tree bole remains were present and no datable artefacts were recovered. No evidence was found for the cropmark features.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current Land use	Open field	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Yes, House build	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Mill View Farm, Hargrave	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	961 sq m	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	TL 03512 70205	
Height OD	82m OAD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	L. Field	
Project Manager	A. Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Bastion Build Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	28 November 2008	
End date	28 November 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	BED2008.328	None
Paper	BED2008.328	None
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation of land at Mill View Farm, Hargrave, Bedfordshire	
Serial title & volume	08/208	
Author(s)	L. Field	
Page numbers	8	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF
LAND AT MILL VIEW FARM, BEDFORDSHIRE
NEAR HARGRAVE
NOVEMBER 2008**

ACCESSION NO: BEDFM 2008. 328

ABSTRACT

In November 2008 Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Mill View Farm, Bedfordshire, near Hargrave immediately to the north of an extensive cropmark complex. One trench, 16m long was opened within a flat field. Only two small furrows and three tree bole remains were present and no datable artefacts were recovered. No evidence was found for the cropmark features.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2008 on land at Mill View Farm, Hargrave, Bedfordshire (Fig 1; NGR TL 03512 70205). The work was undertaken for Bastion Build Ltd in advance of planned development of a single house and was designed to meet the requirements set out in the brief for archaeological field evaluation issued by Bedford County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCCHEs 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The site centres on the proposed building plot which comprises an area of approximately 961 m² on the far eastern side of an open arable field which is directly south of the northern border of Bedfordshire found to the south of the historic medieval core of Hargrave, Northamptonshire. The building plot is bounded by a farm road to the east with open field to the north, south and west.

The geology of the site is recorded as being Oxford Clays overlain by Boulder Clay at a

height of 82m above datum.

2.2 Archaeological background

A study of sites listed in the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology prior to the evaluation commencement. This found that the site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area primarily comprising a number of cropmarks which were identified through aerial photography. Photographs show a broad swathe of rectangular, curvilinear and square shaped enclosures, with some internal subdivisions situated on a ridge of higher ground above the 80m contour. During an extensive archaeological survey of the landscape of Raunds from 1985 to 1994 two of these cropmarks were partially investigated (Site 50, fig B, Parry 2006). The survey showed that the western group of cropmarks were aligned along the side of a valley overlooking the source of a small valley to the north-west, while the eastern and more extensive grouping appeared to have no relationship to the local topography.

These two groupings of cropmarks (HER 5197/ SMR 6982/0/1) and (HER 12909/ SMR 6983/0/1) lie in the fields immediately to the south-west of the proposed development area.

Cropmark area (HER 5197/ SMR 6982/0/1) lies immediately to the south-west of the development area and is part of the eastern grouping of cropmarks from the 1985-1994 evaluations, site B (Parry 2006). The cropmarks relate to a series of rectilinear enclosures ranging in size from 0.06ha to 0.8 ha stretching for approximately 1km, with some containing internal divisions that could relate to settlement activity. Pottery recovered from fieldwalking during evaluations suggested an Iron Age or Roman date (SMR 6982/0/0).

Cropmark area (HER 12909/ SMR 6983/0/1) lies in the field to the west of the development area and comprises at least three enclosures ranging in size from 0.1ha to 0.6ha with some possible internal divisions. The cropmarks form part of the western grouping of cropmarks recorded in the Raunds area survey (Parry 2006).

