
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
COTTESBROOKE ROAD,
NASEBY,
NORTHAMTONSHIRE**

NCBR12

Work Undertaken For
Francis Jackson Homes

May 2012

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: SP 68820 77545
Planning Application: DA/2011/0486
OASIS ID: archaeo11-125851

APS Report No. **37/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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Cottesbrooke Road
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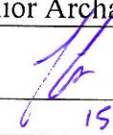
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Date: 15-05-2012	Date: 15.5.12

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1. SUMMARY

Trial trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of development of land at the former Westaways Motors site, Cottesbrooke Road, Naseby as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area.

Earthworks of medieval character are located to the west of the site and prehistoric and Roman deposits have been recorded during excavations in the vicinity.

A 19th century brick structure, probably a wall, was identified at the north of the site and comparison with old maps of the area suggested that this was constructed between 1884-5 and 1900-1. Part of a concrete structure identified in the trenching was also apparently depicted on old maps of the site, seemingly having been constructed in the first half of the 20th century.

Both structures appear to have formed parts of a farmyard and were both apparently demolished between 1958 and 1980. This was probably as part of clearance and levelling of the site, at which time hardstanding was laid down across the area.

A large probable pit in Trench 1 contained modern metal objects and probably represented the disposal of waste during the same late 20th century levelling works.

Other features and deposits identified during the investigation were restricted to modern services.

No artefacts of any antiquity were retrieved during the investigations. A small collection of modern building materials was retrieved for dating purposes and has been discarded.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning consent (DA/2011/0486) was granted by Daventry District Council for residential development of the site, subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

In the first instance an archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of trial trenching was required in order that an informed and reasonable planning decision could be taken regarding archaeological deposits which might survive at the site.

The trial trenching was carried out between the 1st and 2nd May 2012, in accordance with the specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor or Northamptonshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Naseby is located in the county of Northamptonshire, approximately 20km north of Northampton and a similar distance east of Kettering (Figure 1). Occupying an area of approximately 3.0 hectares, the site is located at the southern edge of Naseby village, on the south side of Cottesbrooke Road, centred on National Grid Reference SP 68820 77545

(Figure 2).

At the time of the investigations, the vacant buildings of Westaway Motors are still standing, occupying the southwest corner of the site, fronted by an area of hard standing (Plate 1). The eastern half of the site comprised a gravelled parking area (Plate 4).

The topography in the vicinity is gently undulating. The present ground surface within the investigation site sloped gently down to the northwest, at heights of approximately 190m OD. There is information from the former landowner that the gravelled area of the site was reduced during the 1950s. At the northern edge of the site was a sharp drop down to the level of Cottesbrooke Road, the road also being sunken compared to the level of the field immediately to the north of the road and site.

Nearby soils are of the Denchworth and Beccles 3 Associations, both clayey soils, with the former developed on Jurassic and Cretaceous Clay and the latter on Chalky boulder clay till (Hodge *et. al.* 1984)

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies at the southern edge of Naseby village, in an area known as Nutcote, a former hamlet now subsumed within Naseby.

Earthworks identified in the fields to the west of the site are thought to represent the former boundaries and structures associated with medieval tofts and closes and also hollow ways and house platforms associated with Nutcote hamlet.

To the north, at Brookfield, excavations identified a ditch dating to the Romano-British period, and an enclosure of late Saxon date.

In fields to the south and east of the development cropmarks identified on

aerial photographs are interpreted as prehistoric enclosures and ditches.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives of the work were to determine the type, spatial arrangement, date, function, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological features present within the site, to establish the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area, and to establish how any archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Trial trenching was used to determine the location, nature and density of archaeological features present on the site.

The proposed trenching layout was two twenty metre long trenches within the gravelled areas of the site. This trenching was based on the use of a 1.60m wide ditching bucket. As the machine provided by the client had a 1.20m wide ditching bucket, after consultation with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, both trenches were lengthened to provide the same overall surface area. Trench 1 was c.30m long, approximately northwest-southeast aligned and positioned along the northern edge of the site (Figure 2, Plate 4). Trench 2 was c.24.5m long, approximately north-south aligned and located in the southeastern corner of the site (Plate 2).

The trench were stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision by

mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

As a storm drain was encountered near the centre of Trench 2, a small length of the trench was left unexcavated in an attempt to avoid flooding of the trench or damage to buried services.

The exposed surfaces of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled using colour digital and black and white print formats. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1.

The locations of the excavated trenches were surveyed using hand tapes with reference to standing buildings.

5. RESULTS

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was (103), a firm clay, the colour of which varied throughout the trench and which contained occasional pebbles and grit (Figure 3 Section 2, Plate 5).

Cut into this layer, at the southeastern end of the trench, was a probable pit [104] (Figure 3, Plate 4-foreground). This amorphous feature contained mixed material including brick fragments and a substantial piece of agricultural machinery, probably all waste material associated with the use of the garage in the later 20th century.

A storm drain [106] truncated pit [104] (Figure 3). This aligned with a drain cover visible in the yard surface between the two trenches and apparently transferred run-off from the existing buildings to the west.

