
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT GLAPHORN ROAD,
Oundle,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(OUGR 12)**

Work Undertaken For
John Martin Associates
on behalf of
Persimmon Homes

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Report Compiled by
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
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The site lies c. 300m east of a significant late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site. However, only a single ditch dated to the mid to late Iron Age was revealed during the investigation. An undated possible posthole base lay in close proximity to the ditch and is possibly associated with it. Quarrying of uncertain date may have taken place between Trenches 1 and 2 at the southeastern end of the site.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural deposits overlain directly by topsoil at the west of the site and natural deposits overlain by a buried subsoil and topsoil at the eastern end of the site. Levelling deposits of redeposited natural clay overlay this buried soil profile. The trenching revealed that the site lay on a significantly steep hillside where the high ground to the west has been truncated and the lower ground to the east built up in order to form a level surface currently in use as a playing field.

As a result of this, any archaeological remains occurring at the western edge of the site are likely to have been truncated, while any towards the eastern and northeastern edge may occur at significant enough depths so as not to be disturbed by development.

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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Persimmon Homes East Midlands to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land at Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken between the 19th and 26th of November 2012, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the County Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council. The results of the evaluation will be submitted in support of a planning application and will enable the archaeological curator to make an informed decision regarding impact of the development on any surviving archaeological remains at the site.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Oundle lies approximately 15km east of Corby and 19km southwest of Peterborough in the East Northamptonshire district of that county. (Fig. 1).

The development area, some 2.4ha in extent, lies to the north of Oundle town centre on the western side of Glapthorn Road at its junction with Hillfield Road, at National Grid Reference TL 0355 8894

(Fig. 2). It presently forms part of the playing fields of Oundle School.

The site lies at between 40m and 45m AOD on gently rising ground above the valley of the River Nene to the east. The underlying geology of the site is divided into two separate types, the eastern half being Blisworth Limestone and the western half Clay formations.

Local soils are mapped as the Denchworth Association, mainly clayey soils developed on Jurassic clay (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

There is little recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within Oundle itself, however, a few dispersed pits of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date were recorded *c.* 150m west of the site (Maull & Masters 2001).

A 1st to 2nd century BC Iron Age settlement has been noted on the northern edge of Oundle approximately 300m north of the development site (Webster 1999). The settlement consists of pits and curvilinear ditches from which pottery was recovered.

Excavations *c.* 300m to the west of the assessment site have recorded a round house, pits, postholes and pottery dating to the 1st century BC (Maull and Masters 2001).

Aerial photography has indicated the presence of possible prehistoric field boundaries and enclosures *c.* 400m west of the site.

The development site lies within a Romano-British landscape centred on the nationally important site of Ashton Roman Town, situated approximately 1km to the east on the opposite side of the River Nene.

The site lies within the immediate hinterland of Ashton and as such a degree of Roman settlement in this area is to be expected. A small Roman settlement site situated within its own field system has been identified approximately 300m to the west (originally referred to as Glapthorn Road, but where Creed Road is now located) and has been the subject of a series of investigations (Maull & Masters 2001; Schofield 2009; Trimble forthcoming). Excavations at this site recorded a system of ditched enclosures, including an east-west oriented trackway, which underwent a complex sequence of sub-division and modification (Maull & Masters 2001), Roman buildings, hearths and wells associated with significant finds assemblages indicating a moderate degree of wealth (Peachey 2011).

The Roman enclosures and structures were recorded in the north-western quarter of the Glapthorn Road site (Maull and Masters 2001) and immediately to the west on the Creed Road site (Schofield 2009; Trimble forthcoming) and do not appear to continue as far east as the development site.

Oundle is first mentioned in an account of St. Wilfrid by his chantor, Eddi, in *c.* AD 715. Referred to as *Undolum*, the name is derived from the Old English for 'undivided' or 'that has no share' (Ekwall 1989, xiv and 353). Bede also refers to *Inundalum* and variations such as *Undulana moegð* and the Domesday Survey of 1086 calls the town *Undele*.

The earliest mentions of Oundle are associated with Bishop Wilfrid (later canonised) and recorded by Bede (Sherley-Price trans. 1977, 305) and in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (Swanton 1997, 41). Bishop Wilfrid is recorded as having died at Oundle in AD 709, although Bede claims he died at his monastery in the

region of Oundle (Sherley-Price trans. 1977, 312). There is no present indication of the site of this monastery although it is mentioned that a group of noble exiles with an armed force had burned down the monastery early in the 8th century (Campbell 1982, 56). However, Oundle probably remained an ecclesiastical centre, despite invasion by the Danish armies, as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the death of Archbishop Wulfstan who was subsequently buried at Oundle in AD 957 (Swanton 1997, 113).

In AD 963, Oundle was given by St. Æthelwold to the nearby monastery of St. Peter (at Peterborough), along with the Eight Hundreds, a market and toll (Swanton 1997, 116). At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, the land was still in the possession of Peterborough Abbey and consisted of a mill, the market along with 23 villagers, 50 acres of meadow and income from 250 eels (Thorn and Thorn 1979).

A geophysical survey (Hadrell 2011) carried out at the site identified a number of possible archaeological cut features spread across the entire survey area with the majority present in the eastern half. The survey has also found evidence of a former cricket square, possible former sports/goal posts, magnetic spikes, magnetic debris and areas of magnetic disturbance associated with field boundaries and a service.

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council to formulate a policy for the management of

archaeological resources present on the site.

4. METHODS

Ten trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.5m were excavated (where possible) to the surface of the underlying natural geology. The trenches were dispersed throughout the site (Fig. 3) in order to maximise coverage of the area whilst targeting geophysical survey anomalies. The deeply terraced southeast corner of the site was largely excluded.

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed using a Sokkia differential GPS.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a compact mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay (106) with frequent gravel and moderate size stones (Figs 4 & 7, Section 1) (Plates 1 & 2). This natural deposit was recorded in the eastern end of the trench at a height of 39.63m AOD, 0.87m below the current ground surface

The natural was overlain by a sequence of backfilled and levelling deposits, the first of which consisted of compact mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay (107) with frequent gravel and moderate size stones (Figs 4 & 7, Section 2) (Plate 1).

The second deposit in this sequence was composed of firm dark yellowish brown sandy clay (105), 0.32m thick, with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2).

Deposit (105) was overlain by a 0.19m thick, firm mid brownish grey sandy clay (104) containing occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2). It may be that this represents the remains of former subsoil or it may be another backfilled levelling deposit.

The deposit that sealed the possible former subsoil consisted of friable mid greyish brown sandy clay (103), 0.17m thick, with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2). The dark colour of this deposit and its position above deposit (105) suggests that this may represent a buried topsoil deposit. The top of this layer lies 0.29m below the current ground surface at a height of 40.23m

AOD.

The possible buried topsoil was overlain by compact mid yellowish grey clay (102), up to 0.11m thick, with very frequent small pebbles/gravel (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2). This gravelly deposit was probably laid down deliberately as part of the levelling process associated with the modern playing field.

Directly above the gravel deposit was a levelling deposit of firm mid greyish bluish brown clay (101), 0.30m thick, with occasional grit (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2). This is also likely to be associated with the modern playing field surface.

Sealing all features within this trench was the current topsoil, composed of 90mm thick, friable mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles (100) (Fig 7, Sections 1 & 2) (Plate 2).

Trench 2

Hard light whitish brownish grey stone and clay (207) was identified as the natural layer within this trench at its western end (Figs 4 & 8, Section 11) (Plate 4).

Natural deposits occurred at deeper levels in the central and eastern end of the trench and were observed at 40.02m AOD in a machine excavated sondage c. 10.5m from the eastern end of the trench. Here the natural comprised compact mid yellowish brown clay and gravel (205) (Figs 4 & 9, Section 13) (Plate 5).

Natural deposit (205) was overlain by a 0.19m thick deposit of soft dark brown clay (204) (Figs 4 & 9, Section 13) (Plate 5). This deposit abutted natural deposit (207) in the western end of the trench, suggesting that the natural may have been cut here and deposit (204) is a backfilled deposit.

A layer of firm dark yellowish brown clay (203), 0.25m thick, containing moderate charcoal flecks (Figs 4 & 9, Section 13) (Plate 5) sealed deposit (204). This may represent the remains of former subsoil.

