



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

“STRIP AND RECORD” PLUS WATCHING BRIEF

SITE 5A

MIDDLEMORE

DAVENTRY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

on behalf of

Harron Homes Ltd.



Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip

June 2006

ASC: 644/DMM/02

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	DMM	<i>Project no:</i>	644
<i>Event No:</i>		<i>Accession No:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Daventry		
<i>Parish:</i>	Daventry CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 565 647		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Former pasture		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	D076/1/2		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Daventry		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	March 2005 and January – April 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Harron Homes (Midlands) Ltd 7 Amber Business Village Amber Close Amington Tamworth Staffordshire B77 4RP		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Steve Kilby		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Alastair Hancock	<i>Date:</i>	June 2006
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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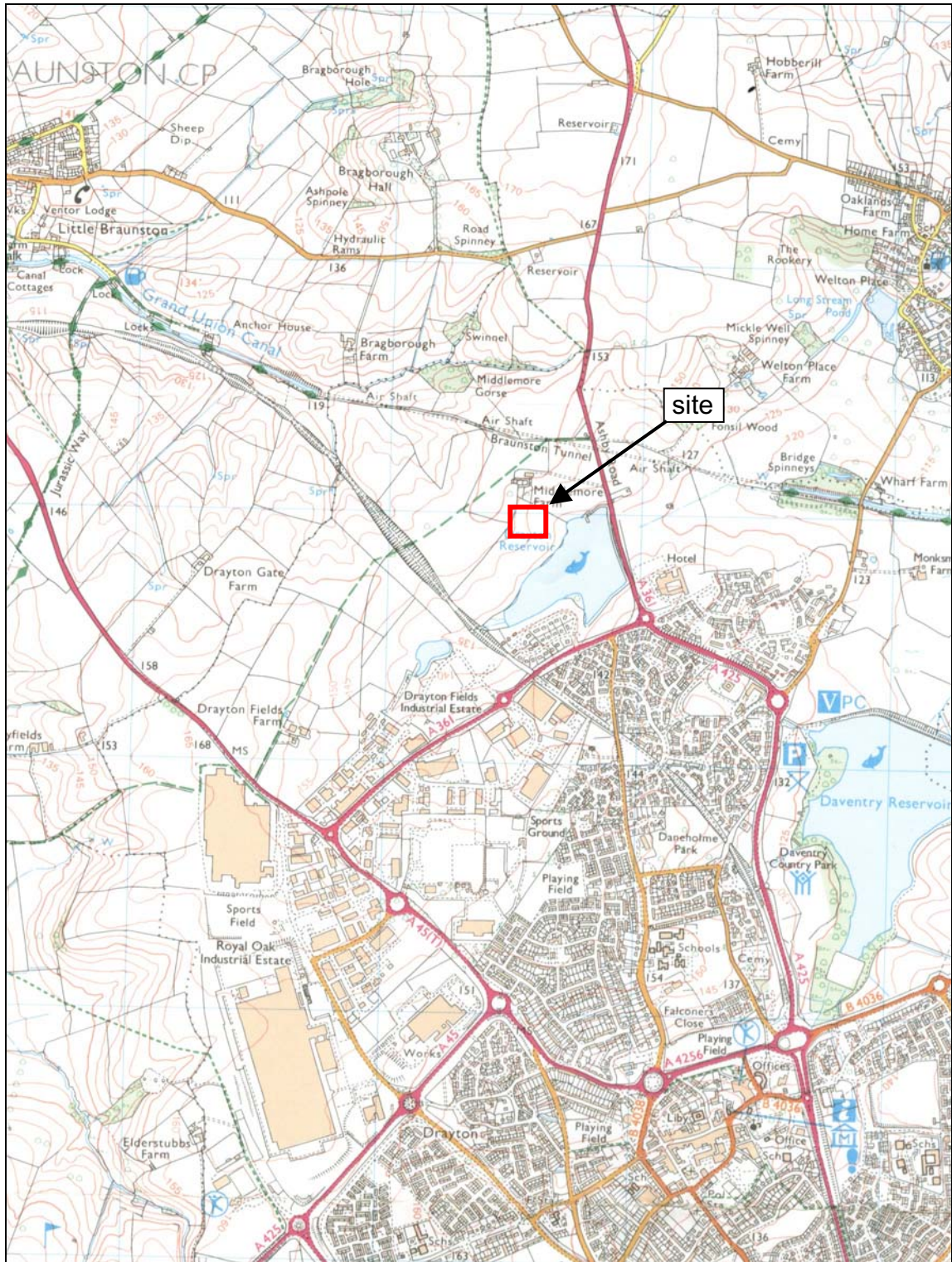


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During March 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook archaeological “strip and record” fieldwork on two small areas during development of the northern half of Site 5A, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire. In January-April 2006 a watching brief was undertaken on a small part of the southern half of Site 5A.

Truncated ditches, pits and a gully were revealed during the “strip and record” fieldwork. Recovered pot sherds suggest 1st-2nd century Romano-British rural activity, contemporary with a suggested 1st-3rd century Romano-British farmstead located c.80m northeast at Site 2. The position and orientation of some of the archaeological features indicates that archaeological remains will be revealed by initial groundwork at Site 5b. No archaeological finds or features were observed during watching brief fieldwork.

The absence of archaeological monitoring during initial stages of groundwork has meant that it has been impossible to define the full spatial extent of archaeological features on Site 5a.

1. Introduction

1.1 During March 2005 and January – April 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out archaeological work at Site 5A, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 565 647: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Harron Homes Ltd*, and was to be carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by ASC (Fell, 2005), and a brief (Flitcroft, 2005), prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Daventry District Council (DDC), by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Historic Environment Team* (HET) of *Northamptonshire County Council*.