A second possible drain [108] was recorded, this time cut into natural 103 (Figure 3). This feature was indistinct but contained fragments of 20th century ceramic land drain (109) (Appendix 2).

Close to the northwestern end of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned brick structure (111) (Figure 3 and 4). This comprised roughly-placed bricks within construction cut [110]. A single sample brick was retrieved from (111), and was of 19th century date. This brick structure abutted the modern concrete surface (112) of the western area of the garage forecourt. It may have either been a wall footing or have formed a retaining edge to the concrete surfacing.

Sealing the fills of both drains [106] and [108], and extending throughout the trench, was a dumped hardcore layer (102) (Figure 3). This mid brownish-grey clayey sand containing brick, cobbles and pebbles was 0.22m thick and formed a make-up and levelling layer for the surfacing of the forecourt (Figure 3 Section 2, Plate 5). A single sample fragment of 20th century brick was retrieved from this layer (102) (Appendix 2). Sealing this was layer (101), a further make-up and levelling layer comprising pebbles and cobbles in a sandy clay matrix with occasional brick. Above this was (100), a 0.10m thick layer of pea gravel forming the modern surfacing of the forecourt.

Trench 2

Natural deposits in Trench 2 comprised mid greyish- yellowish-brown clay with occasional pebbles (205) (Plate 3).

Cut into this, near the northern end of the trench, was a construction trench [210] which contained modern concrete (209)

(Figure 3, Plate 2). This may have been part of the wall of a modern building.

Storm drain [211] was recorded near the centre of the trench (Figure 3), aligned on a nearby drain cover.

Three patches of mixed modern rubble (206, 207 & 208) were recorded in the southern half of this trench. A sample fragment of tile retrieved from deposit (207) was of late 19th to 20th century date (Appendix 2). Although deposits (206, 207 & 208) may have been fills within separate but amorphous features, they appeared to simply represent deeper pockets of hardcore layer (204). Deposit (204) largely comprised hardcore including red brick fragments and slate, was 0.10m thick and formed a make-up and levelling layer for the forecourt.

Overlying this was (203), a 0.12m thick mid yellowish-brown mixed hardcore layer. This was in turn sealed by (202), a mid grey deposit of stone and sandy clayey silt. These two layers formed make-up for modern surfacing (201), an 80mm thick gravel layer (Figure 3, Plate 3).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits recorded in each of the two trenches were naturally-formed clay layers.

A brick structure (111) recorded in Trench 1 may have been a wall, and a sample brick from this was of 19th century date. A geotechnical report on the site was prepared by Listers Geotechnical Consultants (2010). As this included examination of historical maps of the area it was possible for these maps to be briefly examined as part of the present archaeological investigation. The earliest map examined was the 1884-5 OS map which showed no structures in the area of Trench 1. However, the OS map of 1900-1901 showed a boundary closely matching the location of possible wall (111) (Figure

4). This boundary is also shown on several later OS maps up to and including one dated 1958, but is absent from the 1980 OS map. The cartographic evidence suggests this boundary was constructed at some time between 1884-5 and 1900-1, and was demolished between 1958 and 1980.

Part of a concrete structure (209) was recorded in Trench 2, the location of which was also compared to historic maps of the area. A structure is first depicted in this location and on the same alignment as (209) on the 1952 and 1958 OS maps. This is not shown on the 1900-1 or 1980 OS maps, suggesting it was constructed in the first half of the 20th century and was demolished at some time between the late 1950s and late 1970s.

The precise nature of these structures is unclear, but they appear to form part of a farmyard.

Information from the recent owners of the site suggests that the site was cleared and levelled in the later 20th century, the ground level reduced at this time, and hardstanding laid down (*pers. comm.*). It would appear that structures (111) and (209) were both demolished during these works. Mixed hardcore rubble layers and gravel surfacing deposits recorded throughout both trenches contained fragments of late 19th to 20th century building materials and were probably part of these same works.

A large probable pit in Trench 1 [104] contained modern metal objects including a substantial agricultural machine part. This may reflect dumping of waste materials at the time of the late 20th century levelling and resurfacing of the site.

Other features and deposits identified during the investigation were restricted to modern drains. No artefacts of any antiquity were retrieved during the investigations.

7. CONCLUSION

Trial trenching was undertaken in advance of development of land at the former Westaways Motors site, Cottesbrooke Road, Naseby as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area. Known archaeological remains in the vicinity included earthworks of medieval character and prehistoric and Roman deposits discovered in nearby excavations.

The footings of a 19th century brick structure, probably a wall, were identified in Trench 1 at the north of the site. Examination of old maps of the area suggested that this was constructed at some time between 1884-5 and 1900-1. Part of a concrete structure recorded in Trench 2 was also apparently depicted on old maps of the site. It was seemingly constructed in the first half of the 20th century.

Both structures appear to have formed parts of a farmyard. They were both apparently demolished between 1958 and 1980, probably as part of clearance and levelling of the site, at which time hardstanding was laid down across the area.

A large probable pit in Trench 1 contained modern metal objects and probably represented the disposal of waste during the same late 20th century levelling works.