Overlying deposit (203) was a possible buried topsoil, consisting of firm mid to dark brown clay (202), 0.36m thick, with frequent charcoal flecks (Figs 4 & 9, Section 13) (Plate 5). This deposit occurred at a height of 40.76m AOD.

A levelling deposit, probably associated with the modern playing field, overlay deposit (202) and consisted of firm mid greyish brown clay with a bluish tinge in places (201), up to 0.38m thick (Fig 9, Section 13) (Plate 5).

In the western end of the trench this levelling deposit became much thinner (c. 60mm thick) and the colour changed to a mid bluish grey clay. It was assigned context number (206) (Fig 8, Section 11) (Plate 4) and directly overlay natural deposit (207).

Levelling deposit (202)/(206) was sealed by an up to 0.29m thick topsoil deposit (200) consisting of firm dark brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small pebbles (Figs 8 & 9, Sections 11 & 13) (Plates 4 & 5).

Trench 3

The earliest deposit observed in Trench 3 occurred 1.25m below the current ground surface at a height of 39.97 AOD and consisted of firm dark brown sandy clay (302) containing frequent charcoal flecks (Figs 4 & 9, Section 16). This was either a backfilled deposit or the remains of a buried topsoil occurring at a significant depth below the current ground surface.

This deposit was overlain by a 1m thick layer of made ground composed of firm to

plastic, light brown to greyish blue clay (301) (Figs 4 & 9, Section 16).

The levelling deposit of clay was sealed by friable dark greyish brown sandy clay topsoil (300), 0.25m thick (Fig 9, Section 16).

Trench 4

Natural firm light yellowish brown to bluish grey clay (404) was recorded in a sondage at the northeastern end of Trench 4 (Plate 6), 1.57m below the current ground surface at a height of 39.98m AOD (Figs 4 & 7, Section 7) (Plate 7).

The clay was overlain by a 0.20m thick deposit of firm dark brown sandy clay (403) with frequent charcoal flecks (Figs 4 & 7, Sections 6 & 7) (Plate 7). This deposit either represents backfilling or possibly a buried topsoil and occurred at a height of 40.15m AOD in the northeastern end of the trench and 40.60m AOD in the southwestern end.

This dumped deposit or possible former topsoil was sealed by an up to 1.04m thick, firm to plastic, light yellowish brown to bluish grey clay levelling deposit (402) (Figs 4 & 7, Sections 6 & 7) (Plate 7).

A second levelling deposit composed of firm light yellowish brown clayey sand and gravel (401), 0.23m thick, overlay deposit (402) (Fig 7, Sections 6 & 7) (Plate 7).

Deposit (401) was in turn sealed by a firm to friable mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (400), up to 0.37m thick (Fig 7, Sections 6 & 7) (Plate 7).

Trench 5

The earliest deposit in Trench 5 consisted of naturally deposited firm to friable yellowish white clay with sand (506) (Figs 5 & 9, Section 17) (Plate 8) and occurred 1m below the current ground surface at a

height of 41.42m AOD.

Deposit (506) was overlain by a 0.18m thick layer of firm dark reddish greyish brown silty clay (505) with gravel (Fig 9, Section 17) (Plate 8). It is unclear whether this is a natural or a backfilled deposit.

Sealing the possible natural clay and gravel was a 0.17m thick deposit of mid to dark firm reddish brown silty clay (504), which is either a backfilled deposit or possibly represents former subsoil (Figs 5 & 9, Section 17) (Plate 8).

Deposit (504) is in turn overlain by a firm dark brown silty clay deposit (503) containing frequent charcoal flecks (Figs 5 & 9, Section 17) (Plate 8). This is possibly a buried topsoil and occurs 0.50m below the current ground surface at a height of 41.92m AOD.

This possible buried topsoil was sealed by a 0.10m thick band of firm to plastic dark bluish grey clay (502) (Fig 9, Section 17) (Plate 8).

The clay was overlain by a 0.25m thick deposit of made ground composed of firm mid yellowish brown clay (501), containing frequent sand and gravel (Fig 9, Section 17) (Plate 8).

The made ground was sealed by topsoil deposit (500); a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and a thickness of 0.15m (Fig 9, Section 17) (Plate 8).

Trench 6

The deposit recorded in the base of Trench 6 comprised mid yellowish brown to bluish grey clay (602) (Figs 5 & 9, Section 18). This deposit is thought to be natural and a sondage was dug at the eastern end of the trench in order to prove this. However, the depth of the natural in other trenches to the west suggests the

possibility that the sondage was not deep enough. Unfortunately it could not be recorded due to wet conditions and collapse of the trench sides, but the estimated depth of the sondage was approximately 1m below current ground surface with no change in this deposit.

This possibly natural clay deposit was overlain by a 80mm thick layer of made ground consisting of firm mid brownish yellow sandy clay (601) with some gravel (Fig 9, Section 18). This deposit is probably a levelling deposit associated with the current playing field.

A 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (600) composed of firm dark greyish brown silty clay sealed deposit (601) (Fig 9, Section 18).

Trench 7

The earliest deposit observed in Trench 7 consisted of firm mid bluish greenish grey clay (709) (Figs 5 & 9, Section 15) (Plate 9). This was observed in a sondage in the southern end of Trench 7. Unfortunately it was difficult to ascertain the correct level to machine to in this trench and indeed across the site due to the abundance of repositioned natural used as levelling deposits and the relative shallowness of natural deposits at the western end of the site compared to those at the eastern. The level this trench was machined to appeared similar to that of Trenches 8-10 where there was a higher level of confidence with regards to the level of natural deposits.

The natural clay was overlain by a 0.21m thick layer of loose light brown sandy clayey gravel (708), which appeared to be made ground (Fig 9, Section 15) (Plate 9). This deposit was the same as (704) which was recorded in plan (Fig 5) and from which a single sherd of late 17th to 18th century Staffordshire Mottled Ware was recovered.

Another layer of backfilled material consisting of firm light brown sandy clay (707) was recorded overlying deposit (708)/(704) (Figs 5 and 9, Section 15) (Plate 9). This deposit is probably associated with the levelling of the current playing field and had a thickness of up to 0.33m at the southern end of the trench.

At the very southern end of the trench, deposit (707) was overlain by a 0.18m thick, firm mid grey clay (706) (Fig 9, Section 15) (Plate 9). Although this deposit appeared to stop it is probably the same as deposit (705) also recorded in Section 15 (Fig 9) overlying (707), which in turn is the same as deposit (703), which was observed in plan (Fig 5). This deposit probably represents made ground associated with the current playing field surface.

Deposit (706)/(705)/(703) was overlain in the southern end of the trench by an up to 0.36m thick layer of firm mid to light greyish brown clay with occasional gravel (701) (Fig 9, Section 15) (Plate 9). This deposit also occurred in the northern end of the trench where it was assigned context number (702) and recorded in plan (Fig 5). This deposit was mistaken for natural in this trench but was in fact a levelling deposit probably associated with the current playing field.

The levelling deposit of clay (701/702) was sealed by a firm dark brown silty clay topsoil (700) with occasional gravel, up to 0.10m thick (Fig 9, Section 15) (Plate 9).

Trench 8

A sondage in Trench 8 (Figs 6 & 7, Section 3) revealed a firm light grey sandy clay (803) natural deposit, at least 0.12m thick, at its base.

A second layer of firm, light brownish yellow clay (802) with occasional rounded stones overlay deposit (803) and had two

possible features cut through it (Figs 6 & 7, Section 3). It is unclear whether this is natural clay or a levelling deposit.

The northernmost of these two features was oval shaped in plan [805], measuring 0.41m in length by 0.21m in width by 70mm depth, with a flat base (Figs 6 & 7, Section 4) (Plate 10). The fill of this possible feature consisted of firm mid greyish brown sandy clay (804) with occasional stones.

The second feature [807] occurred approximately 0.41m to the south of [805] and was more circular in plan, measuring c. 0.55m in diameter by 0.10m deep, with shallow concave side breaking gradually to irregular sides (Figs 6 & 7, Section 5) (Plate 11). This was filled with firm mid to light greyish brown sandy clay (806), containing occasional rounded pebbles.

The features were sealed by an up to 0.24m thick deposit of firm mid greyish brown sandy clay (801), with occasional pebbles (Fig 7, Section 3). This probably represents a levelling deposit associated with the current playing field.

