Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LAND AT MONKSMOOR FARM
DAVENTRY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

on behalf of the

Capel House Property Trust Ltd

Alastair J Hancock BSc PgDip

January 2006

ASC: 712/DMF/5

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

REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

Site Data

ASC project code:	DMF	*ASC Project No:*	712
County:	Northamptonshire		
Village/Town:	Daventry		
Civil Parish:	Daventry		
NGR (to 6 figs):	SP 581 645 (centre)		
Present use:	Agricultural		
Planning proposal:	*c*.1000 new dwellings		
Local Planning Authority:	Northamptonshire County Council		
Date of fieldwork:	November 2005		
Client:	Capel House Property Trust Ltd c/o Kember Loudon Williams Ltd Ridgers Barn Bunny Lane Eridge Tunbridge Wells Kent TN3 9HA		
Contact name:	Bob Meek		
Telephone		*Fax:*	

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	A. Hancock	*Date:*	16th January 2005
Edited/Checked By:		*Date:*	
Revisions:		*Date:*	
Edited/Checked By:		*Date:*	

CONTENTS

Appendices:

Figures:

Plates:

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

Summary

In November 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a limited programme of evaluation trenching to investigate the archaeological significance of ditches and pits identified by geophysical survey at land northeast of Daventry, Northamptonshire.

The targeted geophysical anomalies proved to be ditches and pits containing 1st – 2nd and 3rd – 4th century Romano-British pot sherds. The exact nature of the Romano-British activity is uncertain although the pot sherds were unabraded, which may suggest that the ditches and pits are part of, or relatively close to, settlement activity. The dates of the pottery could indicate that this location saw continuity of use throughout much of the Romano-British period.

1. Introduction

1.1.1 As part of pre-planning assessment *(ASC)* was commissioned by *Kember Loudon Williams Ltd,* on behalf of *Capel House Property Trust Ltd (CHT)*, to carry out a limited programme of archaeological evaluation trenching over subsurface features identified by geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a). The subsurface features were located at the southwestern corner of a 49 hectare parcel of arable land on which housing development is proposed. The proposal area is northeast of Daventry, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 581 645, site centre: Fig. 1). The weather was cold but otherwise fine during the fieldwork which commenced on the 9th November 2005 and was completed on the 14th November.

1.2 ***Reason for Work***

In line with guidance contained in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning* (DOE, 1991) and as part of a program of Environmental Impact Assessment leading to production of an Environmental Statement, *CHT* have commissioned archaeological investigations by *ASC* designed to determine the presence and characterise the extent of any archaeological remains that may be affected by proposed development plans. The features located by geophysical survey at the southwestern corner of the site are situated at the proposed site entrance. The first phase of groundworks to establish access and the site compound will adversely impact these features, therefore a programme of trial trenching was requested to determine their archaeological significance and, if necessary, enable preparation of a mitigation strategy.

1.3 ***Previous Archaeological Work***

Prior to this phase of work ASC have completed an archaeological desk based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005), geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a) and fieldwalking survey (Hancock 2005b). Only part of the site has been fieldwalked to date; completion of the fieldwalking will occur in February/March 2006 after the tenant ploughs the northern third of the site. The results of the previous investigations are summarised in Section 3 of this document.

1.4 ***Setting***

1.4.1 *Location and Description*

The proposal area covers a total area of *c*.49 Ha and is situated south of the village of Welton, which is located to the north east of the town of Daventry. Daventry Reservoir bounds the proposal area at the south and the Grand Union Canal defines its northern extent. The eastern side of the area is delimited by a canalised stream which acts as the outflow of the reservoir and also defines the Norton Civil Parish boundary. The B5385 Welton Road and part of the A425 forms the western edge of the area. The site is internally divided into separate fields by a number of hedgerows.

1.4.2 *Existing Buildings and Access*

Main access to the site is via an un-metalled track off the Welton Road. The buildings of Monksmoor Farm are situated at the end of this track, *c*.250m from the western boundary and *c*.100m from the northern boundary of the site.