1.2 *Planning Background*

Outline planning permission for residential development at Site 5a was granted in 1999 on condition that archaeological work was undertaken to “*identify and make a record of archaeological remains revealed by development*” (Flitcroft, 2005). The condition was imposed to satisfy the preservation by record of archaeological deposits where disturbance or destruction is unavoidable (DOE, 1990). The relevant planning application number is D076/1/2.

1.3 *Reason for work*

Archaeological field walking and desk-based assessment (Soden 1999) plus evaluation (Atkins and Hindmarsh 2000) suggested that the Middlemore development area could be archaeologically sensitive. Subsequent excavations (Leigh 2002, Wilson 2004) revealed the remains of a Romano-British farmstead located c.80m north-northwest of site 5A at development sites 1 and 2.

1.4 *Location and Extent*

The site is situated c. 2.5km north of Daventry town centre. It is within the wider Middlemore Farm development area which is situated north of Drayton Reservoir and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 565 647. Access is via a

newly constructed network of roads leading west off the A361. No known services or buildings were present on the site prior to the start of the works.

1.5 *Geology and Topography*

The soils of the site are of the *Ragdale Association*, which are described as “*slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils especially on slopes*” (Soil Survey 1983, 712g). The site lies within the area affected by glacial Lake Harrison and the complex history of the lake is attested by the heterogeneous nature of the underlying till (Unpublished geotechnical report, DCC, 2000). The site is located on gradual northwest-southeast and north-south trending slopes, which descend from *c.*145m AOD to *c.*135m AOD.

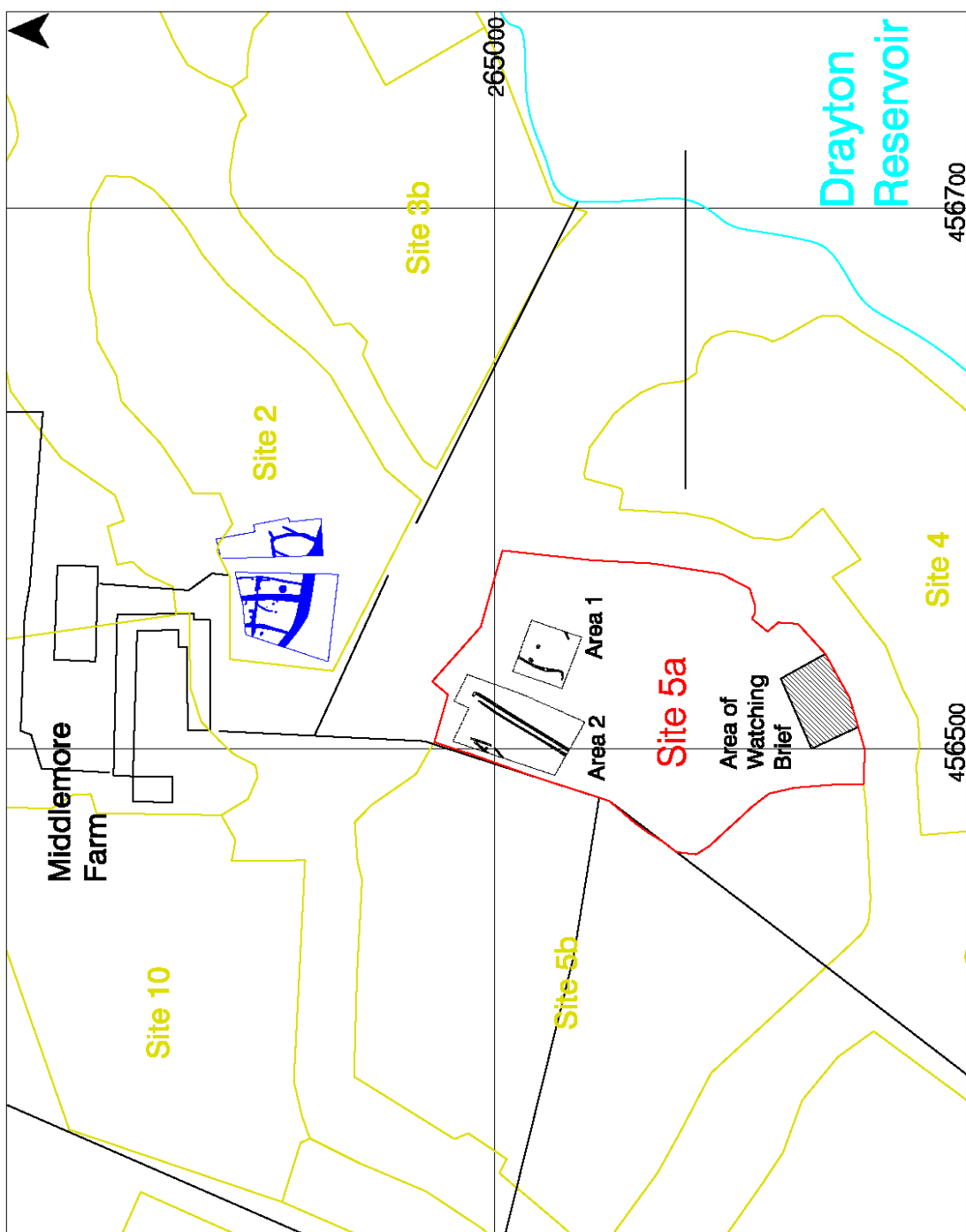


Figure 2: Location of Site 5a and suggested farmstead features in Site 2 (blue)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 3), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure prompt identification and recording of any buried archaeological remains
- To identify and make a basic record of archaeological remains revealed by the development
- To ensure the long-term survival of the information contained in such remains through archaeological recording prior to their physical destruction
- Preparation of a report and deposition of a project archive

2.2 *Standards*

The work was to conform to the requirements of the *Brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a) to English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the *brief* (Section 3.1), the methods to be adopted for the watching brief were:

- Watching Brief to be maintained during the development.
- An archaeologist will be present during all initial groundworks for site preparation, services, new roads, landscaping, etc. It is not currently expected that archaeological supervision of subsequent excavation for individual house foundations will be required.
- Provision will be made for short-term temporary suspension of development work in specific parts of the site to enable recording of any archaeological features which may be present
- Any archaeological features identified will be cleaned and sampled sufficiently to demonstrate their general date and character and then recorded and planned appropriately.
- A record will be made of the extent and depth of previous ground disturbance

The relevant detailed methodologies normally followed by ASC are described in detail in Sections 2.4. *et seq*, of the project design (Fell 2005).