The clay levelling deposit was sealed by a 90mm thick layer of loose dark brown clayey silt topsoil (800), with occasional small stones and charcoal fragments (Fig 7, Section 3).

Trench 9

The natural deposit in Trench 9 consisted of firm light grey clay with occasional stones (Figs 6 & 8, Section 9).

This was overlain in the central part of the trench by a 0.10m thick deposit of loose mid grey sand and gravel (902) (Figs 6 & 8, Section 8) (Plate 12), which was probably used to fill a hollow in order to level the current playing field.

The gravel was sealed by a second

levelling deposit, composed of firm mid brown silty clay (901) with occasional angular pebbles (Fig 8, Sections 8 & 9) (Plate 12).

Topsoil (900), up to 0.15m thick and consisting of friable dark brown silty clay with occasional angular pebbles, sealed the clay levelling deposit (Fig 8, Sections 8-10) (Plate 12).

Trench 10

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 10 consisted of firm light bluish grey clay (1001) with occasional stones (Fig 6) (Plate 14). This deposit occurred 0.25m below the current ground surface at a height of 43.23m AOD.

Two features cut through the natural in this trench. The westernmost of which was a linear cut [1002], oriented on a north-south alignment and measuring 1.77m wide by 0.67m deep with a steep straight western side and a stepped eastern side, breaking sharply to an irregular base (Figs 6 & 8, Section 12) (Plate 14). This probable ditch contained a sequence of three fills, the first of which consisted of firm light brownish yellow silty clay (1006) packed 0.67m thick into the western side of the feature. The second fill comprised firm mid brownish grey silty clay (1005) with lenses of yellowish orange clay. This deposit was 0.30m thick and contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent moderate size stones (0.10m x 0.30m) and smaller stones, some of which had been heat affected. The third fill in the sequence was composed of firm mid greyish brown silty clay (1004), 0.32m thick, with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent moderate size stones (0.10m x 0.30m) some of which had been heat affected. A fragment of dog mandible and two sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery were recovered from this fill.

To the immediate east of the north south

oriented ditch, a roughly circular feature [1008] cut the natural clay, measuring 0.28m wide by 0.46m long by 0.13m deep, with irregular sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base (Figs 6 & 9, Section 14). This possible posthole base was filled with soft mid greyish brown silty clay (1009), containing occasional small pebbles.

The eastern side of possible ditch [1002] was overlain by a thin (40mm thick) band of soft light bluish grey clay (1007) which probably represents a levelling deposit associated with the playing field (Fig 8, Section 12) (Plate 14).

The band of clay was sealed by a 0.13m thick deposit of soft light brownish silty clay (1003) (Fig 8, Section 12) (Plate 14). This deposit is also likely to have been laid down for levelling purposes associated with the playing field.

The clay was overlain by topsoil (1000) consisting of dark brown silty clay (1000), 0.10m thick, containing occasional pebbles (Fig 8, Section 12) (Plate 14).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise clays throughout the western and northern area of the site, while the southeastern end appears to have more stone and gravel content.

The edge of this stony natural was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 with probable backfill deposits abutting it. This suggests the possibility that the stony natural has been cut, probably for stone extraction and that much of the southeastern area between the western end of Trench 1 and the eastern end of Trench 2 may have been quarried away.

The difference in heights for natural deposits at the western and eastern end of

the site is significantly large, dropping 3.60m from Trench 10 to Trench 1. This indicates a substantial hillside and raises the possibility that quarrying at the eastern end of the site might be partly responsible for the depth and abruptness of the drop.

However, a buried soil profile consisting of subsoil overlain by topsoil was recorded throughout the eastern area of the site. The potential buried topsoil deposit was recorded throughout Trenches 1-5 where the variance in its depth closely matched that of natural deposits from trench to trench. For example, the difference in height for natural deposits between the western end of Trench 2 and the eastern end of Trench 1 was 0.39m (sloping down to the east), while the difference in height between the potential topsoil deposit was 0.43m. The difference in heights of the natural between Trench 5 and Trench 1 was 1.79m (sloping down towards Trench 1), while the difference in heights for the suggested topsoil deposit was 1.69m. The extent and similarity in height variation between these deposits suggests that this is a single topsoil deposit (with underlying subsoil recorded in Trenches 1, 2 & 5) which occurs throughout the eastern area of the site. It is substantial enough to suggest that this is the undisturbed soil profile of the hillside, which has then had clay levelling deposits laid down directly onto it. The absence of this profile in the western area of higher ground suggests that these deposits have been truncated here in order to level the ground surface. The picture is that of a steep hillside which has been truncated in the western (high ground) area and built up in the east, so as to form a relatively level surface, while quarrying may have taken place in the area between Trenches 1 and 2. This also means that any possible archaeological features at the eastern end of the site would occur at a significant depth and may not be affected by development.

As stated, the western area of the site has seen significant truncation. This is apparent in Fig 3 where hachures mark a bank along the western and southwestern side of the site which has been dug into to form a level ground surface. The natural in Trench 10 occurred *c.* 0.25m below the topsoil. The steepness of the hill and the size of the bank suggest the probability that much of the western area of the site beyond Trench 10 will have been truncated to a depth that will have disturbed or obliterated any surviving archaeology.

The only significant archaeological features at the site were revealed in Trench 10 and consisted of a north – south aligned ditch dated by two sherds of pottery to the mid to late Iron Age and the base of a possible posthole which produce no dateable material but is in close proximity to the ditch and therefore possibly of a similar date.

Iron Age settlement evidence consisting of a round house, pits, postholes and pottery dating to the 1st century BC has been identified *c.* 300m to the west of the site, suggesting that this is probably a boundary ditch associated with the outskirts or field systems of that settlement.

Two possible undated features occurred in Trench 8 but were extremely shallow and contained no material culture. No remains at the site could be assigned to the Romano-British period despite the presence of significant settlement to the west of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 8 Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire, as the site lay in close proximity to significant archaeological remains. Previous work in the area has located an Iron Age and Romano-British

settlement approximately 300m to the west of the development site.

The investigation revealed a single ditch dating to the mid to late Iron Age, possibly associated with the outskirts or associated field systems of the late Iron Age settlement to the west. The base of a possible posthole lay in close proximity to the ditch and although undated is probably associated with it. Possible quarrying of uncertain date may have taken place between Trenches 1 and 2 at the southeastern end of the site.

Trenching across the site revealed that the site lies on a formerly significantly steep hillside (with a 3.60m height difference between levels of natural deposits in the east and west of the site) which has seen clay levelling deposits laid down in the east over an old soil profile, while the western end has seen significant truncation. This was in order to level the ground surface which is currently in use as a playing field.

The topography of the site suggests that any archaeological remains occurring at the western edge may have been truncated, while any towards the eastern and northeastern edge may occur at significant enough depths so as not to be disturbed by development.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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 Post-excavation Analyst: Andrew Failes