1.4.2 *Planning Constraints*

The site does not lie within a conservation area although the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area may encroach its northern boundary. The site does not fall within an area designated by *Daventry District Council* as an Area of Archaeological Significance. There are no listed buildings present on the site and no scheduled monuments are located within the proposal site or the immediate surrounding area.

1.4.3 *Geology and Topography*

The soils of the site are mainly of the Wickham 2 Association (Soil Survey, 1983, 711f), described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. The underlying geology consists of drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone. Soils of the Oxpasture Association (Soil Survey, 1983, 572h) exist at the south of the site and are described as fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. The underlying geology in this area consists of drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shale. The site topography gently undulates, although a general trend of western higher ground descending to a lower eastern floodplain is evident.

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the evaluation were

- To establish the cause of the geophysical anomalies at the southwest of the proposal area.
- To confirm the nature of any surviving features and their date(s) of creation/deposition
- To provide sufficient information on surviving features to enable a proper assessment of the implications of future development proposals on the archaeological resource and to enable informed decisions to be made on its future management and/or effective mitigation of development impact

2.2 *Requirements*

The work was carried out according to Sections 3 and 4 of the project design (Hancock 2005c), respectively covering field methodology and finds processing.

2.3 *Methods*

The geophysical survey demonstrated that subsurface cut and infilled features were located at the southwest of the proposal area. This document details the results of evaluation trenching designed to test the archaeological implications of these features for the proposed development.

The methods adopted were:

Trial Trenching

- Excavation of seven trial trenches (1 x 30m, 6 x 20m) targeting magnetic anomalies evident in geophysical survey block 14 (Fig 2).

ASC's general methodology for the above is described in detail in Sections 3.3 *et seq* of the project design.

2.4 *Standards*

The work conformed to the requirements of the *Project Design*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), Northamptonshire County Council's *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire,* to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991; EH 1995), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual.*

2.4 *Constraints*

No constraints were identified by the project design and none were encountered during the fieldwork.

2.5 *Monitoring*

The HET were notified of the commencement and completion of works on site. No formal monitoring visits were made by the HET.