Table 1: SMR sites in area around Mill View Farm

SMR/HER Number	ENN Number	NGR (TL)	Description
1781	2569	042 704	Windmill and post modern industrial site
1787 (01-06)	18356	034 705	Historic Village of Hargrave
1788	2249	025 704	Cropmark, possible enclosure
4876	15007	0374 7027	Hargrave Hall
6378/1		033 706	Two brick kilns disused by 1901
6378/2		0323 706	Excavation trench cut through earthen bank
6968/0/0	18356	034 705	Pottery assemblage
6982/0/1 HER 5197	14580	031 699	Cropmark complex
6983/0/1 HER 12909	14579	0303 6999	Rectilinear cropmarks
8212		039 707	Cropmark complex
8700/0/0	100027	0376 6965	Find spot-coin and Bodkin

Table 2: HER sites in area around Mill View Farm

HER Number	NGR (TL)	Description
3931	03360 69760	Cropmark complex
8163	04960 70510	3 Counties stone
14006	04130 69980	Cropmark complex
14007	03790 69940	Cropmark complex

Other cropmarks in the area have been given a similar Iron Age to Roman date and were found in Bedfordshire to the east (HER 14006 and 14007), and in Northamptonshire to the north-west (SMR 1788) of the development area. Some pieces of Iron Age and Roman pottery were also found in an assemblage which included Saxon to late medieval pottery found in a field immediately to the north of the development area in Northamptonshire (SMR 6968/0/0).

The village of Hargrave is referenced in the Domesday book which shows three different variations of spelling for the name of Hargrave. The area was said to be 1 virgate of land, or one quarter of a hide the equivalent of an English Yardland, to the Geld (Williams and Martin 1992, 553, 558, 661).

Remains of the historic village still stand including building works on the eastern side of Hargrave village (SMR ENN 2458). Also an early medieval coin dating to AD 1180-1247 was found within Bedfordshire to the south-east of the development area (SMR 8700/0/0).

Post-medieval activity in and around the village of Hargrave has been recorded as development of Hargrave Hall landscape park (SMR 4876), a 10m wide road or track running from Lower Dean towards Hargrave defined by parallel ditches (HER 5083). Also the site of a former windmill (SMR 1781/1) and an L-shaped building (HER 8164) have been recorded from evidence from historic maps available of the area. Finally the Three Shires Stone (HER 8163) which was first recorded in Thomas Jeffrey's map of 1761 and marks the boundary of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire is seen to the north-west of the site.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation as set out in the specification for trial trench excavation were:

- To establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the development site, recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region and to recover possible palaeo-

environmental deposits to determine local environmental conditions

- To place the archaeology of the site in its local, regional, and national archaeological context
- To define any potential constraints for further archaeological fieldwork including areas of disturbance, service locations etc.

3.2 Methodology

The evaluation comprised a single trench measuring 16m long by 1.80m wide (Fig 3). The removal of the topsoil and other overburden was carried out by a tracked 360-degree mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.50m-wide toothless ditching bucket, operating under direct archaeological supervision. The mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizons.

All potential archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation. Features within each trench were numbered using the trench number as a prefix (eg gully [104] being context 04 in trench 1). A list of contexts is given in Appendix 1.

Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology recording procedures were employed (NA 2003). All works were conducted in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (1985, revised 2006). All work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Specification for an archaeological trial excavation (NA 2008)

4 RESULTS

4.1 General stratigraphic sequence

Throughout the site the natural geology comprised light brown boulder clay seen at an average depth of 0.40m. These natural clays were overlain by a thin light brown subsoil measuring 0.10m which was in turn overlain by the topsoil (Plate 2).

4.2 The features and deposits

Trench 1 (Fig 2)

Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east for 16m in length and was centred on the

intended development area (Plate 1).

Two small furrows, [105] and [107] (Plate 3) were seen cutting across the trench from north to south lying next to each other and running on a parallel alignment. Furrow [105] measured 0.46m wide by 0.14m deep while [107] was slightly larger at 0.96m wide by 0.30m deep. Both furrows were filled by a similar dark yellow/brown silty clay, (104) and (106) respectively, with occasional chalk flecking but no datable evidence. The relationship with the subsoil was unclear due to the merging of the fills and the subsoil but it is likely the subsoil overlies fills (104) and (106).

Three other features were seen in the trench but excavation revealed that they were the remains of tree boles and so were not recorded any further (Plate 1).