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD Above ordnance datum

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General Location Plan

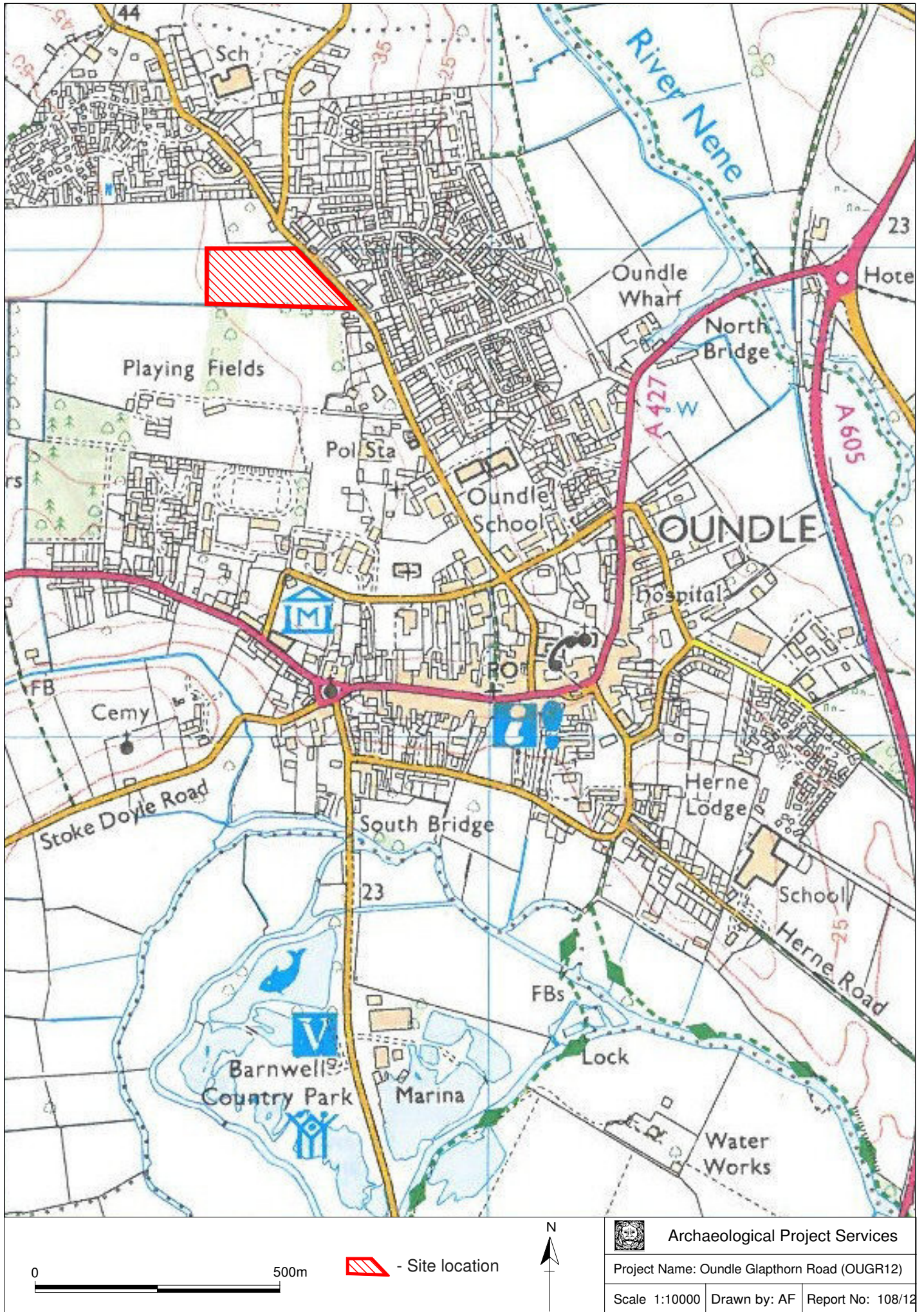


Figure 2 - Site location

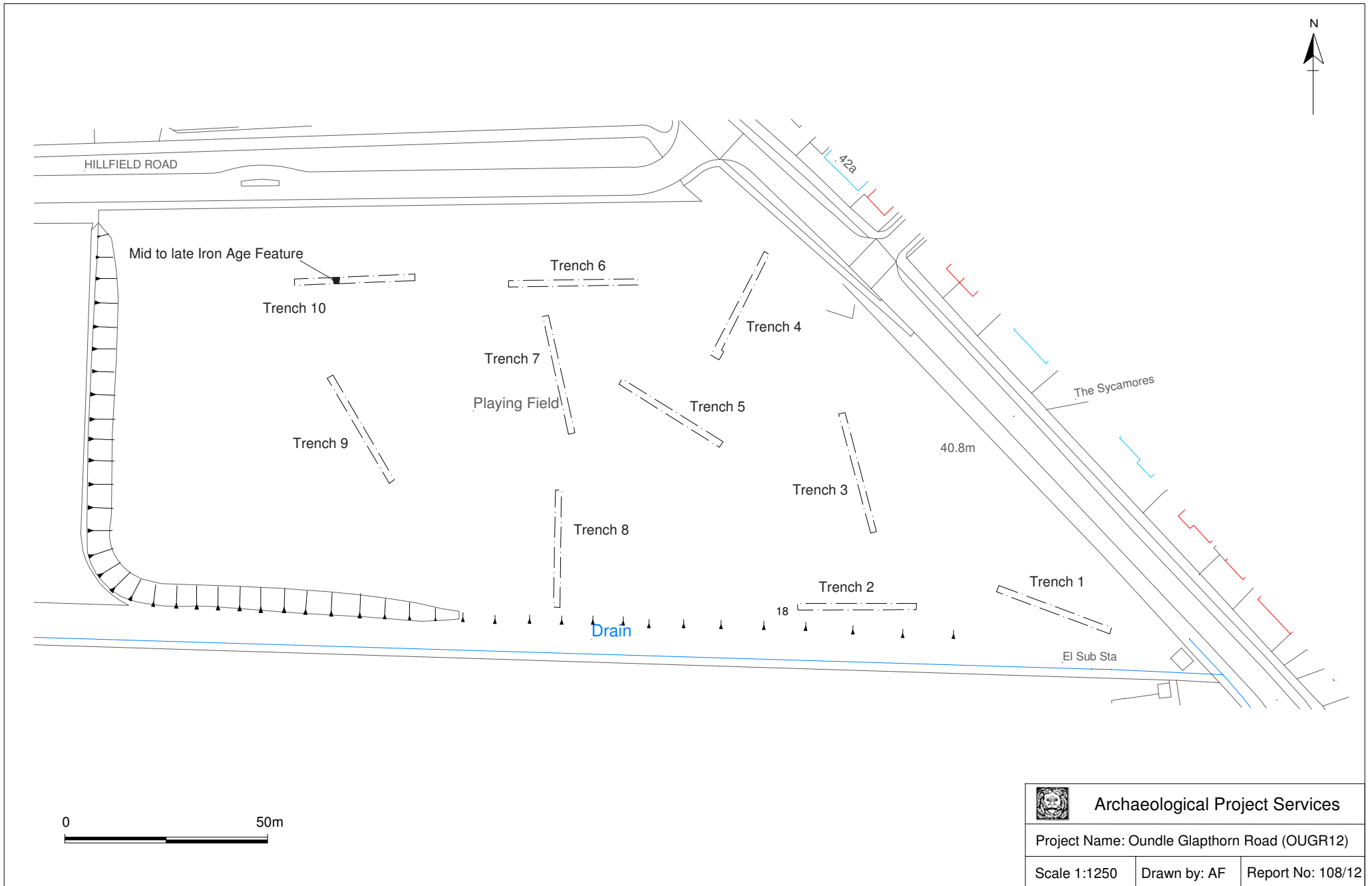

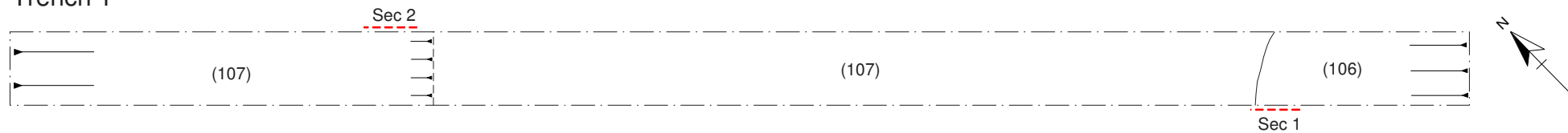


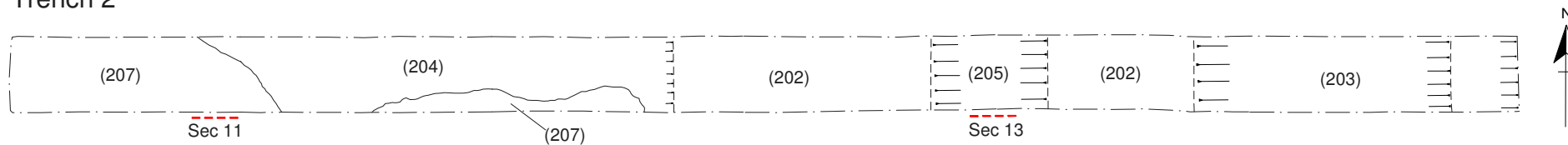
Figure 3 - Trench locations and location of Romano-British ditch or possible robbed out foundation

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Scale 1:1250	Drawn by: AF	Report No: 108/12