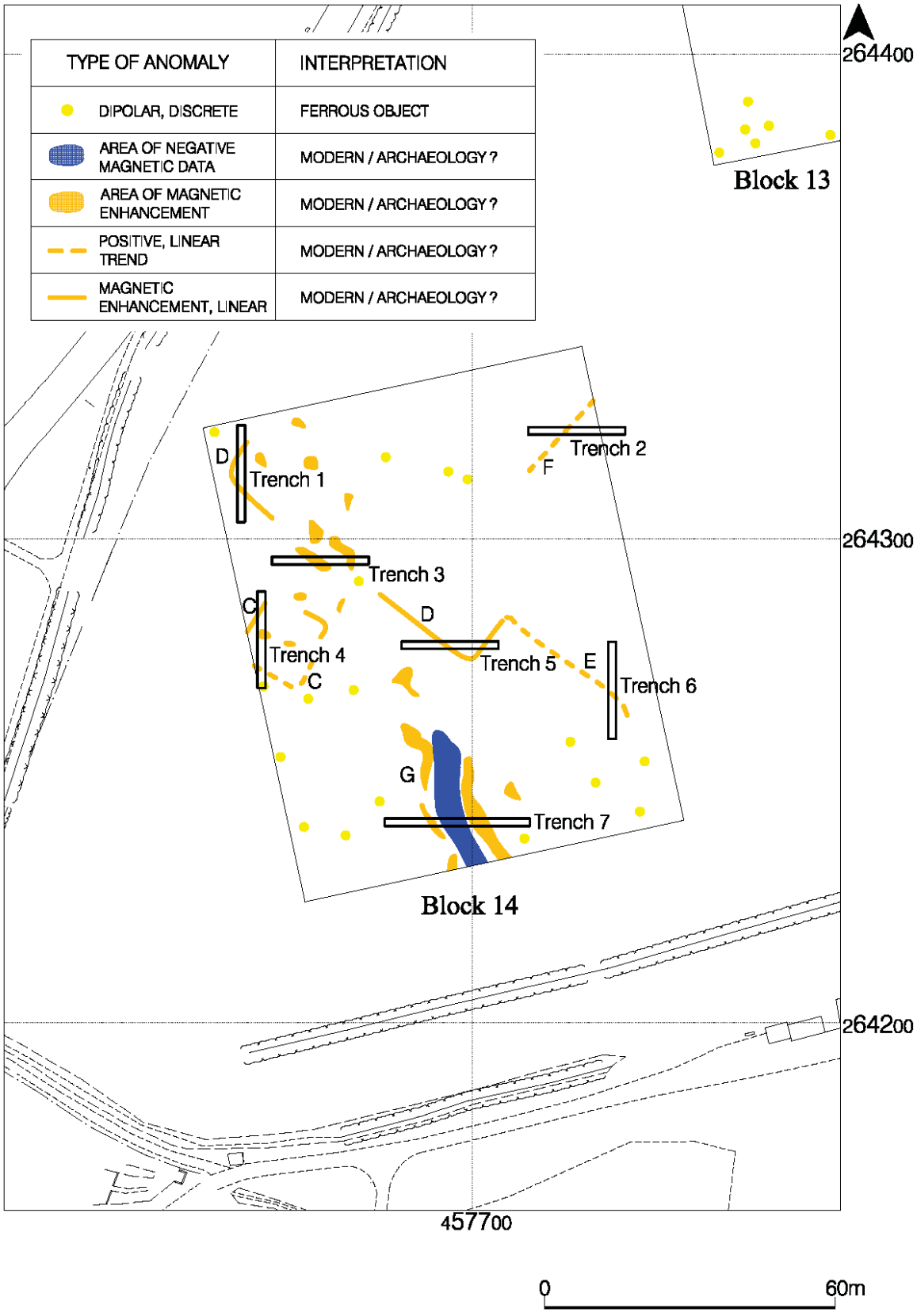

Figure 2: Location of trenches targeting geophysical anomalies

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The following sections summarise the findings of ASC's prior archaeological desk-based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005), geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a) and fieldwalking survey (Hancock 2005b).

3.1 *Early Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

Early prehistoric remains were not known from the proposal site or its immediate environs prior to ASC's investigations. The fieldwalking survey has identified a light scatter of flint artefacts on and around a grassy knoll located to the east of the farm buildings (Fig 3). It is likely that the concentration indicates ephemeral prehistoric activity although the presence of a nodule of burnt flint, a type of artefact often associated with occupation sites, could suggest more intensive use of this favourable topographic location.

3.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

No Iron Age remains have been recovered from the site. An Iron Age hillfort known as *Borough Hill* (RCHM, 1981, **3**, fig 54) is located *c*.1.5km to the south east of the site.

3.3 *Romano-British (AD43-c.450)*

3.3.1 In the surrounding area structural RB remains are known at *Borough Hill* (*ibid*), and a farmstead of this period has been excavated (Wilson, 2004), and other features of this date recorded (ASC Ltd, forthcoming) near Middlemore Farm, *c*.1.5km west of the site.

3.3.2 Romano-British (RB) remains had not been recovered from the proposal site prior to ASC's work. The geophysical survey has identified probable hut circles and stock enclosures that may date to this or the preceding period (Fig 4. Block 3). The fieldwalking survey recovered only four RB pot sherds which suggests that the area fieldwalked to date was subject to non intensive agricultural use during this period.

3.3.2 The geophysical survey also identified anomalies indicating the presence of cut and infilled features at the southwest of the proposal site (Fig 4. Block 14). The evaluation trenches excavated for the phase of work described by this document show that some of these features date to the RB period (see sections 4 and 5).

3.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

Saxon remains are not known from the site although Daventry was extant at the time of the Domesday Survey and was valued at £3.

3.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

3.5.1 The name '*Monksmoor'* is said to have originated from the monks of Daventry Priory, who owned the site during this period, with the '*moor'* suffix being added in reference to the quality of the land (Gover *et al*, 1975, 20).