2.4 *Constraints*

ASC was not notified that development had started at the northern half of site 5A until after the LPA observed that absence of archaeological supervision meant that a breach of planning condition had occurred. The earliest stages of work on the southern half of the site also occurred without the involvement of ASC.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

In 1999 Northamptonshire Archaeology prepared a desk based assessment (DBA) examining the Middlemore Development Area on behalf of DDC (Soden, 1999). This assessment examined records held by the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the County Record Office and included a site walk over. The following sections summarise the findings of the DBA.

3.2 Prehistoric (before AD43)

An Iron Age hillfort known as *Borough Hill* (RCHM, 1981, 3, fig 54) is located c. 2.5km to the southeast. A note held by the SMR showed that a fieldwalking programme on land at Middlemore during 1973 (Brown, 1991) found worked flints of prehistoric date.

3.3 Romano-British (AD43-c.450)

The 1973 fieldwalking programme also noted two small concentrations of Romano-British (RB) pottery (*ibid*). Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a watching brief on the first phase of groundwork at Middlemore in Site 1 and this work revealed ditches that suggested a RB occupation site could be located at the western end of Sites 1 and 2. Subsequent excavations in the western part of Site 2 (Wilson, 2004) exposed ditches, pits and post holes of a small RB farmstead and recovered pottery ranging in date from the 1st – 3rd centuries AD. Negative watching briefs at Sites 3a, 3b and 3c (Hancock 2005) lend weight to earlier conclusions which suggested that little archaeology would be present east of Site 2.

3.4 Saxon (c.AD450-1066)

Saxon remains are not known from the site although Daventry was extant at the time of the Domesday Survey, which suggests that the origin of the town may lie in this period.

3.5 Medieval (AD1066-1500)

Although Middlemore is not specifically mentioned, The Domesday Survey shows that Countess Judith held 8 hides in Daventry which had land for 16 ploughs and was valued at £3. Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 showed well defined areas of ridge and furrow surviving over much of the Middlemore Development Area.

3.6 Post-Medieval (AD1500-1900)

The earliest extant buildings of Middlemore Farm probably date to the 18th century and continued in use until the start of construction within the development area.

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

Late 20th century ploughing levelled the ridge and furrow which was formerly present on much of the development area.

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The site had been stripped of top/subsoil and construction of some footings, site access roads and a pipe trench had begun at the northern half of the site prior to ASCs' initial visit in 2005.
- 4.1.2 The initial visit showed that remnants of the mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil had been mixed with the mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural deposit by movement of tracked site machinery and visual determination of the presence or absence of archaeology was difficult. Notwithstanding the adverse conditions described, two archaeological features were noted at the northwestern corner of the development plot.
- 4.1.3 Discovery of archaeological features suggested other features could be present. Following consultation with the HET, two areas were designated for programmes of archaeological "strip and record" fieldwork (Fig 2). Machine cleaning of the surfaces of the two areas revealed further archaeological features and results of the ensuing fieldwork are presented in sections 4.2 and 4.3. Sections excavated through the features are shown in Figure 4.
- 4.1.4 A negative watching brief was carried out on a small area of the southern part of Site 5a (Fig 2) in 2006 and results are presented in section 4.4.

4.2 Area 1

- 4.2.1 The surface of a 20m x 20m area was cleaned by site plant equipped with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. A curvilinear ditch, two pits and a gully (Fig 3) were observed cut into the natural mid yellowish brown silty clay.
- 4.2.2 Five sections were excavated through the mid greyish brown sandy clay fill of the south southwest-north northeast aligned ditch and all suggested that the ditch had been severely truncated. Three of the excavated sections showed that less than five centimetres of the base of this feature survived.
- 4.2.3 An unrecorded section was excavated across the southern end of the ditch where it turned to run east-west. The severely truncated, *c.*0.03m deep, concave section grew shallower toward the west. The location of a terminal end of the ditch is suggested although tentatively due to the degree of truncation and the presence of a north-south aligned modern field drain which cut across the western end of the ditch.
- 4.2.4 The most northerly section across the ditch was left unrecorded as less than 0.03m of its base remained. The shallow concave profile showed that the ditch continued beyond the northern limit of the stripped area.
- 4.2.5 It is difficult to characterise the profile of the ditch due to the extent of truncation although one of the least truncated sections [108] (Plate 3) may suggest that it had a shallow step on its northwestern side. The fills (107, 109)

of the recorded sections [108, 110] respectively contained one sherd of 2nd century AD Samian ware and twenty seven sherds of black surfaced early RB greyware.

- 4.2.4 Ovoid pit [104] was *c.*0.14m deep, with an asymmetric profile (Plate 1) and ovoid pit [106] had a *c.*0.09m deep, concave profile (Plate 2). The pits were filled with mid greyish brown sandy clay and both appeared to have been severely truncated. Archaeological finds were not recovered from these features.
- 4.2.6 A gully extended *c.*2.0m into the cleaned area from its southeastern boundary and an unrecorded section excavated across it showed that less than *c.*0.02m of its base survived. The southwestern end of the gully appeared to shallow toward the surface, this could define the position of a terminal end of the gully although it may have been destroyed beyond this point. Archaeological finds were not recovered from the mid brownish grey sandy clay fill of the gully.