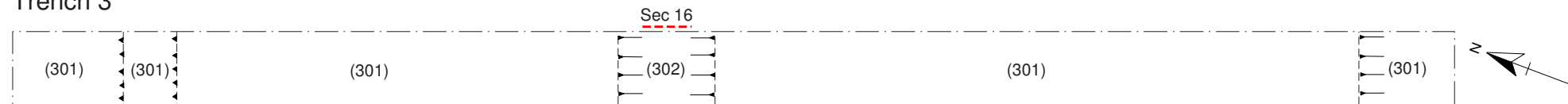
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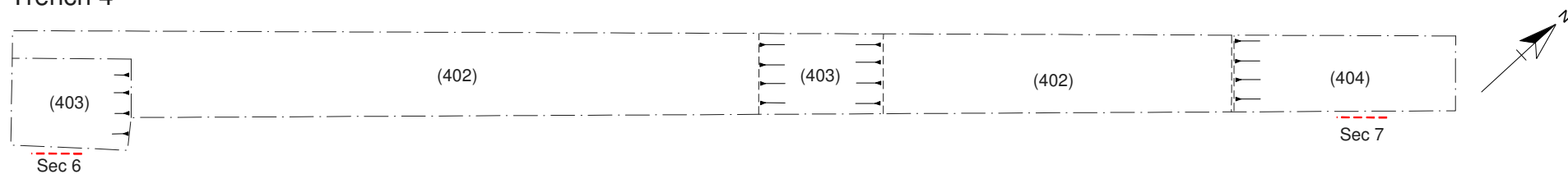
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Trench 3



Trench 4




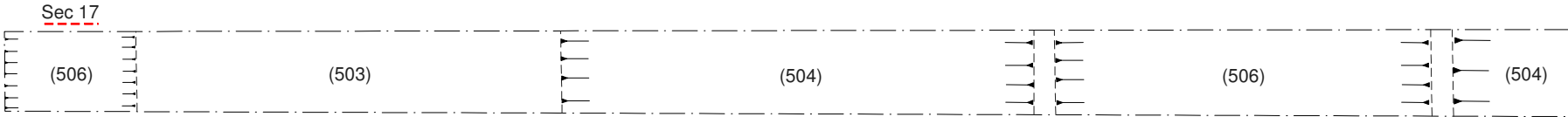
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Figure 4 - Plan of Trenches 1-4

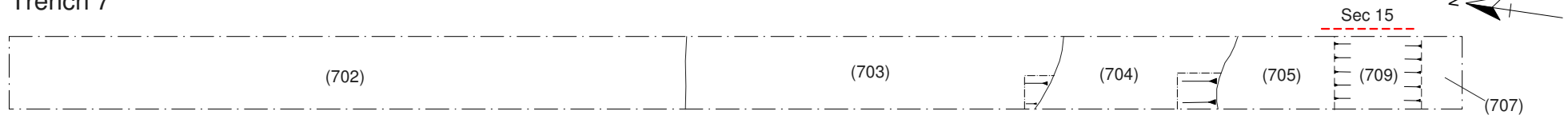
Trench 5



Trench 6



Trench 7




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Project Name: Oundle Glapthorn Road (OUGR12)		
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Figure 5 - Trenches 5-7

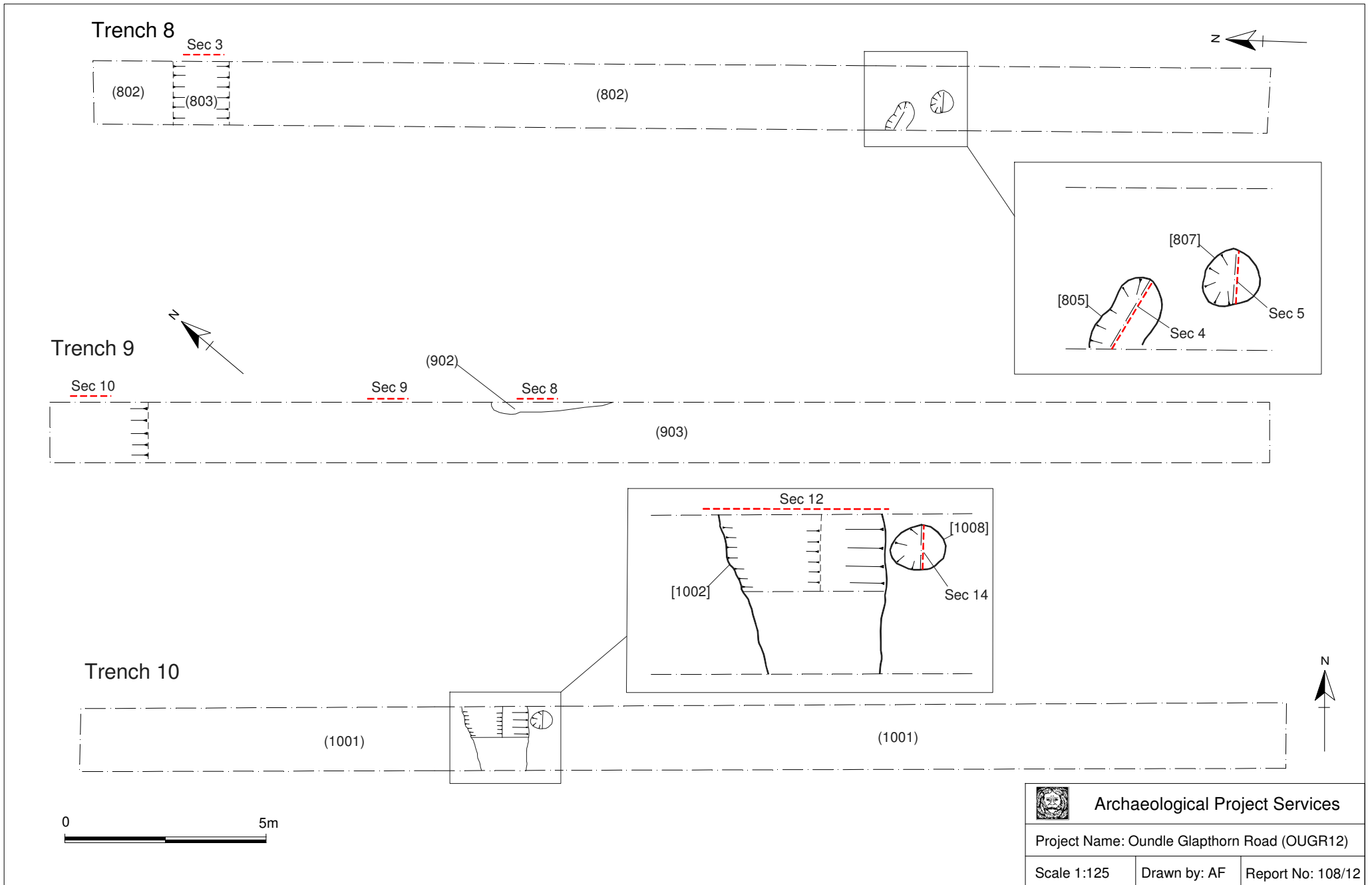
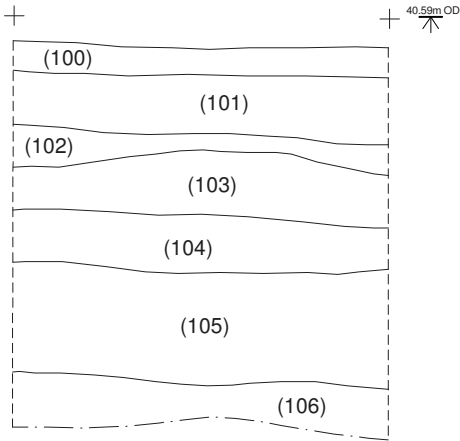
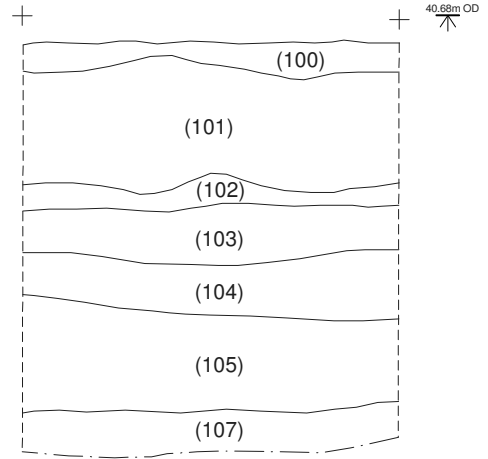