3.5.2 The site lay within open fields to the north east of the medieval centre of Daventry and extensive traces of subsequently denuded ridge and furrow have been recorded (Brown, 1991, fig. 16). Parallel north-south aligned linear geophysical anomalies attest the presence of ploughed out remnants of this open field system in the proposal area (Fig 4. Blocks1 and 4).

3.5.3 Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during fieldwalking. The low density of pottery suggests that the ridge and furrow in the proposal area was located some distance away from the focus of settlement and common village fields, and was not manured with material collected in and around dwellings, alternatively it nay have been cultivated as part of the demesne system (Jones, 2004).

3.5.4 The *Daventry Extensive Urban Survey* records the existence of a windmill and watermill at locations now subsumed by Daventry Reservoir (Ballinger *et al*, 1999, 3.1.2.5).

3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

3.6.1 The site remained in agricultural use throughout the post medieval period and was inclosed in 1803. The Grand Junction Canal was constructed by William Jessop between 1793 and 1815 and forms the northern boundary of the site. An area of anomalous magnetic background was noted adjacent to the canal during the geophysical survey and could suggest dumping of material excavated during its construction. The stretch of the canal within the desk based study area includes the Braunston Tunnel, opened in June 1796 (Faulkner 1993, 95).

3.6.2 Daventry Reservoir was opened in 1804 and its dam forms the southern boundary of the site. It was built to supplement the two existing reservoirs in the area; Braunston Reservoir and Drayton, or Daventry Old, Reservoir (*ibid*). It could originally hold 362,000,000 gallons when full and has an area of almost 100 acres (*ibid*).

3.6.3 Farm buildings were in existence on site by the time the first Ordnance survey map was published in the 1880s. This map also shows the existence of a rifle range in the two central fields that run parallel to the eastern boundary of the site.

3.6.4 Quantities of post-medieval brick, tile and pottery were recovered during the fieldwalking survey. The presence of these artefacts results from manuring and other agricultural practices.

3.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

3.7.1 The second edition Ordnance Survey map was published in 1901 and little had changed in the layout of the site. The rifle range was no longer labelled and a sand pit had been cut into one of the central fields.

3.7.2 OS mapping from 1927 reveals that site layout had remained largely unchanged. A hydraulic ram was constructed to the west of the farm buildings and the sand pit first recorded on the 1901 map had expanded slightly. A hedgerow was removed approximately halfway up the western boundary of the site.

3.7.3 The existing access track is not present on the 1952 Ordnance Survey mapping and must therefore be a recent addition to the farm. The sand pit and hydraulic ram were still present at this time.

3.7.4 Modern Ordnance Survey mapping shows that many field boundaries where removed during the second half of the 20th century. The sand pit was no longer in existence and the hydraulic ram had been removed, leaving a drain in its place.

3.7.5 Four pipelines cross the northern half of the site. Strong magnetic anomalies caused by these modern subsurface features were noted during geophysical survey.

3.7.6 Modern brick, tile and pottery comprised the bulk of finds recovered during the fieldwalking survey. The abundance of these artefacts results from modern agricultural practice and imported pipe trench backfill.

3.8 *Comment*

The summarised evidence indicates that the site may have potential for discovery of prehistoric human activity. The hut circles and stock enclosures identified by geophysical survey likely date to the IA or RB, other features containing RB pottery at the southwest of the survey area confirm that Romano-British archaeology is present. Agricultural use during the medieval and post medieval periods suggests that archaeological potential for these periods is low.