Other features and deposits identified during the investigation were restricted to modern services.

No artefacts of any antiquity were retrieved during the investigations. A small collection of modern building materials was retrieved for dating purposes and has been discarded.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N Chambers who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
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 Site staff: Bob Garland
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor
 CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor & Dale Trimble
 Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

Listers Geotechnical Consultants, 2010, *Ground Investigation: Westaway Garage, Cottesbrook Road, Naseby, Northamptonshire*, Unpublished Listers Geotechnical Consultants Report No. **10-08-011**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 IfA Institute for Archaeologists (formerly Institute of Field Archaeologists)
 OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

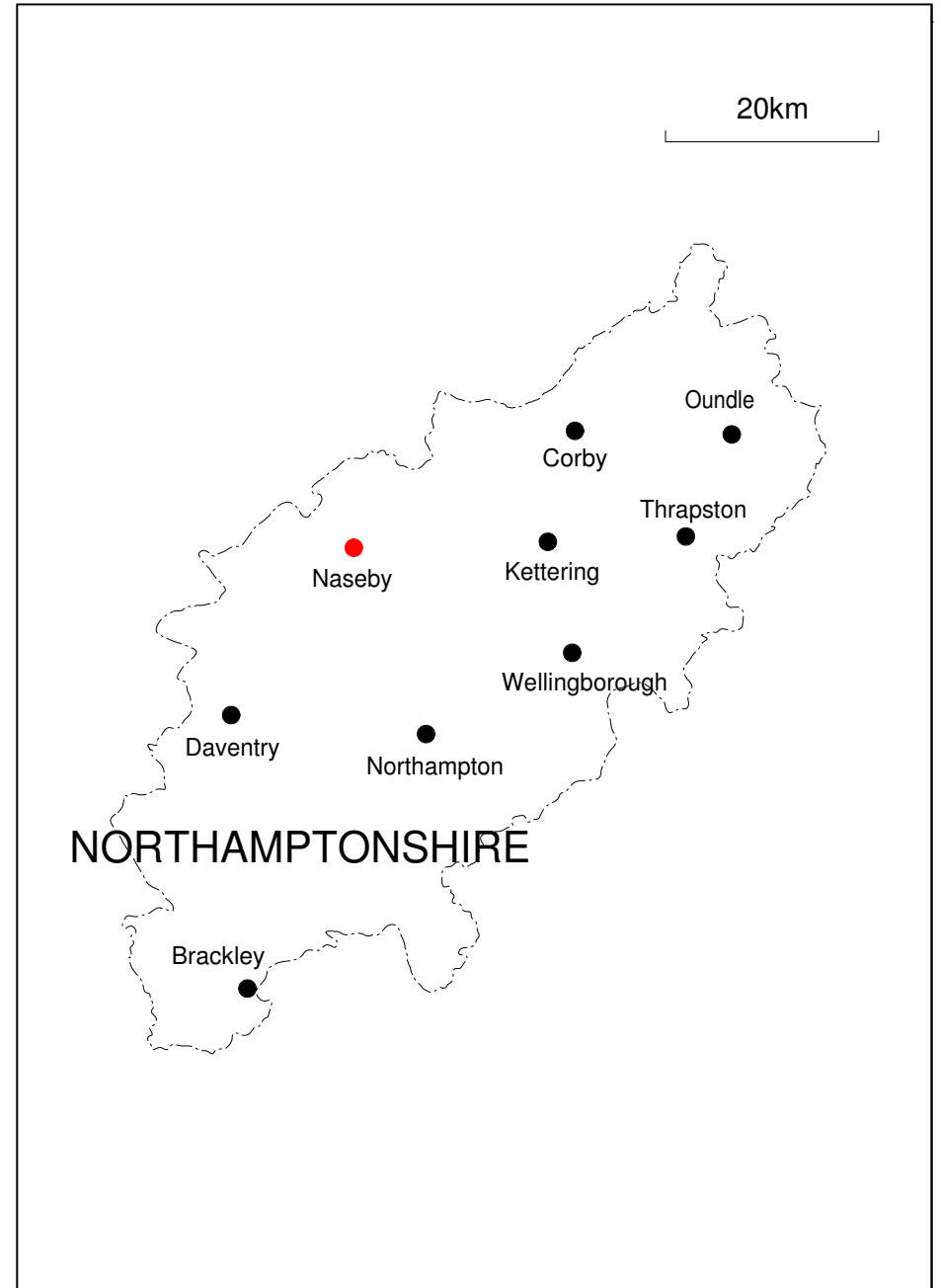
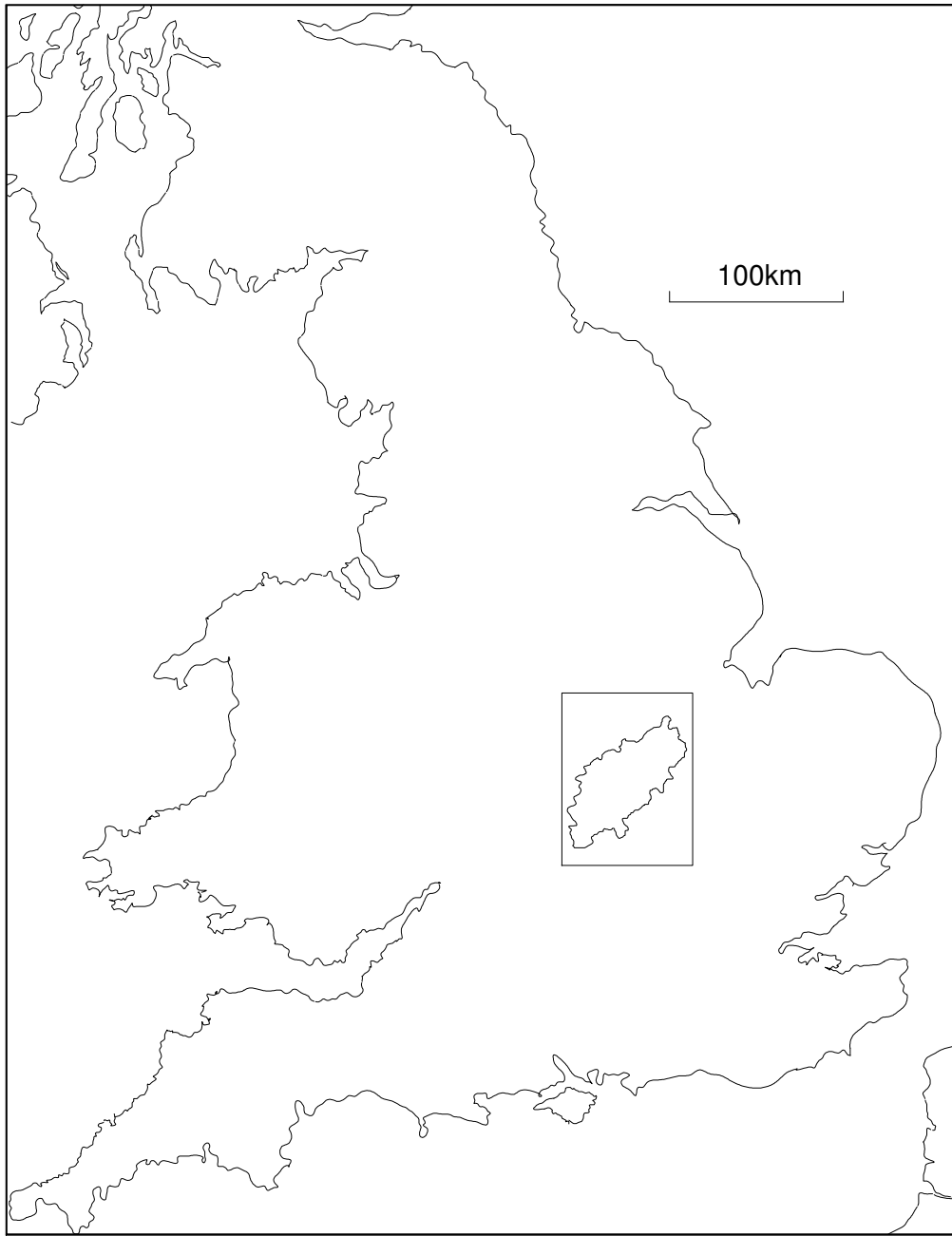
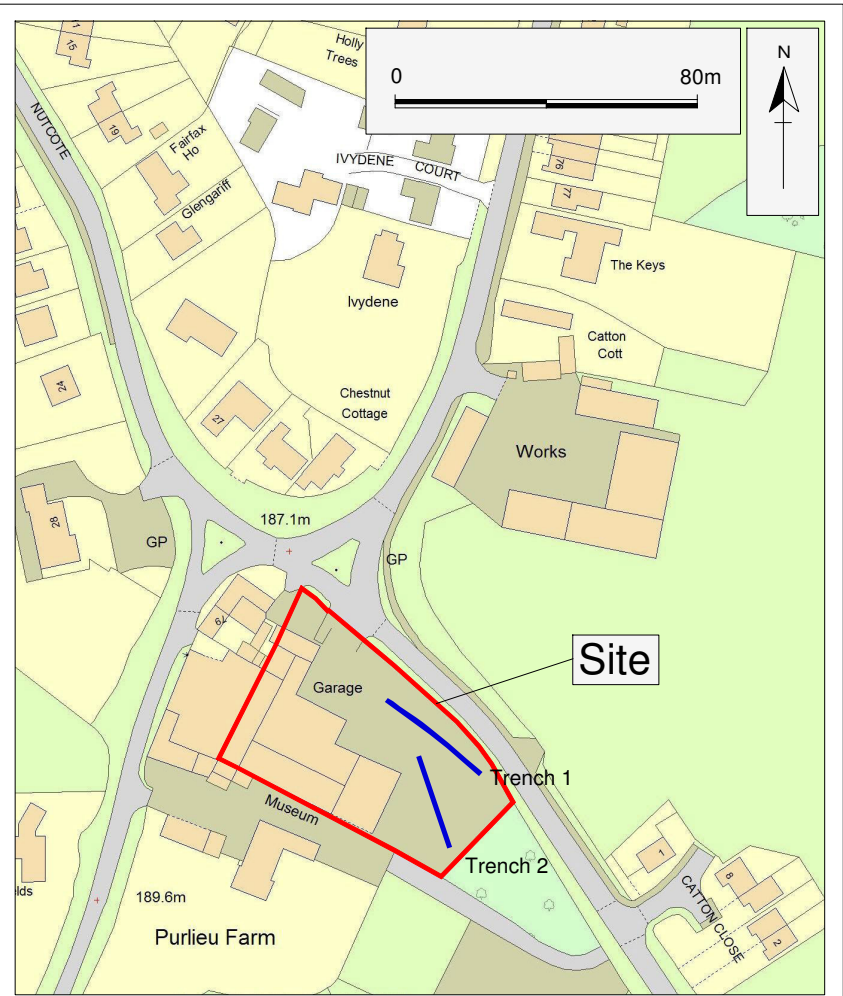
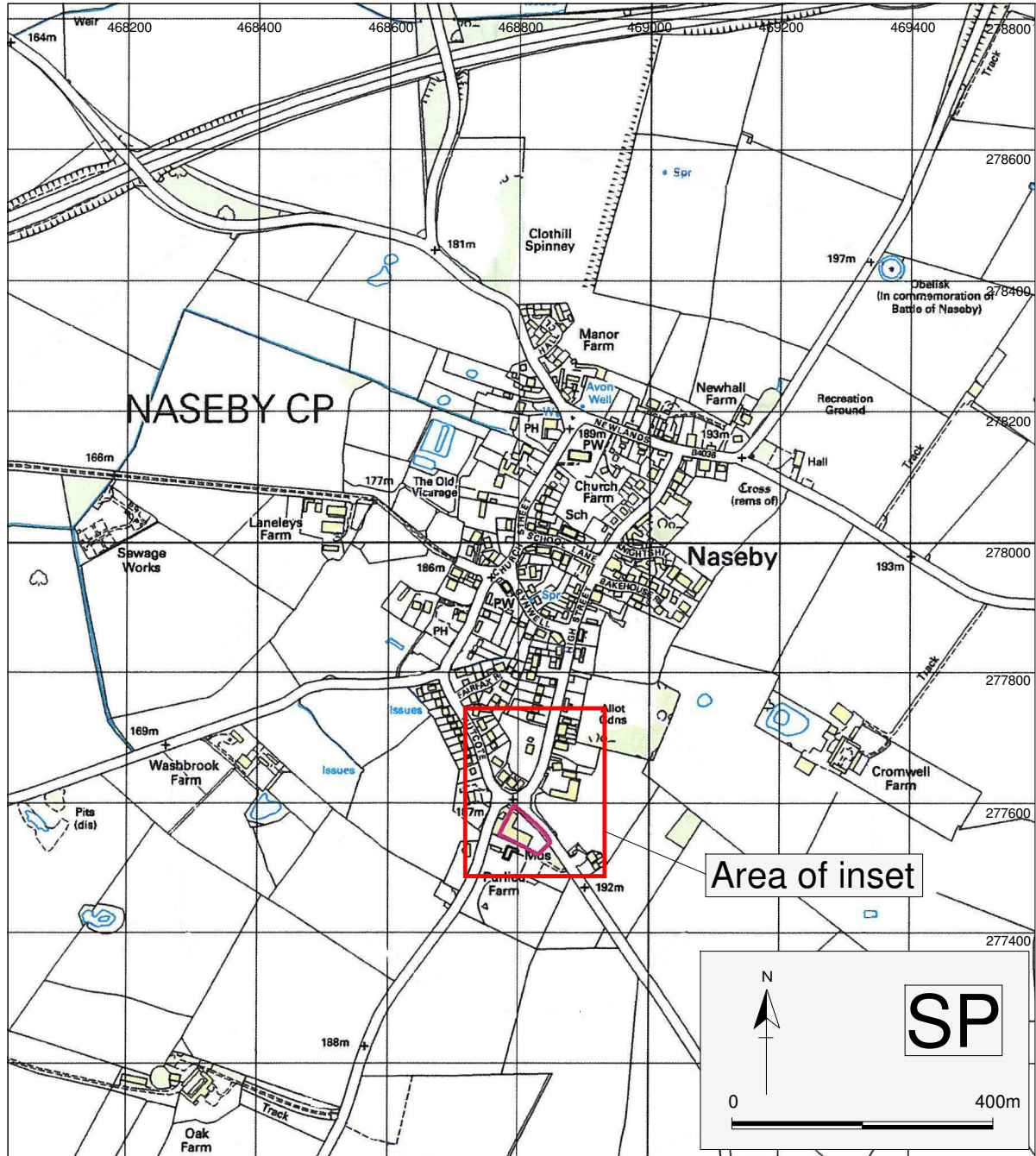