Figure 6 - Trenches 8 - 10

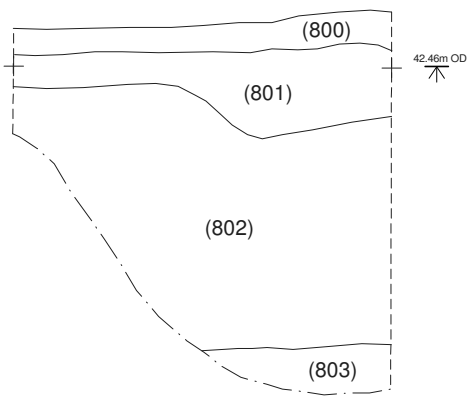
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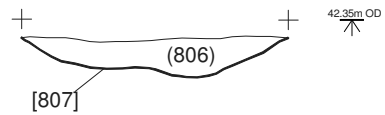
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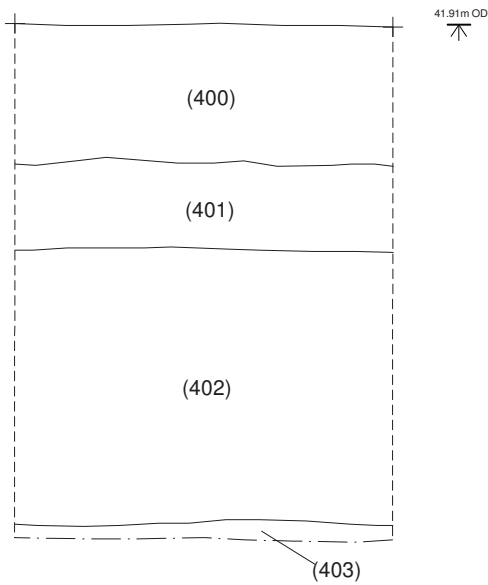
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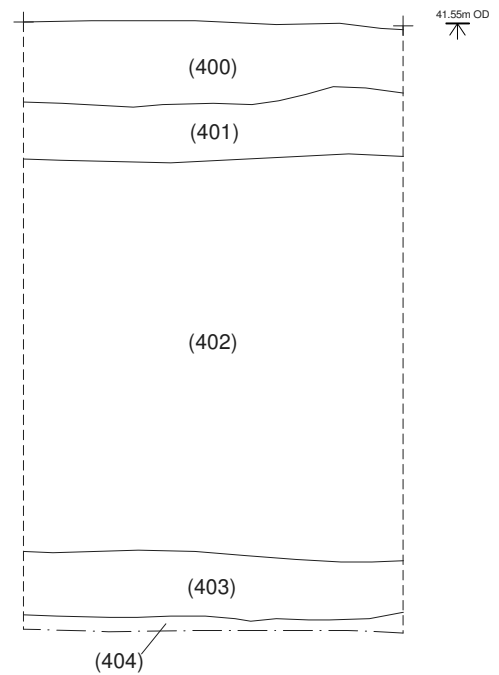
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Archaeological Project Services

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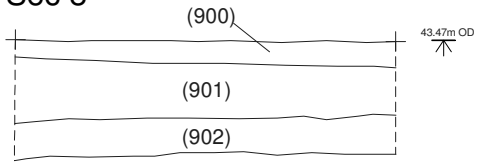
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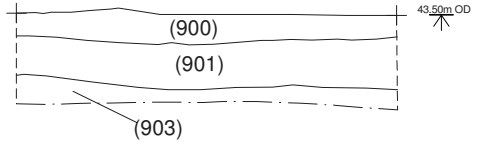
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Figure 7 - Sections 1-7

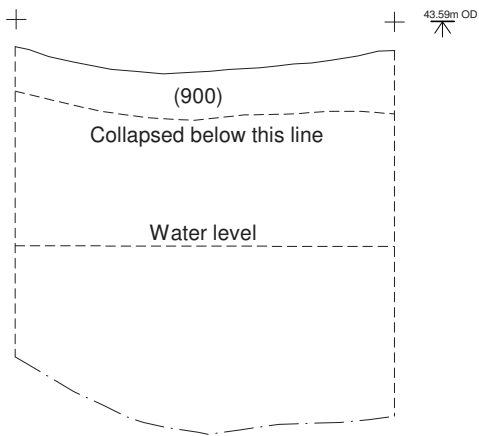
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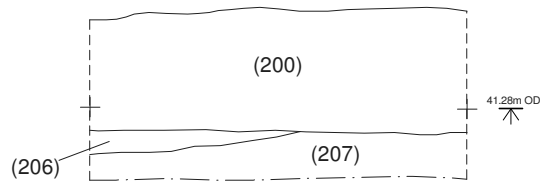
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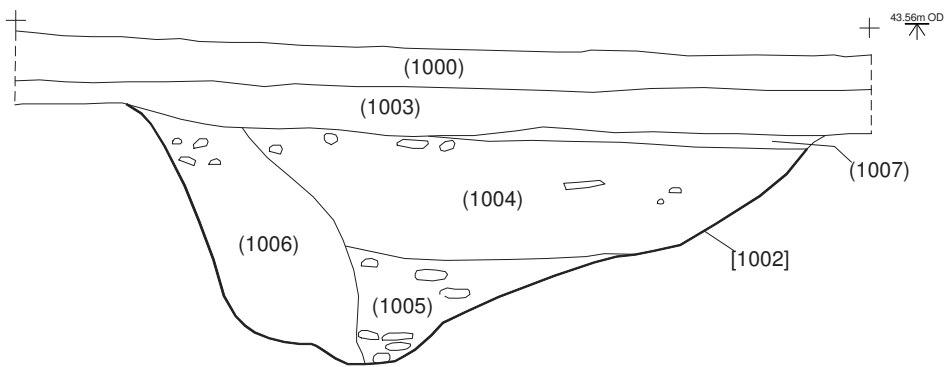
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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Oundle Glapthorn Road (OUGR12)

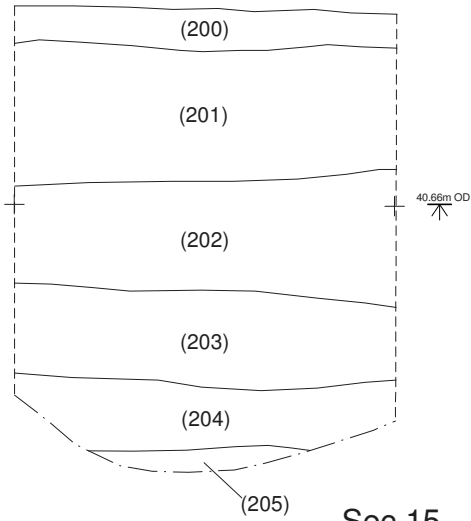
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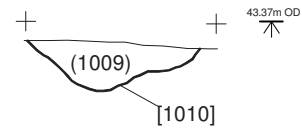
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Figure 8 - Sections 8 - 12

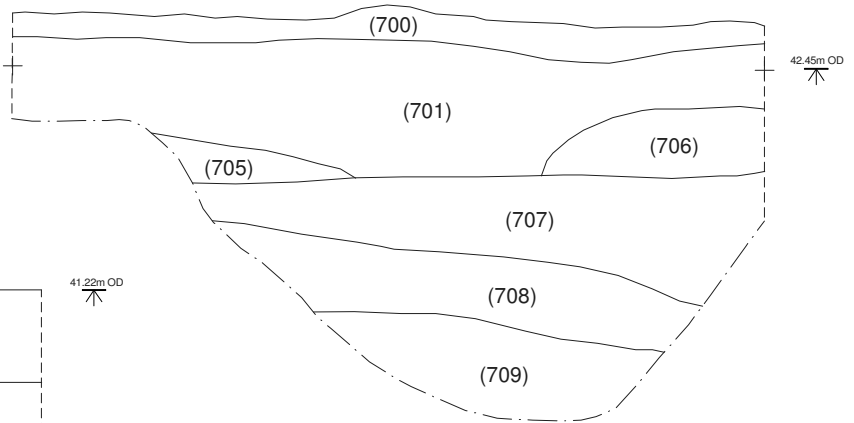
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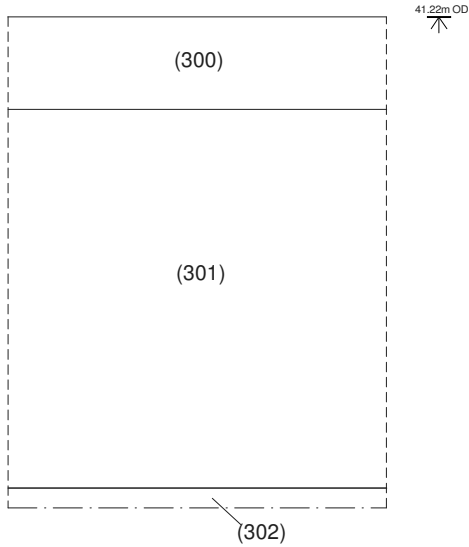
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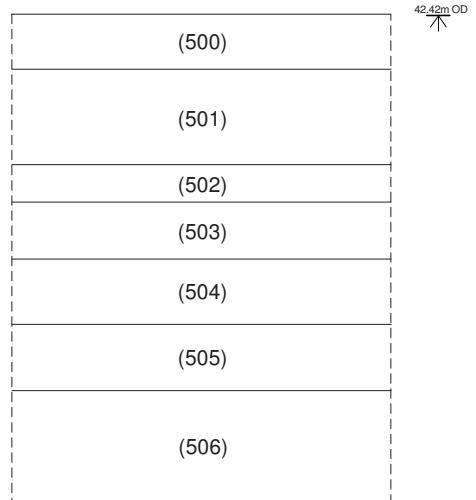
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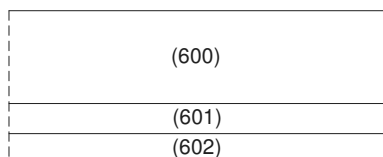
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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Oundle Glapthorn Road (OUGR12)