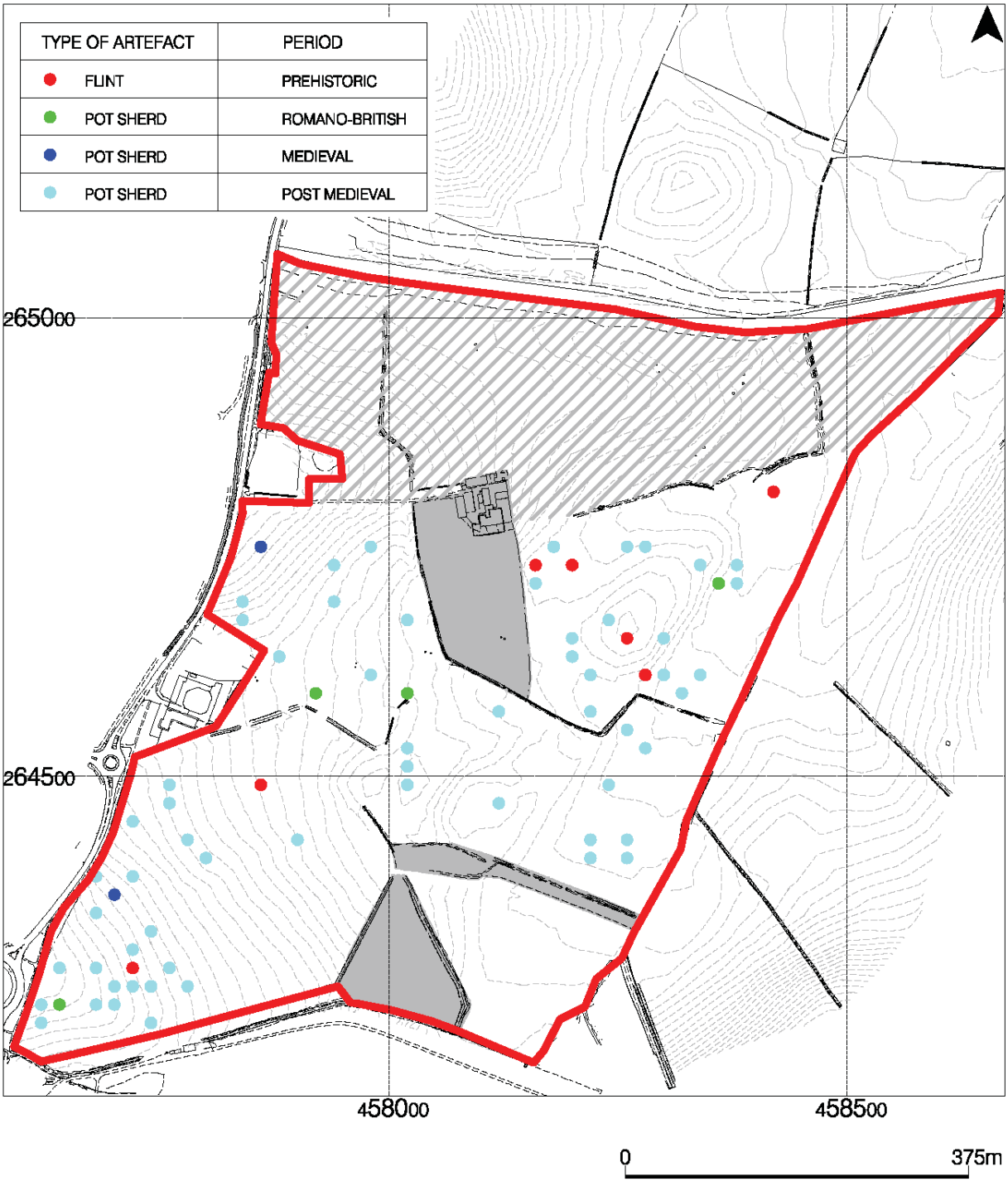

Figure 3: Spatial distribution of archaeological artefacts from fieldwalking survey