5 DISCUSSION

Two furrows were found in the excavations which show agricultural usage for the land in the medieval or post-medieval periods but neither feature yielded any datable evidence to suggest a more concrete date for this use.

No archaeological evidence was found for the recorded cropmark features to the south and west. This could suggest that the surrounding enclosures were not settlement related areas but perhaps more likely animal pens or similar enclosures, due to the lack of pottery that would be expected to be found in the vicinity of a settlement area.

No evidence was found for any disturbance of the area apart from the two furrows and no services of either modern or older date were seen in the evaluation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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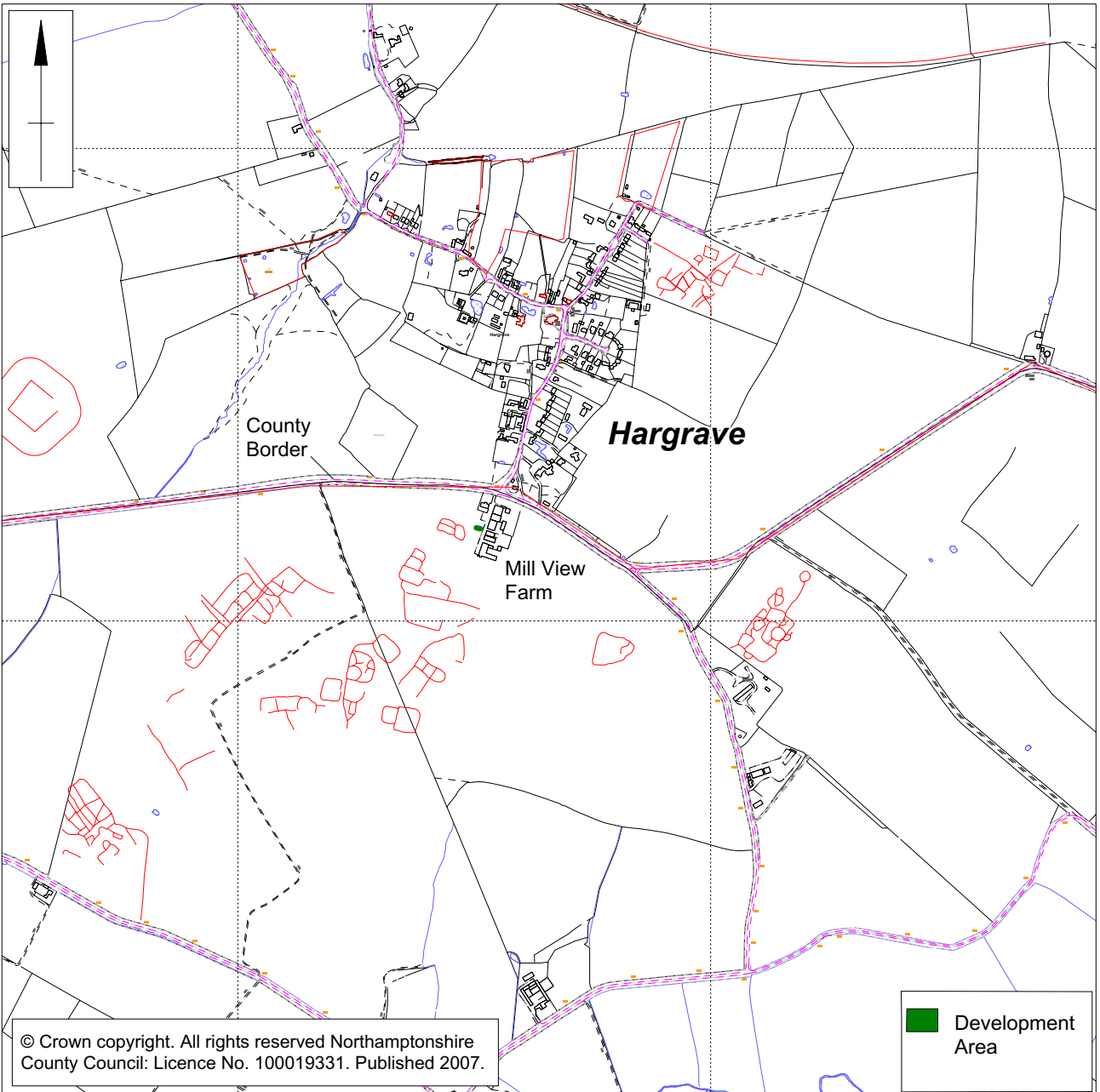
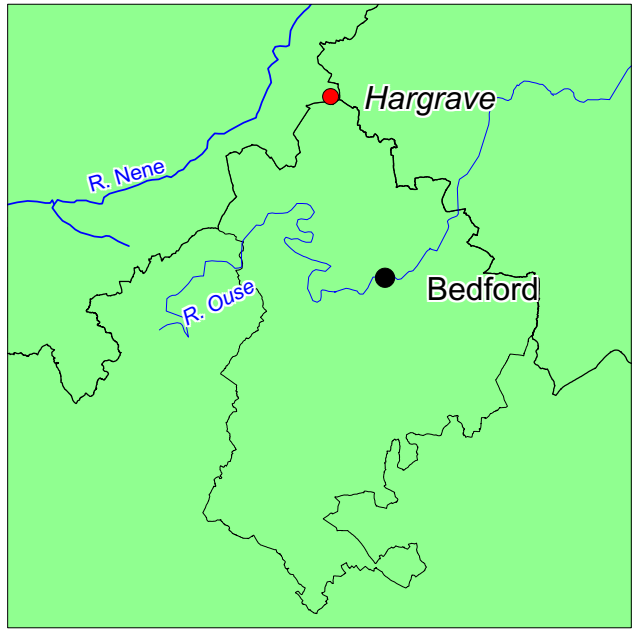