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: AF

Report No: 108/12

Figure 9 - Sections 13-17



Plate 1 – Trench 1 looking northwest, showing natural deposit (106)



Plate 2 – Section 1 (Trench 1)



Plate 3 – Trench 2 looking east, showing natural deposit (207)



Plate 4 – Section 11 (Trench 2)



Plate 5 – Section 13 (Trench 2)



Plate 6 – Trench 4 looking southwest



Plate 7 – Section 6 (Trench 4)



Plate 8 – Section 17 (Trench 5)



Plate 9 – Section 15 (Trench 7)



Plate 10 – Possible feature [805] (Trench 8)



Plate 11 – Possible feature [807] (Trench 8)



Plate 12 – Section 8 (Trench 9)



Plate 13 – Trench 10 looking east



Plate 14 – Section 12 (Trench 10)

APPENDIX 1

**LAND AT
GLAPTHORN ROAD
OUNCLE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PREPARED FOR

Persimmon Homes East Midlands

BY

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21**

NOVEMBER 2012

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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Figure 1 Proposed Trench Layout

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for an archaeological evaluation of an area of proposed residential development on land at Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire.*
- 1.2 *Evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been identified from previous archaeological investigations within the vicinity.*
- 1.3 *The Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council has identified that the application area is potentially archaeologically sensitive and would benefit from evaluation. A desk-based assessment and geophysical survey have already been undertaken. Trial trenching of the site is now proposed.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the evaluation at Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Northamptonshire.
 - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.1.2 Overview
 - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.1.5 List of specialists
 - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Oundle lies approximately 15km east of Corby and 19km southwest of Peterborough in the East Northamptonshire district of that county. The development area, some 2.9ha in extent, lies to the north of Oundle town centre on the western side of Glapthorn Road at its junction with Hillfield Road, at National Grid Reference TL 0355 8894. It presently forms part of the playing fields of Oundle School.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The local planning authority has requested an archaeological evaluation of the site in order to assess the archaeological implication of proposed development. The results of the evaluation will be submitted in support of a planning application and will enable the archaeological curator to make an informed decision regarding impact of the development on any surviving archaeological remains at the site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at between 40m and 45m AOD on gently rising ground above the valley of the River Nene to the east. Local soils are the Denchworth Association, mainly clayey soils developed on mudstone of the Oxford Clay formation (Hodge et al. 1984, 155).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The archaeological background has been studied in the previously submitted Desk Based Assessment (AS 2011). The DBA identified a number of known archaeological sites in the vicinity including Iron Age settlements a short distance to the north and to the west. The latter site (Glaphorn Road/Creed Road) continued in occupation through the Roman period and has been the subject of extensive excavation.
- 6.2 Medieval and post medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified in earlier excavations, and further ridge and furrow is visible on aerial photographs to the south west of the site. The route of a medieval road passes through the eastern part of the site.
- 6.3 A geophysical survey of the site, carried out in July 2011 (Stratascan 2011), identified a number of possible archaeological features as well as a degree of disturbance associated with recent use as a playing field. The survey identified a number of linear features, irregular areas and possible discrete pits. These were scattered across the whole site, but were more concentrated towards the eastern end.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be 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.
- 7.2 Archaeological remains at the site have potential to provide data to address a number of areas of research or 'gaps in knowledge' as defined in the published resource assessment and research agenda (Cooper 2006). The site has the potential to contribute to the understanding of prehistoric and Roman settlement in the Nene Valley and its environs.
- 7.3 It is anticipated that data collected in the course of the investigations may contribute to a number of specific research themes, including:

- **Late Iron Age landscape and the strategy and consequences of conquest**

The analysis and interpretation of the pattern of continuity, early abandonment or relocation of settlement across the region is a key research topic (Taylor 2006, 154).

- **Roman rural settlement, landscape and society**

The regional research agenda for the period highlights the degree to which rural settlements of the Roman period in Britain remain poorly understood, noting that

opportunities for excavation and survey on a significant scale should be taken whenever possible (Taylor 2006, 157).

7.4 Specific objectives of the work will be to:

- 7.4.1 Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation that may be present within the development site;
- 7.4.2 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.4.3 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- 7.4.4 Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- 7.4.5 Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

8 TRIAL TRENCHING

8.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 8.1.2 The trial trenching will comprise the excavation of twelve 30m-long trenches. These will be located as shown on Figure 1.

8.2 General Considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 8.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Northamptonshire County Council archaeological advisor. The investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 8.2.5 Access from the school playing fields will be fenced off and open trenches will

be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles if of excessive depth. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - the site on completion of field work
- 8.4 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences will be obtained and the

local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.

- 8.5 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 8.6 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.7 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by differential RTK GPS survey.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 During the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. If necessary the specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.
- 9.2 Deposits with the potential to provide environmental information will be bulk sampled. If possible these should be from a range of feature types distributed across the site and from well preserved and dated contexts.

10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

10.1 Stage 1

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10.2 Stage 2

- 10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

10.3 Stage 3

10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis.

11.2 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

12 REPORT DEPOSITION

12.1 Two copies of the report (one hard copy and one digital) will be submitted to the Assistant Archaeological Advisor. After approval, the report will be passed to the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record to act as a permanent record of the investigation. Two copies of the final report will be sent to the client.

13 PUBLICATION

13.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the appropriate local journal. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

13.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

14 CURATORIAL MONITORING

14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council. As much notice as possible will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.

15.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: David Knight Trent and Peak Archaeology. Small assemblages may be reported on by Dale Trimble, Project Manager for APS. All work by the latter will be mentored by the

	named specialists.
Roman:	Alex Beeby APS
Anglo-Saxon:	Dr Anne Irving, independent specialist.
Medieval and later:	Dr Anne Irving, independent pottery specialist.
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	M . Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Val Fryer, independent specialist
Soil Micromorphology	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 17.1 The Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services, Tom Lane, MIFA, will have overall responsibility and control of all aspects of the work.
- 17.2 Site work will be undertaken by a Project Officer with experience of archaeological excavations of this type, assisted by two experienced archaeological technicians. The archaeological works are programmed to take 10-12 days.
- 17.3 Post-excavation report production is expected to take up to 2 working weeks. Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by the Project Officer, or post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.
- 17.4 Contingency
- 17.4.1 Contingencies for the processing and analysis of 6 waterlogged bulk environmental samples and the processing and analysis of artefacts in excess of 200 items.
- 17.4.2 The activation of any contingency requirement will be by agreement with the client and in consultation with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council.