4.3 Area 2

- 4.3.1 The surface of a 75m x 25m area was cleaned by site plant equipped with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. Two parallel ditches, two ditch segments divided by an entranceway and a cobble filled feature (Fig 3) were revealed cut into the natural silty clay.
- 4.3.2 Four sections were excavated through each of the northeast-southwest aligned parallel ditches, which were *c.*1.7m apart (Plate 9). The shallow, < 0.22m deep profiles suggested that the ditches had been severely truncated, *e.g.* [220] (Plate 12), although both ditches extended beyond the southern limit of the cleaned area.
- 4.3.3 The easterly parallel ditch turned to run northwest–southeast at its northeastern end and grew shallower [212] (Plate 10), suggesting the position of a terminal end and entranceway. The less truncated sections through the ditches showed that they contained mid greyish brown sandy clay fills and indicated that their profiles could be characterised as u shaped, *e.g.* [216], (Plate 11) although this characterisation remains tentative due to the degree of truncation. Late 1st century RB pot sherds were recovered from the fill (211) at the terminal end of the eastern ditch and 1st-2nd century RB pot sherds were recovered from fills (217 and 219) of the western ditch.
- 4.3.4 Located near the western boundary of Site 5a were two differently aligned ditch segments, [206, 208] and [210], subdivided by a *c.*1.5m wide break. Sections excavated through the ditches showed that the southerly ditch [210] had a shallow, <0.02m, asymmetric concave profile (Plate 8) and extended under the northwestern boundary of Site 5a. The northerly ditch [206, 208] exhibited an irregular profile, *c.*0.2m deep (Plates 6 and 7). Archaeological finds were not recovered from the dark brownish black sandy silt fills of these features.
- 4.3.5 Half a metre west of the two ditch segments (para 4.3.4) lay a feature that extended under the northwestern boundary of the development plot (Plate 4). A

section [204] excavated through it showed that it had steep sides breaking sharply to a slightly concave base 0.35m below the stripped surface (Plate 5). The mid brownish grey sandy clay fill contained frequent rounded and sub-rounded cobbles that varied in size. RB pot sherds were recovered from the fill of this feature.

4.4 Watching Brief

- 4.4.1 In January-March 2006 a watching brief was undertaken on a *c.*60m x *c.*60m area at the south of Site 5a during the removal of a spoil store made up of subsoil and subsequent machine strip of the underlying top and subsoil.
- 4.4.2 The observed stratigraphy consisted of a dark brownish grey topsoil overlying a greyish brown sandy silt subsoil which was developed on a natural mid reddish brown sandy silt deposit.
- 4.4.3 The area of the watching brief was located on a north-south trending slope and depths of up to *c.*2.0m of the natural were removed from the north of the area to create a level platform.
- 4.4.4 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.