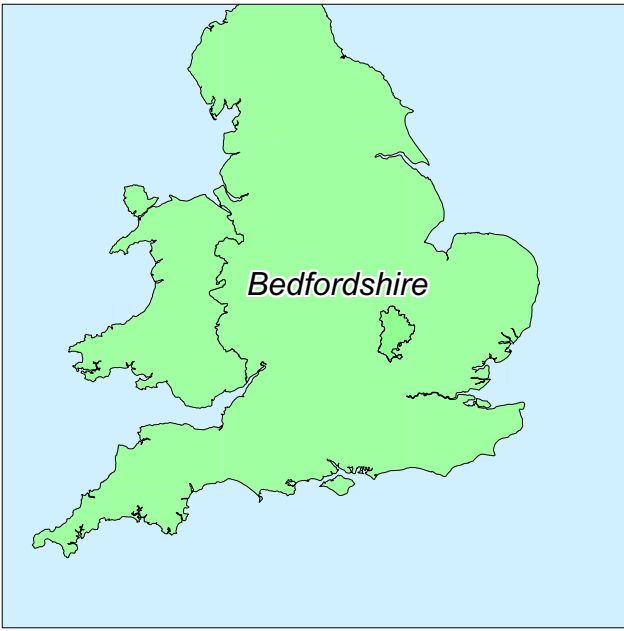
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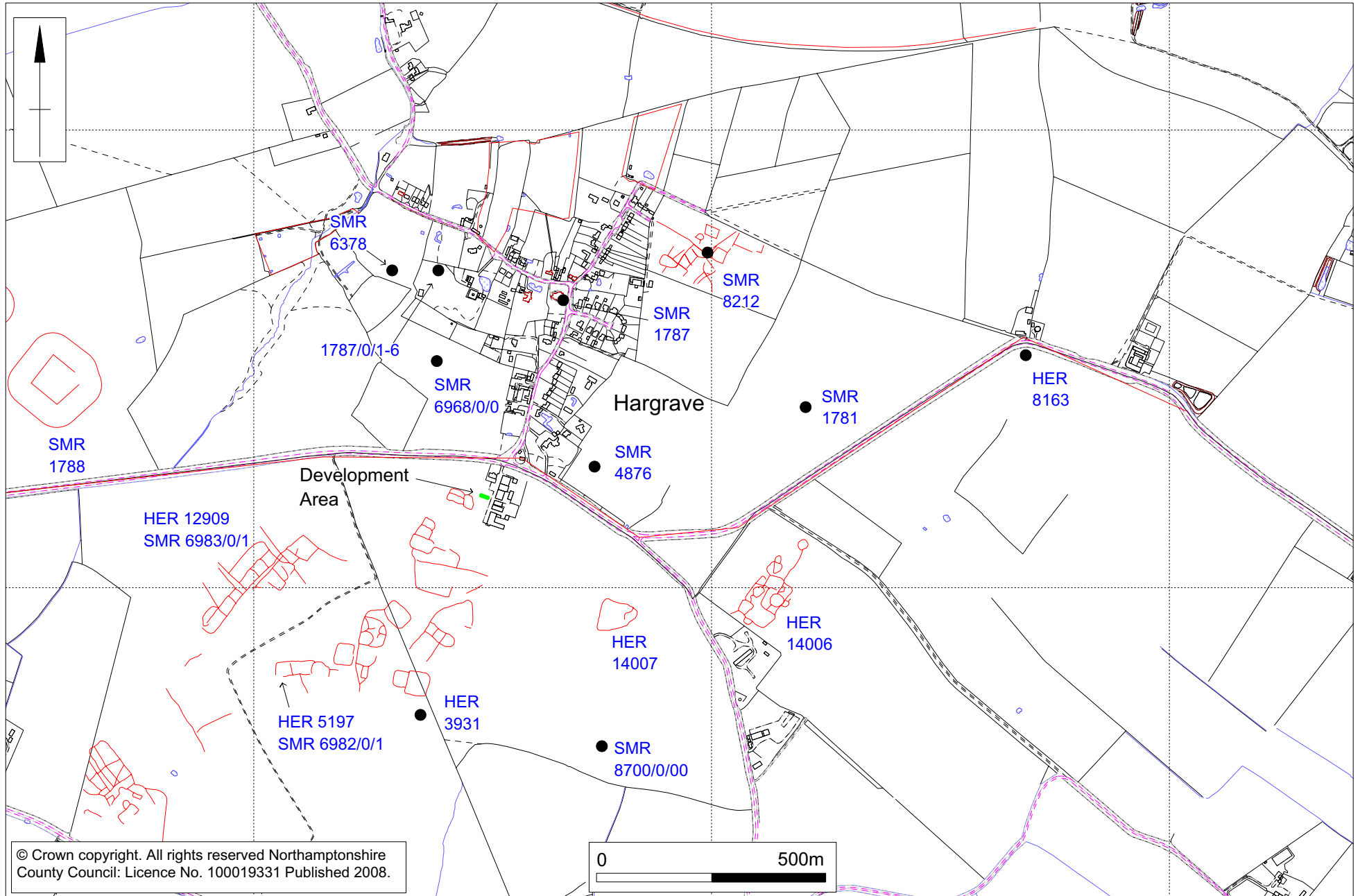
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context number	Type	Description	Width (m)	Depth m(avg)
Trench 1				
101	Topsoil	Brown soil layer		0.30
102	Subsoil	Mid brown		0.10
103	Natural	Boulder clay		
104	Fill	Dark yellow brown	0.45	0.14
105	Cut	Furrow	0.45	0.14
106	Fill	Dark yellow brown	0.96	0.30
107	Cut	Furrow	0.96	0.30