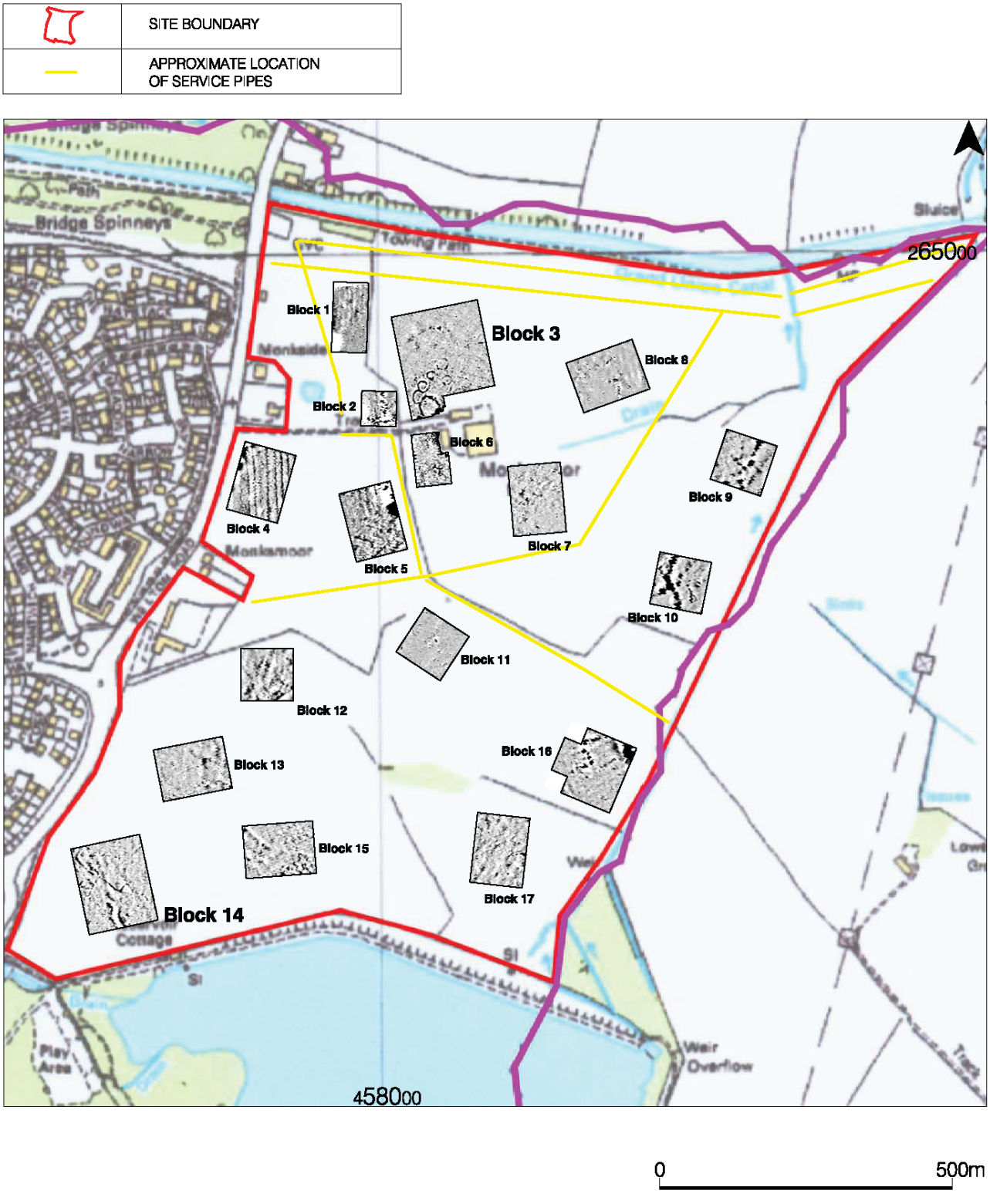

Figure 4: Location of geophysical survey blocks

4. Results

4.1 *General*

Six 20m x 1.6m and one 30m x 1.6m trial trenches targeted magnetic anomalies present in geophysical survey Block 14, which was located at the southwestern corner of the proposal area (Fig 4). The trenches were machine stripped to the natural strata or the level of archaeological features under close archaeological supervision. All trenches were excavated at the locations proposed in the project design (Fig 2). The evaluation findings are summarised below. Detailed descriptions of the trenches are provided in Appendix 1 and detailed descriptions of the finds are provided in Appendix 5. A plan of the relative positions of the features is shown in Figure 5 and sections across them in Figure 6

4.2. *Trench 1*

The trench was aligned north-south and 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted the return of a ditch identified by the geophysical survey.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing the natural mid reddish brown clayey sand. A southwest-northeast orientated modern clay field drain was cut into the natural in the southern half of the trench. The field drain overlay a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [103], which spatially corresponded with the targeted southern ditch segment. The northern segment of the ditch was not present in the trench. The fill (102) of ditch [103] contained the complete top half and two detached sherds from an RB 2^{nd} – 3^{rd} / 4^{th} century sandy grey ware jar.