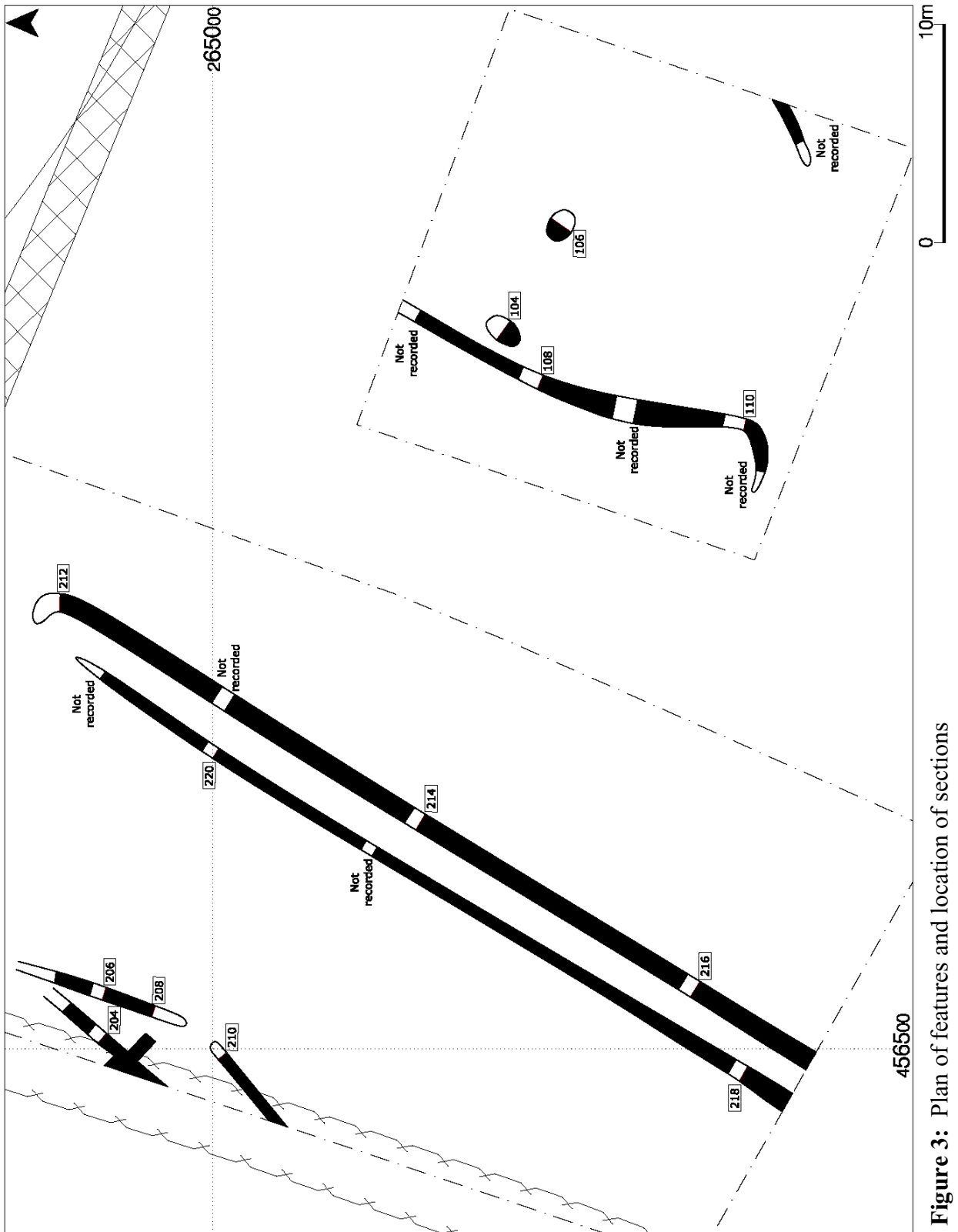


Figure 3: Plan of features and location of sections

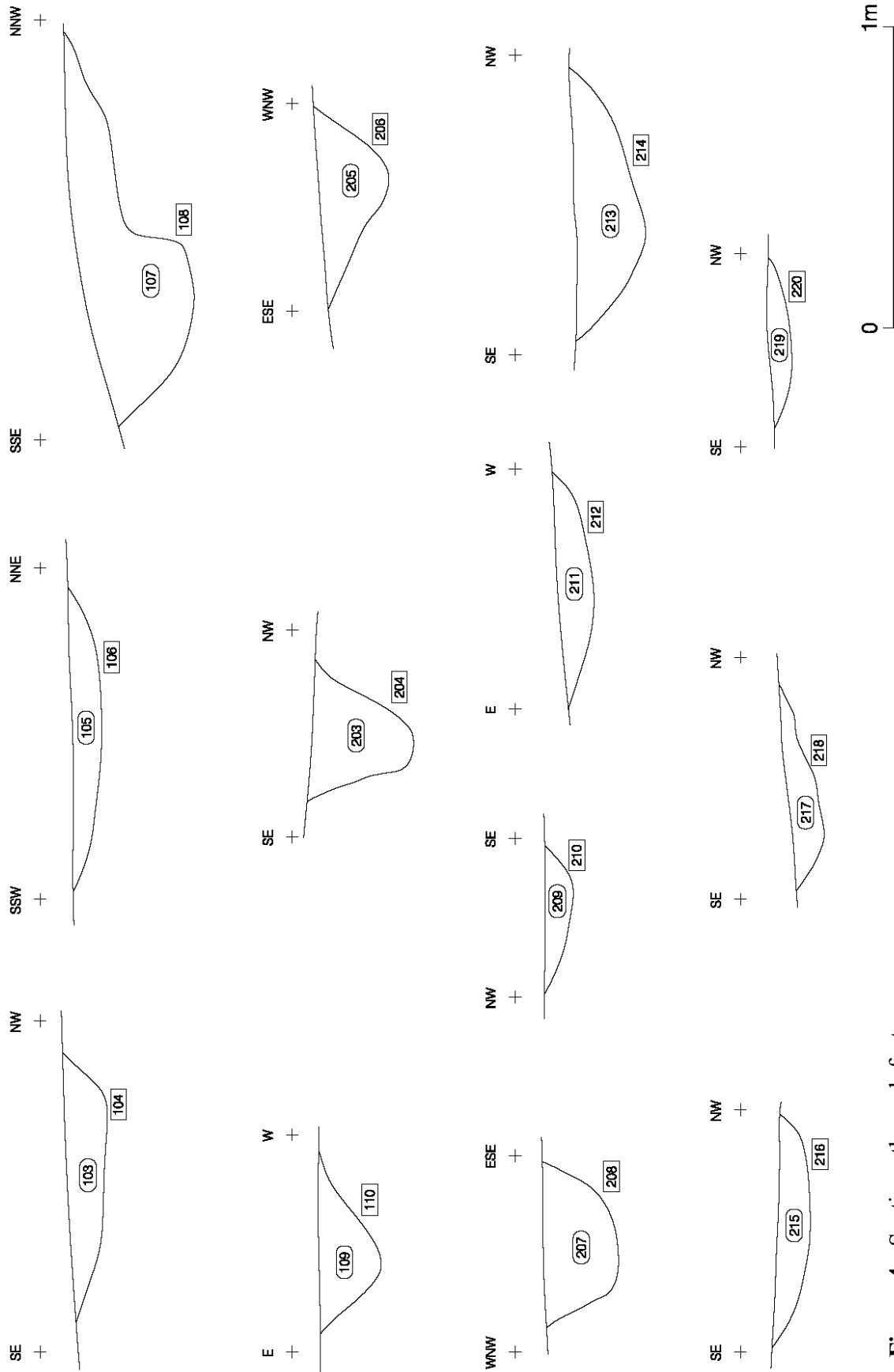


Figure 4: Sections through features



Plate 1: Pit [104]



Plate 2: Pit [106]



Plate 3: Ditch [108]



Plate 4: Cobble filled feature [204]



Plate 5: Section through [204]



Plate 6: Ditch [206]



Plate 7: Ditch [208]



Plate 8: Ditch [210]



Plate 9: Parallel ditches, facing SSW



Plate 10: Terminal end of ditch [212]



Plate 11: Ditch [216]



Plate 12: Ditch [220]

5. Conclusions

5.1 *Confidence rating*

The confidence rating for recognition of archaeological deposits in the two stripped areas was high. Across the remainder of the site remnants of subsoil and movement of tracked machinery will have obscured any archaeology present and the suggested confidence rating for recognition of archaeological deposits in these areas is low.