Figure 1 General location map



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Project Name: Naseby Cottesbrooke road NCBR12		
Scale 1:10,000, Inset: 1:2,000	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 37/12

Figure 2 Site and trench location map

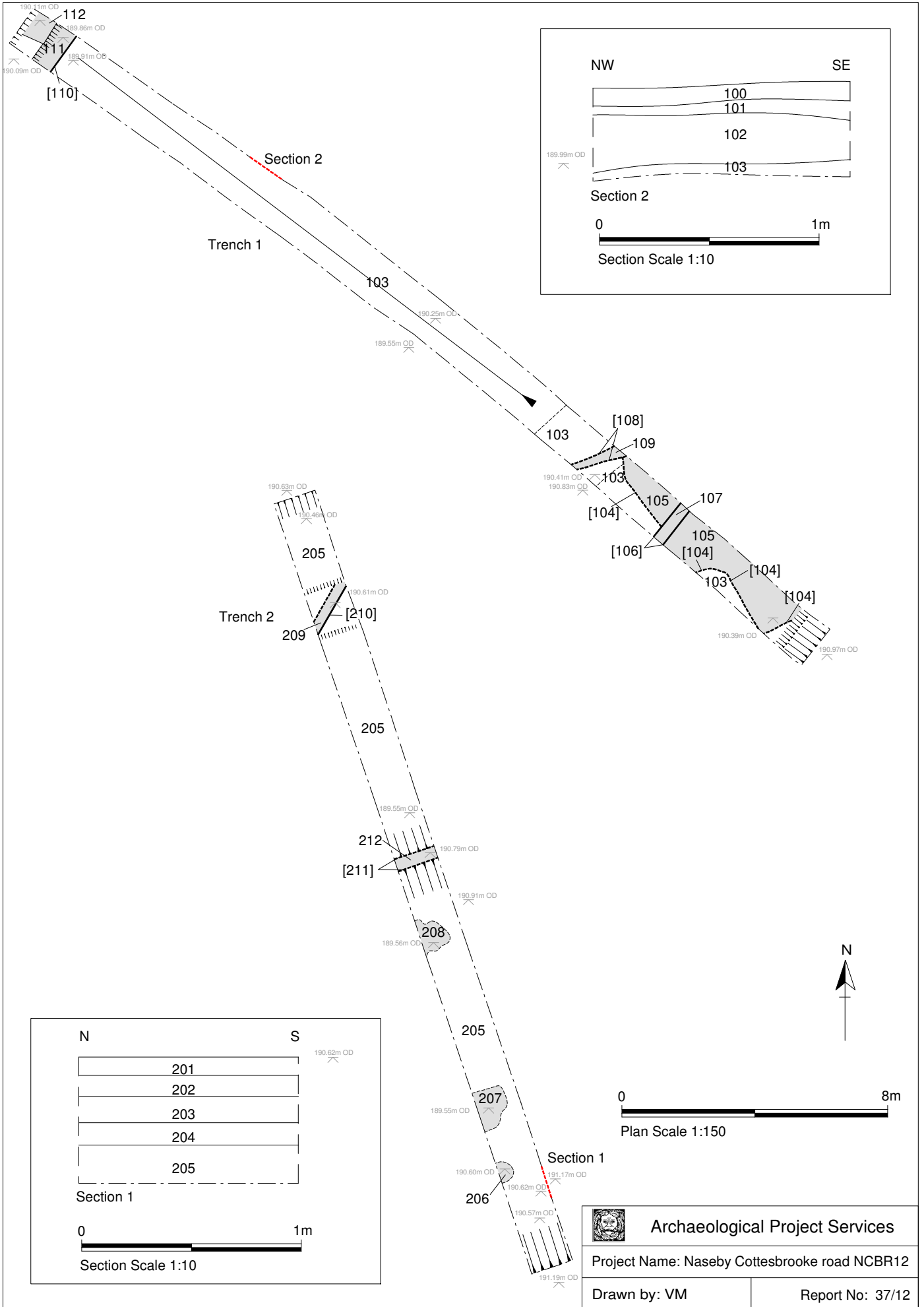
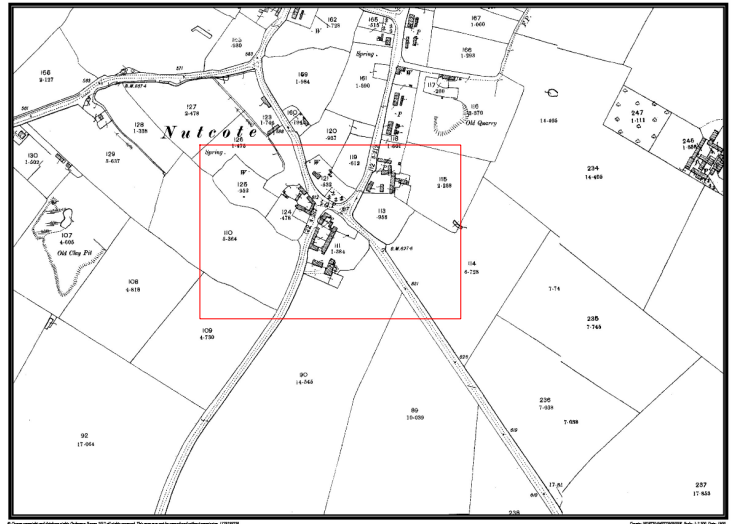
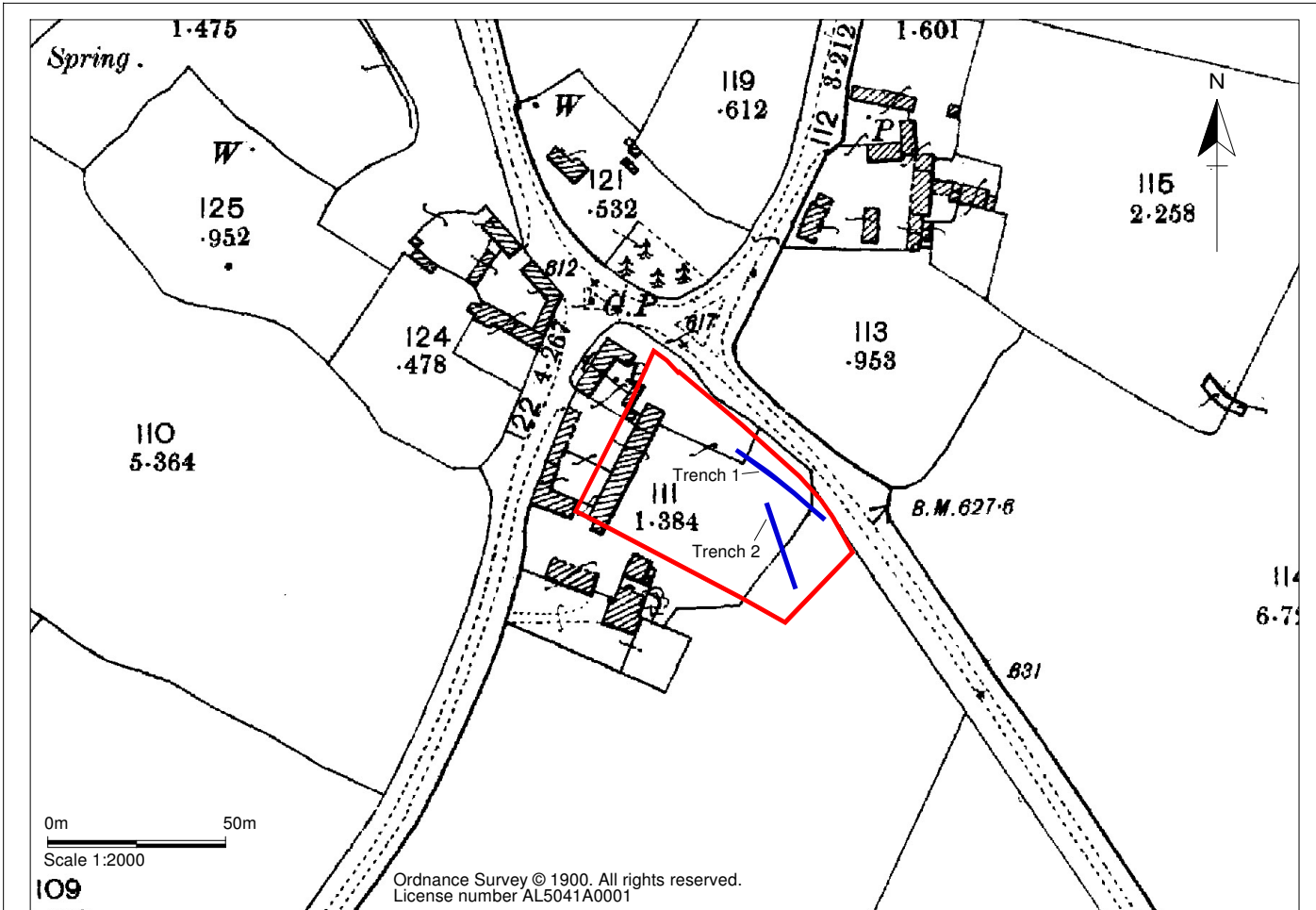