18 INSURANCES

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire,

maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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Specification: Version 1, 7 November 2012

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Friable mid brownish grey silty clay, 90mm thick with occasional small pebbles	Turf/Topsoil
101	1	Firm mid greyish bluish brown clay, 0.30m thick with occasional grit	Levelling deposit
102	1	Compact mid yellowish grey clay, 0.11m thick with very frequent small pebbles/gravel	Drainage deposit
103	1	Friable mid greyish brown sandy clay, 0.17m thick with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks	Buried topsoil
104	1	Firm mid brownish grey sandy clay, 0.19m thick with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks	Buried subsoil
105	1	Firm dark yellowish brown sandy clay, 0.32m thick with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel	Quarry backfill
106	1	Compact mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay with frequent gravel and moderate size stones	Natural
107	1	Compact mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay with frequent gravel and mudstone	Quarry backfill?
200	2	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay ranging from 0.10m to 0.29m thick, with occasional small pebbles	Topsoil
201	2	Firm mid greyish brown clay with bluish tinge in places, up to 0.38m thick	Levelling deposit
202	2	Firm mid to dark brown clay, 0.36m thick with frequent charcoal flecks	Buried topsoil
203	2	Firm dark yellowish brown clay, 0.25m thick with moderate charcoal flecks	Buried subsoil
204	2	Soft dark brown clay, 0.19m thick	Natural?
205	2	Compact mid yellowish brown clay and gravel	Natural
206	2	Firm mid bluish grey clay, 60mm thick	Levelling deposit
207	2	Hard light brownish grey mudstone and clay	Natural
300	3	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
301	3	Firm and plastic light brown to blue grey clay, 1m thick	Levelling deposit
302	3	Firm dark brown slightly sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Former topsoil
400	4	Firm to friable mid greyish brown silty	Topsoil

		clay, up to 0.37m thick	
401	4	Firm light yellowish brown clayey sand and gravel, 0.23m thick	Levelling deposit
402	4	Firm to plastic light yellowish brown to bluish grey clay, 1.04m thick	Levelling deposit
403	4	Firm dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks, 0.20m thick	Buried topsoil
404	4	Firm light yellowish brown to bluish grey clay	Natural
500	5	Firm to plastic dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
501	5	Firm to plastic mid yellowish brown clay with frequent sand and gravel, 0.25m thick	Levelling deposit
502	5	Firm to plastic dark greyish blue clay, 0.10m thick	Levelling deposit
503	5	Firm to plastic dark brown silty clay, 0.15m thick with frequent charcoal flecks	Buried topsoil
504	5	Firm mid to dark reddish brown silty clay, 0.17m thick	Buried subsoil
505	5	Firm dark greyish reddish brown clay with gravel, 0.18m thick	Possible natural
506	5	Firm to friable yellowish white clay with sand	Natural
600	6	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.25 thick	Topsoil
601	6	Firm mid brownish yellow sand clay with frequent gravel, 80mm thick	Dumped deposit
602	6	Firm mid yellowish brown to bluish grey clay	Possible natural clay, however could be levelling deposit
700	7	Firm dark brown silty clay, 0.10m thick with occasional gravel	Topsoil
701	7	Firm mid brown silty clay, 0.37m thick with occasional gravel	Levelling deposit
702	7	Firm mix of light greyish brown to grey sandy clay and clay	Levelling deposit
703	7	Firm/compact mid grey clay	Levelling deposit
704	7	Firm mid brown sandy clay with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal	Levelling deposit
705	7	Firm mid grey clay, 0.11m thick	Levelling deposit
706	7	Firm mid grey clay, 0.19m thick	Levelling deposit
707	7	Firm light brown sandy clay, 0.34m thick	Levelling deposit
708	7	Loose light brown sandy clay and gravel, at least 0.20m thick	Levelling deposit
709	7	Firm mid greenish grey clay	Possible natural deposit
800	8	Loose dark brown clayey silt, 90mm thick with occasional small stones and charcoal fragments	Topsoil

801	8	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay, up to 0.24m thick with occasional pebbles	Levelling deposit
802	8	Firm light brownish yellow clay, 0.7m thick with occasional small pebbles	Possible natural or levelling deposit
803	8	Firm light grey sandy clay, at least 0.12m thick	Possible natural
804	8	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay, 70mm thick with occasional stones	Fill of [805]
805	8	Oval shaped possible feature 0.41m x 0.21m x 70mm deep with a flat base	Probable natural feature
806	8	Firm mid to light greyish brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of [807]
807	8	Round possible feature with shallow concave side breaking gradually to irregular sides	Possible pit
900	9	Dark brown silty clay, 0.10m thick with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
901	9	Firm mid brown silty clay, 0.14m thick with occasional pebbles	Levelling deposit
902	9	Loose mid grey sand and gravel, 80mm thick	Levelling deposit
903	9	Firm light grey clay with occasional stones	Natural
1000	10	Dark brown silty clay, 0.10m thick with occasional pebbles	Topsoil
1001	10	Firm light bluish grey clay with occasional stones	Natural
1002	10	Linear cut, oriented north-south, measuring 1.77m wide x 0.67m deep with a steep straight western side and a stepped eastern side breaking sharply to an irregular base	Ditch cut
1003	10	Soft light brownish silty clay, 0.13m deep	Possible subsoil
1004	10	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.32m thick with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent moderate size stones (0.10m x 0.30m) some of which have been heat affected	Backfill of [1002]
1005	10	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with lenses of yellowish orange clay, 0.30m thick with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent moderate size stones (0.10m x 0.30m) and smaller stones some of which have been heat affected	Backfill of [1002]
1006	10	Firm light brownish yellow silty clay, 0.67m thick	Fill of [1002]
1007	10	Soft light blue grey clay, 50mm thick	Levelling deposit
1008	10	Oval cut measuring 0.28m x 0.46m x	Possible post hole

		0.13m deep with irregular sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base	
1009	10	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.13m thick with occasional small pebbles	Fill of [1008]

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the P.C.R.G. (1997). A total of two sherds from a single vessel, weighing 37 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed. Sherds were then counted and weighed. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The pottery is abraded and fragmentary. The vessel has an interior soot deposit which is indicative of use over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1, Prehistoric Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fab	Form	NoS	NoV	W	Finish	Cond	Comments	Date	Part
10	1004	SHCM	Shell Tempered with Common Medium sized Inclusions	OX/R	V	2	1	37	SCRA	SI	H; ABR; poorly sorted shell	MLIA?	BDY

Provenance

The material was recovered from ditch or robbed out wall foundation [1002] in Trench 10.

Range

There are two pieces from a single vessel. These are in a relatively high fired silty shell tempered fabric with common medium sized shell inclusions (SHCM). The walls of the vessel are crudely formed and the shell is poorly sorted. Dating is difficult but there three linear impressions on the outer surface of one sherd, at least one of which was clearly done before firing. This could be linear or scored decoration of the type commonly found on vessels of the mid or possibly later Iron Age, within the East Midlands.

Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. It is in a stable condition and should pose no problems for long term storage. The material would be worth reconsidering if further work is carried out on the site.

Summary

Two sherds of prehistoric pottery from a single vessel were recovered during the evaluation. The material, which came from a linear feature, may be of mid to late Iron Age date.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which also covers surrounding counties. A single sherd weighing 10 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was viewed weighed before being examined visually. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 2 below. The pottery dates to the Post Medieval period.

Condition

There is a single sherd of pottery. The piece is small but not abraded.

Results

Table #, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Part	Comment	Date
7	704	STMO	Staffordshire Mottled Ware	Drinking cup	1	1	10	BS		L17th-18th

Provenance

The material was recovered from levelling deposit (704) within Trench 7.

Range

A piece from a drinking cup in Staffordshire Mottled Ware (STMO) was the only sherd of Post Roman pottery recovered during the evaluation. This item which is common type dates from the late 17th to 18th century.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

A single sherd of pottery dated to the post Medieval period was recovered during the evaluation. This came from a levelling deposit in Trench 7.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A single fragment (7g) of animal bone was retrieved from the fill of a ditch or foundation trench.

Condition

The overall condition of the bone was good.

Results

Table #, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
1004	dog	mandible	-	1	7	Retains two molars

Summary

As a single fragment of bone, there is little to comment upon. It should, however, be retained as part of the site archive.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table [#] is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table #, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
704	L17th-18th	
1004	MLIA?	Based on two abraded sherds from a single vessel

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
Fab	Fabric
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
SCRA	Scratched linear decoration
SI	Sooted internally
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 4

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].
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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Early English	Division of English Gothic architecture dating from c.1190-1250.
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).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

26	Context records
2	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
8	Daily record sheet
9	Trench Sheet
12	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: OUGR12

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-138787

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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