5.2 *Conclusions*

- 5.2.1 The ditches, pits and gully revealed by the strip and record appear to identify the location of low status 1st-2nd century rural activity. The recovered pot sherds indicate that these features are contemporary with those of a suggested RB farmstead located c.80m north northeast during archaeological work at Site 2 (Wilson 2004).
- 5.2.2 The ditches, pits and gully were severely truncated and in many cases only a few centimetres of the base of the features survived. Aerial photographs show that ridge and furrow covered Site 5a until the later decades of the 20th century, which could suggest that the majority of the truncation resulted from medieval and later ploughing. Unfortunately the first stages of groundwork at Site 5a were carried out in the absence of archaeological supervision and the extent of truncation caused by unsupervised machining of top and subsoil remains uncertain.
- 5.2.3 The presence of the archaeological features at Site 5a could suggest expansive settlement activity extending at least 100m south of the suggested RB farmstead located at Site 2. However, the number of features is relatively small and definite indications of settlement activity are absent which may support the hypothesis (Wilson 2004 para. 4.3), that the main focus of settlement lay around and under the extant buildings of Middlemore Farm, and that lower lying land to the south and east was used for pastoral activity. If the hypothesis is correct, the excavated ditches would have formed part of a system of enclosure or subdivision of the pastoral land.
- 5.2.4 The full spatial extent of the archaeological features at Site 5A was not defined due to the amount of development carried out without archaeological involvement.
- 5.2.5 Cobble filled feature [204] and ditch [210] extended under the western boundary of Site 5a. It is probable that initial groundwork during the first stages of development of Site 5b, located immediately west of Site 5a, will uncover the remainder of these features and could reveal further archaeological features.
- 5.2.6 Archaeological features were not observed during the watching brief. This may suggest that the archaeological remains at Site 5a were limited in spatial extent although conclusive statements concerning the southern extent of archaeological features are hampered by the limited area monitored.

6. Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Mark Rees of Harron Homes Ltd for commissioning this work. Strip and Record fieldwork was carried out by Nick Crank BSc AIFA, Calli Rouse BA PIFA and the author. Watching brief visits were carried out by Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip AIFA, Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA and the author. Thanks are due to Myk Flitcroft from the Northamptonshire HET for preparing the brief and monitoring the project and also to Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA for editing this document

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. 4 Trench record sheets
6. List of photographs
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be held at ASC's offices in Milton Keynes until such time as a Northamptonshire depository becomes available.

7.3 Details of the excavation will be entered in the on-line "OASIS" database maintained by ADS at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>

8. References

Standards & Specifications

DOE 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning*. HMSO.

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).

Flitcroft. M, 2005 *Sites 3A-C Middlemore Development Area*, Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief. Northamptonshire County Council (Historic Environment Team).

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Fell D 2005 *Site 5A, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief on behalf of Harron Homes (Midlands) Ltd*. Unpublished client document ASC Ref: ASC:644/DMM/1

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Brown A.E., 1991 *Early Daventry*.

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Leigh D., 2002 *Middlemore Farm Daventry, Northamptonshire: Archaeological watching brief, May-September 2002*. Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Soden I., 1999 *Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Middlemore Farm, Daventry*. Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Unpublished Geotechnical Report for Daventry District Council, March 2000. Ref: LWO/12480.

Wilson N., 2004 *Archaeological Excavation: Site 2, Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire* (ASC: 509/DMF/2).

Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

Context	Type	Description
100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey topsoil. Removed from surface of site but visible in section at edges of Site 5a.
101	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay.
102	Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.
103	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
104	Cut	Moderate slope SE side breaking gradually to sloping base. Steep NW side breaking sharply to deepest part of base.
105	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
106	Cut	Shallow concave profile.
107	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
108	Cut	Moderately sloping SSE side breaking gradually to slightly concave base. Moderate slope NNW side breaking gradually to flat step, which breaks sharply to steep side then sharply to the slightly concave base.
109	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
110	Cut	Moderately sloping sides without discernible break to concave base.
200	Topsoil	As 100.
201	Subsoil	As 101.
202	Natural	As 102.
203	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay containing frequent rounded and sub-rounded cobbles..
204	Cut	Steeply sloping sides with sharp break to slightly concave base.
205	Fill	Brownish black sandy silt.
206	Cut	Moderately sloping ESE side breaking moderately to concave base. Steep WNW side with moderate break to concave base.
207	Fill	Brownish black sandy silt.
208	Cut	U shaped. Steep sides breaking sharply to slightly concave base.
209	Fill	Brownish black sandy silt.
210	Cut	Shallow, asymmetric concave, deepest part at SE side.
211	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
212	Cut	Shallow concave profile.
213	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
214	Cut	Asymmetric concave profile. Steep SE side, moderately sloping NW side.
215	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
216	Cut	Shallow concave profile.
217	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
218	Cut	Shallow asymmetric concave profile. Moderately sloping SE side and shallow NW side.
219	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay.
220	Cut	Shallow concave profile.

Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:100	Area 1
1	2	1:100	Area 2


Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	1	1:20	(213) [214]
1	2	1:20	(203) [204]
1	3	1:20	(103) [104]
1	4	1:20	(215) [216]
1	5	1:20	(205) [206]
1	6	1:20	(105) [106]
1	7	1:20	(217) [218]
1	8	1:20	(207) [208]
1	9	1:20	(107) [108]
1	10	1:20	(219) [220]
1	11	1:20	(209) [[210]
1	12	1:20	(211) [212]
1	13	1:20	(109) [110]

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
107	1	<5							
109	26	330							
203	4	50							
211	16	160							
213					1 x core?				
217	1	5							
219	1	20							