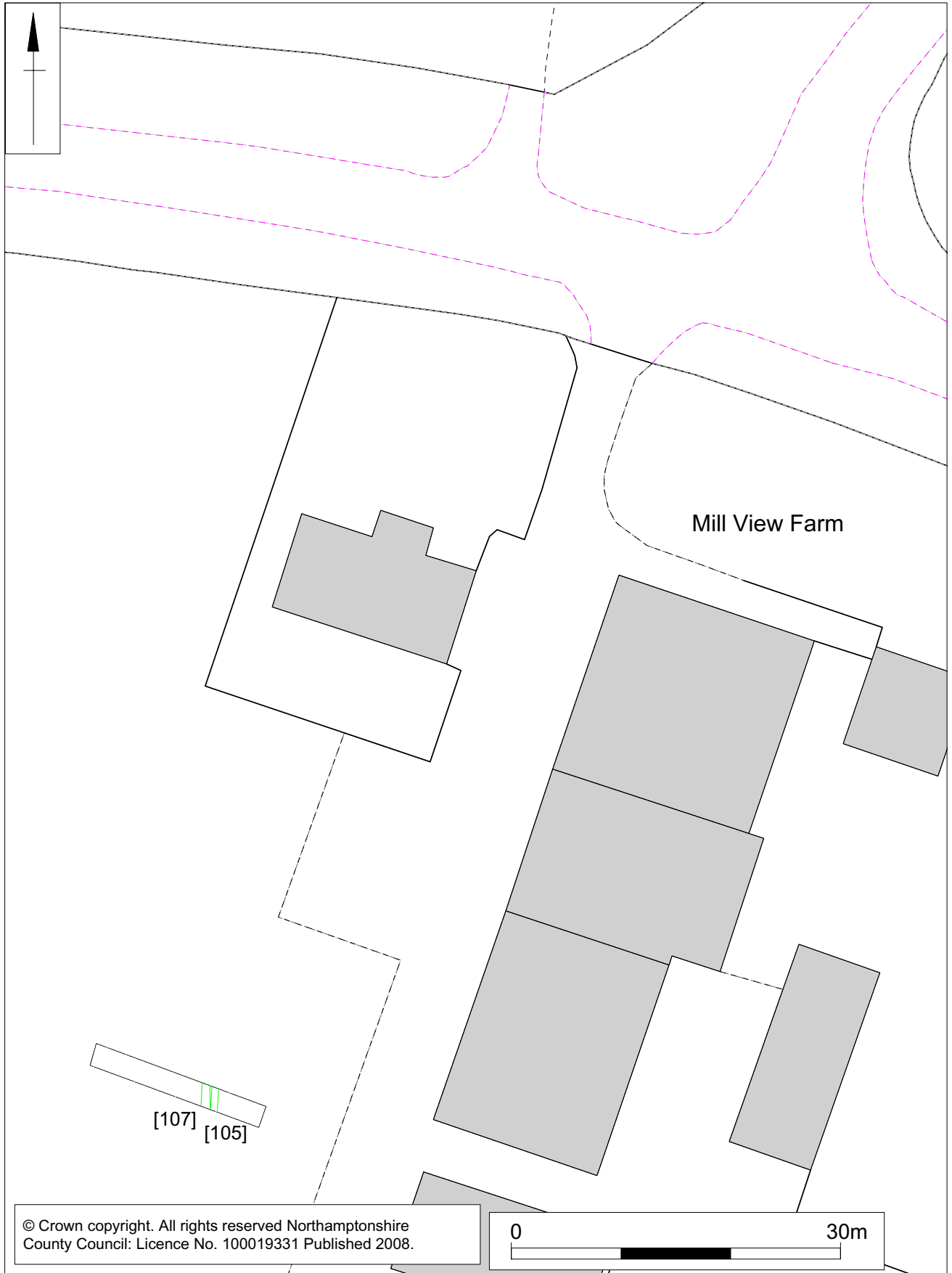
Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



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Historic Environment and Sites and Monuments records Fig 2



Scale 1:500

Trench location Fig 3



Plate 1: General shot looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench section looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench section showing furrows [105] and [107] looking south