Figure 3 Trench plans and sections



Left. Brick structure [111] towards east end of Trench 1

Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of 1900 showing position of boundary possibly represented by brick structure [111] in Trench 1



Plate 1 General view of site, looking south



Plate 2 Trench 2, looking south

Plate 3 Trench 2, Section 1, looking east





Plate 4 Trench 1,
looking northwest



Plate 5 Trench 1,
Section 2, looking
northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXTS

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Very firm mid orange- greyish-brown pea gravel with <i>c.</i> 30-40% clay-rich matrix with occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.10m thick, throughout trench	Surfacing adjacent to former garage forecourt
101	Very firm mid orange-brown pebbles and cobbles in <i>c.</i> 40% sandy clay matrix with occasional ceramic building material and brick, 80mm thick, throughout trench	One of series of make-up, hardstanding and surfacing layers forming surfacing adjacent to former garage forecourt
102	Firm mid brownish-grey clayey sand, bricks, cobbles and pebbles, 0.22m thick, throughout trench	Mixed dumped hardcore layer, deposited a make-up and levelling layer for hardstanding of garage forecourt
103	Firm patchy mid brownish-grey with light grey mottles, mid orange-brown with light greenish-blue mottles clay with occasional pebbles and grit	Natural clay
104	Feature of uncertain shape in plan as not fully exposed, irregular to vaguely rectangular at southern end, over 7.6m by over 1.20m across and over 0.30m deep	Probable pit cut containing mixed material including brick fragments and substantial piece of agricultural machinery, dumped material associated with 20 th century machine shop/garage on site
105	Firm dark blackish, mid greyish-brown and mid orange mottled clay with gravel patches, occasional brick fragments, cobbles and degraded iron (paint type) pots, over 0.30m thick, smelling of hydrocarbons	Fill of probable pit [104] comprising mixed dumped material associated with 20 th century machine shop/garage on site
106	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, over 1.20m long and 0.45m wide with vertical sides	Modern storm drain transferring run-off from existing buildings
107	Moderately firm light yellowish-white to mid brown pebbles in <i>c.</i> 10% clayey matrix	Fill of storm drain [106]
108	East-west aligned linear feature, edges unclear but possibly up to 0.40m wide	Possible drain cut, marked clearly only by presence of broken ceramic drain fragments
109	Area of slightly darker staining within natural (103) containing fragments of broken ceramic drain, very indistinct	Fill of possible drain cut [108]
110	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, over 0.40m wide, over 1.20m long and over 0.20m deep with steep sides where seen	Construction trench containing rough brickwork 111, possibly marking position of a former (modern) wall at edge of concrete surfacing 112

Context	Description	Interpretation
111	Firm bright mid red bricks and brick fragments, over 0.20m thick	Roughly-placed bricks within [110], possible modern wall footing or retaining edge of concrete surfacing 112
112	Concrete surfacing of former garage forecourt	
201	Firm mixed brown and light brown gravel, 80mm thick	Surfacing adjacent to former garage forecourt
202	Firm mid grey stone in c.40% coarse sandy clayey silt matrix, 0.10m thick	One of series of make-up, hardstanding and surfacing layers forming surfacing adjacent to former garage forecourt
203	Moderately firm mid yellowish-brown mixed hardcore, 0.12m thick	Mixed dumped hardcore layer, deposited a make-up and levelling layer for hardstanding of garage forecourt
204	Firm mid to dark grey to red mixed rubble, largely comprising red brick fragments and slate fragments, 0.10m thick	Mixed dumped hardcore layer, deposited a make-up and levelling layer for hardstanding of garage forecourt
205	Firm mid greyish- yellowish-brown clay with occasional pebbles, over 0.18m thick	Natural clay
206	Firm mid to dark grey to red mixed rubble, largely comprising red brick fragments and slate fragments	Spread of material, perhaps a deeper 'hollow' containing continuation of material (204)
207	Firm mid to dark grey to red mixed rubble, largely comprising red brick fragments and slate fragments	Spread of material, perhaps a deeper 'hollow' containing continuation of material (204)
208	Firm mid to dark grey to red mixed rubble, largely comprising red brick fragments and slate fragments	Spread of material, perhaps a deeper 'hollow' containing continuation of material (204)
209	Firm mid to light greyish-brown concrete with iron fencing fragment	Concrete, possibly part of former modern structure
210	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, 0.30m wide	Construction trench containing concrete (209)
211	East-west aligned linear feature, 0.37m wide	Modern storm drain transferring run-off from existing buildings
212	Moderately firm light yellowish-white to mid brown pebbles in c.10% clayey matrix	Fill of storm drain [106]

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 6046 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The material is fresh. Two pieces of brick have mortar adhered to the ends and upper and lower surfaces.

Results

Table 1, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Sub Type	Description	Date	NoF	W (g)
1	102	MODERN BRICK	Modern Brick			Mortar adhered	20th	1	3891
1	109	MODDRAIN	Modern Land Drain				20th	1	164
1	111	BRK	Brick	OX/R/OX; Ironstone grits		Mortar adhered; roughly struck upper; sag bars; handmade; 66mm deep; 105mm wide	19th	1	1940
2	207	MODTIL	Modern Tile			Modern Flat roofing tile	L19th- 20th	1	51
Total								4	6046

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from hardcore layer (102), probable drain 109, and possible wall footing (111) in Trench 1. A single fragment also came from hardcore layer (207) in Trench 2.

Range

There are four pieces of ceramic building material, all of which date from the early modern to modern period. These fragments are of little archaeological significance.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material has been discarded.

Summary

Four pieces of modern ceramic building material were recovered from stratified deposits in Trench 1 and 2.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <<http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>>

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic register sheet
1	Plan register sheet
1	Section register sheet
2	Context register sheets
25	Context record sheets
1	Trench record sheet
1	Levels sheet
9	Drawing sheets

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

There is currently no archive repository for the area of the investigation. The archive will be held at the offices of APS until permanent deposition of the archive in an appropriate store can be arranged.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: NCBR12

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-125851

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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