Appendix 3: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: <i>Site 5a, Middlemore</i>		Project No/Code: <i>6441 DMM</i>		Sheet: <i>1 of 7</i>		
Daventry, Northamptonshire		Date of visit: <i>30/1/06</i>				
Client/Developer <i>Heron Homes</i>						
Contact: Mark Pees <i>STEVE KILBY / CRAIG HURST</i>				Phone:		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: <i>6.15am</i>		Finish: <i>7.15am</i>		
Completed by: <i>LIZZIE GILL</i>						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Site & weather conditions: <i>Day + Cloudy</i>						
Observations: <i>Western area of site 5a observed to have partially built built houses on it. Connecting road from 5a - 5b has been constructed.</i>						
Comments:						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SITE 5A MIDDLEMORE		Project No/Code: 1	Sheet: 2 of 7
DAVENTRY		Date of visit: 31/1/06	
Client/Developer: HARRON HOMES			
Contact: CRAIG HURST SITE MANAGER		Phone: 01527 397034	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1.45	Finish: 3.00	
Completed by: ADH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): HOUSING	
Site & weather conditions:			
/			
Observations:			
SITE MEETING WITH STEVE KILBY AFTER CONTACTS REGARDING PROGRESS.			
HH HAVE BUILT TWO HOUSES ON UNOBSERVED AREA PLUS SITE COMPOUND AND TEMPORARY ROAD. INFORMED SK THAT THIS WAS LIKELY TO BE A PROBLEM WITH MYK FLITCH AND TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD CONTACT MF TO UPDATE HIM AND FOR RESPONSE			
Comments:			
SENT E-MAIL TO MYK FLIT AFTER RETURNING TO OFFICE.			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SITE 5A, MIDDLEMORE DAVENTRY		Project No/Code: 644 / DMM	Sheet: 3 of 7
Client/Developer: HARRON HOMES		Date of visit: 22nd Mar 06	
Contact: CRAIG HURST		Phone: 01327 397034	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1.00	Finish: 2.30	
Completed by: AJM			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:			
Observations: NO PROGRESS FROM 21ST MARCH. "AREA LEFT TO STRIP WILL BE STRIPPED" ON 27th - 360 OPERATOR			
Comments: NEXT VISIT 27th March			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SITE 5A, MIDDLEMORE DAVENTRY		Project No/Code: 0441 BMM	Sheet: 4 of 7
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 21 st March 2006	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 13.15	Finish: 3.40pm	
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Overcast, dry + cold.			
Observations: <p>Work subsoil stripping and excavation of area observed to the West of houses being constructed (see sketch). The area is sloped so that the ground nearest the road has been stripped of subsoil down to nat., but progressing back towards the compound has been excavated through the nat. to a max depth of c. 2.5m. As this area is being excavated with a toothed bucket, it is difficult to see the interface between subsoil + nat in some places. The whole area appears to have already been stripped of ^{topsoil} subsoil. Subsoil consists of mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of subrounded pebbles. The natural is reddish brown sandy silt. No archaeology has been observed during this visit.</p>			
Comments: <p>Access for photograph with scale not possible to excavated area nearest compound as the machine was working in this area.</p>			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SITE 5A MIDDLEMORE DAVENTRY		Project No/Code: 644 / DMM	Sheet: 5 of 7
Client/Developer: WARRON HOMES		Date of visit: 27th March 2006	
Contact: STEVE KILBY / CRAIG HURST		Phone: 01327 397034	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 3.00	Finish: 3.45	
Completed by: AH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, DRIZZLE			
Observations: INFORMATION GIVEN ON 21/3/06. INCORRECT. HALF OF SPOIL HEAP FORMED BY TOP/SUB SOIL STRIP STILL REMAINS. AREA LEFT TO STRIP NOT TOUCHED.			
Comments: PHONE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT PROJECTED TIMETABLE.			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SA, Middlemore, Daventry		Project No/Code: 644 / DMM	Sheet: 6 of 7
Client/Developer: Harrow Homes		Date of visit: 3/4/06	
Contact: Craig Hurst		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 4-00	Finish: 5-30	
Completed by: Teresa Hawlin			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Quarrying <input type="checkbox"/>	Pipelines <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			
Site & weather conditions: overcast / bright (intermittent)			
Observations:			
As before, site stripped down to dark red-brown gravelly natural with lenses of light-mid (gravelly) sand. Occ med-large rounded stones + occ. sub-ang stones.			
Area furthest from road stripped c. 2m, spoil heap next to site office.			
Only area to NW immediate W of recent house cleared. Machine parked here but visible area is devoid of archaeological features.			
Natural c. 26cm below top of ground level at Southern edge (adj. to pavement).			
Drain inserted to SE (next to new house) - drain inspection cover on surface.			
Comments:			



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: SA Middlemore, Daventry		Project No/Code: 644 / DMM	Sheet: 7 of 7
Client/Developer: Harron Homes		Date of visit: 13/4/06	
Contact: Craig Hurst	Phone:		
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: 4.00	Finish: 5.00	
Completed by: Teresa Hawtin			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Bright + windy, some cloud cover			
Observations: Further c.15m stripped + spoilheap moved. Natural visible as before. Area furthest W stripped to depth c.20cm below natural. No archaeological features or deposits visible.			
Comments:			

Appendix 4: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Site 5A, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire				SITE NO/CODE: 644 DMM
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1	✓		✓	General site.
2	✓		✓	General site.
3	✓		✓	General site.
4	✓		✓	General site.
5	✓		✓	General site.
6	✓		✓	Plan shot of parallel ditches Area 2, facing SW.
7	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing SW.
8	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing SW.
9	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing NW.
10	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing NW.
11	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing NE.
12	✓		✓	Structural feature [204] facing NE.
13	✓		✓	Section through [204] facing SW.
14	✓		✓	Section through ditch/gully [210] facing SW.
15	✓		✓	Section through ditch [206] facing SSW.
16	✓		✓	Section through ditch [208] facing NNW.
17	✓		✓	Section through ditch [212] facing SW.
18	✓		✓	Section through ditch [214] facing SW.
19	✓		✓	Section through ditch [216] facing SW.
20	✓		✓	Section through ditch [218] facing SW..
21	✓		✓	Section through ditch [220] facing SW.
22	✓		✓	Section through ditch [108] facing SW.
23	✓		✓	Section through ditch [110] facing SW.
24	✓		✓	Section through pit [106] facing NE.
25	✓		✓	Section through pit [104] facing SW.
26	✓		✓	Section through gully Area 1 (no other recording).
27	✓		✓	Section through ditch at northern limit of stripped Area 1 (no other recording).
28	✓		✓	Section through southern end at return of ditch Area 1. (no other recording).
29	✓		✓	General site.
30	✓		✓	General site.
31	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
32	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
33	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
34	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
35	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
36	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
37	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
38	✓		✓	General shot of work during watching brief.
39	✓		✓	Section through strata during watching brief.
40	✓		✓	Section through strata during watching brief.

Appendix 5: Specialist Reports

The Roman Pottery

A. R. Fawcett

Introduction

This report primarily provides dating evidence for each context that contained pottery from the evaluation work at Middlemore, Daventry. Dating is based (where applicable) upon both the identification of fabric and form. Thereafter the report contains a brief summary of the results of analysis.

The assemblage from each context was given a brief examination and subjected to basic quantification (a sherd count and weight per context). No attempt at detailed fabric description or comparison with material of a similar nature has been undertaken. A date range is provided for each fill and where appropriate comments are made as to the condition of the pottery. Other data, such as obvious fabrics and form types, are also included for each context (the keys for these are listed below).

Fabric and Form Key

MON SA = Montans samian ware

BSW = Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware

GRS = Unsourced sandy grey ware

SOB GT = Southern British grog tempered ware

UNS SH = Unsourced shell tempered ware.

G = jar, ND = non-diagnostic, abr = abraded, sli = slightly abraded.

Conclusion

A total of 51 sherds with a combined weight of 566g were recovered from the evaluation work at Middlemore. The overall condition of the pottery is between abraded and slightly abraded, with a low diagnostic element (just two jar rims noted).

All of the pottery (with the exception of one MON SA sherd) is of a local origin and at this stage appears to represent some type of low status activity.

The assemblage as a whole is of an early Roman date. The grog tempered sherds alongside the Romanising pottery, indicate at least one context is dated to the post-conquest period (the Montans sherd may also be slightly earlier).

Catalogue

Area 1

Ditch

(107) 2nd century AD

MON SA	1	2g	ND, sli
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Ditch

(109) Early Roman

BSW	27	328g	ND, [asv] sli
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Area 2

?Structural

(203) Roman

UNS SH, GRS	4	49g	ND, abr-sli
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Ditch

(211) Mid to later 1st century AD

BSW, SOB GT	17	155g	G, abr-sli
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Ditch

(217) Mid 1st to 2nd century AD

BSW	1	5g	G, sli
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Ditch

(219) Roman

GRS	1	27g	G, sli
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Appendix 6: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Site 5a, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire					
Short Description:	Truncated archaeology consisting of a gully, three ditches, two pits and possible structural features were discovered at the northwest of Site 5a. Recovered pot sherds suggest a low status 1 st -2 nd century Romano-British farmstead.					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		FW, DBA	
Current land use:	Agricultural		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		No	
Monument type:	Farmstead?		Monument period:		RB	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pot sherds RB (1 st – 2 nd century)					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Northamptonshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 6499 5651	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Site 5a, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	1.2 ha		Height OD: (metres)		c.145m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Myk Flitcroft		Project design originator:		David Fell	
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat		Director/Supervisor:		Alastair Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	Harron Homes Ltd					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	March 2005		End date:		March 2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	ASC Ltd.		Pottery. 1 x flint core. B and W photos. Section and plan drawings			
Paper:	ASC Ltd.		Brief. Project Design. Monitoring Sheets. Fieldwork Report			
Digital:	ASC Ltd.		Cad Drawings. Photographs. Project Design. Fieldwork Report.			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Strip and Record plus Watching Brief at Site 5a					
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished client report					
Author(s):	A Hancock					
Page nos	1-30		Date: 14 th June 2006			

Appendix 7: SMR Summary Sheet

SMR Record Number	Parish	Site Name Site 5a, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire
Date of Fieldwork March 2005 – March 2006	Grid ref. SP 6499 5651	Fieldworker A Hancock
Sponsor Harron Homes Ltd	Activity Strip and Record. Watching brief	
Landowner name/address. Harron Homes (Midlands) Ltd 7 Amber Business Village Amber Close Amington Tamworth Staffordshire B77 4RP		
Finds location ASC Ltd.	Finds Destination N/a	
Records location ASC Ltd.	Records Destination N/a	
Finds Quantity One box	Records Quantity One box	
<p>Summary of Results</p> <p><i>During March 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook archaeological “strip and record” fieldwork on two small areas during development of the northern half of Site 5A, Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire. In January-April 2006 a watching brief was undertaken on a small part of the southern half of Site 5a.</i></p> <p><i>Truncated ditches, pits and a gully were revealed during the “strip and record” fieldwork. Recovered pot sherds suggest 1st-2nd century Romano-British rural activity, contemporary with a suggested 1st-3rd century Romano-British farmstead located c.80m northeast at Site 2. The position and orientation of some of the archaeological features indicates that archaeological remains will be revealed by initial groundwork at Site 5b. No archaeological finds or features were observed during watching brief fieldwork.</i></p> <p><i>The absence of archaeological monitoring during initial stages of groundwork has meant that it has been impossible to define the full spatial extent of archaeological features on Site 5a.</i></p>		