4.3 *Trench 2*

The trench was aligned east-west and 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted a weak linear magnetic anomaly that possibly identified the position of a shallow or truncated ditch.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing heterogeneous natural strata consisting of bands of light yellowish brown sand, reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay. Three evenly spaced southwest-northeast aligned modern clay field drains traversed the width of the trench. A shallow feature (< 0.05m) spatially corresponding with the weak magnetic anomaly was present. The fill of this shallow feature contained no organic material, it was archaeologically sterile, and its orientation was downslope. It is suggested that it may be a natural drainage rill.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.4 *Trench 3*

The trench was aligned east-west and 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted two discrete features identified by the geophysical survey.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing heterogeneous natural strata consisting of bands of reddish

brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay. Three evenly spaced southwest-northeast aligned modern clay field drains were cut into the natural and traversed the width of the trench. Two features whose location spatially corresponded with the position of the geophysical anomalies were also present. The most westerly [302] was aligned northwest-southeast and traversed the width of the trench, it is unclear whether this feature is a large pit or a ditch. The easterly feature [305] did not extend across the width of the trench and it may be a pit.

The fill of (303) of [302] contained three sherds of RB mid 3rd –4th century grey sandy ware. The fill (304) of [305] contained three sherds of RB 1st –mid 2nd century black surfaced/Romanising grey ware.

4.5 *Trench 4*

The trench was aligned north-south and 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted a sub-square arrangement of magnetic anomalies, possibly indicating the presence of a small enclosure, and an internal discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing the natural mid reddish brown clayey sand. Cut into the natural were three features spatially corresponding with the position of the targeted geophysical anomalies. Twenty four sherds of RB mid 1st to 2nd century unsourced grey sandy ware and unsourced oxidised ware were recovered from the dark fill (406) of ditch [407]. Artefacts were not recovered from the sandy gravel fills (403) and (404) of ditch ? [402] and irregular pit ? [405] respectively. It is unclear whether [402] is an archaeological or modern ditch and whether [405] may be a natural feature.

4.6 *Trench 5*

The trench was aligned north-south and 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted the return of a ditch identified by geophysical survey.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing the natural mid reddish brown clayey sand. Two features were cut into the natural and their location spatially corresponded with the position of the targeted geophysical anomalies. The most westerly [502] was aligned northwest-southeast and traversed the width of the trench. It had a similar fill to the other archaeological features and had a rounded w shape in section. It may be double parallel ditches or could have been recut before finally falling out of use. The easterly feature [504] was less substantial and had a clean sandy fill, it appears to be a shallow ditch although its date and relationship with [502] is uncertain.

No archaeological finds were recovered from either feature or the trench.

4.7 *Trench 6*

The trench was aligned north-south and was 20m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted a weak linear magnetic anomaly that possibly identified the position of a shallow or truncated ditch.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing heterogeneous natural strata consisting of bands of light yellow sand, mid reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay.

No archaeological finds were recovered and the weak magnetic anomaly was probably caused by variability in the natural.

4.8 *Trench 7*

The trench was aligned east-west and was 30m long x 1.6m wide. It targeted a broad north-south aligned negative magnetic anomaly flanked by positive anomalies on both sides.

A dark greyish brown loamy topsoil and a mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil were machine stripped revealing heterogeneous natural strata consisting of bands of light yellow sand, reddish brown sandy gravel and light yellow plastic clay. The position of the targeted geophysical anomaly correlated with a wide band of natural gravel flanked by bands of plastic light yellow clay.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

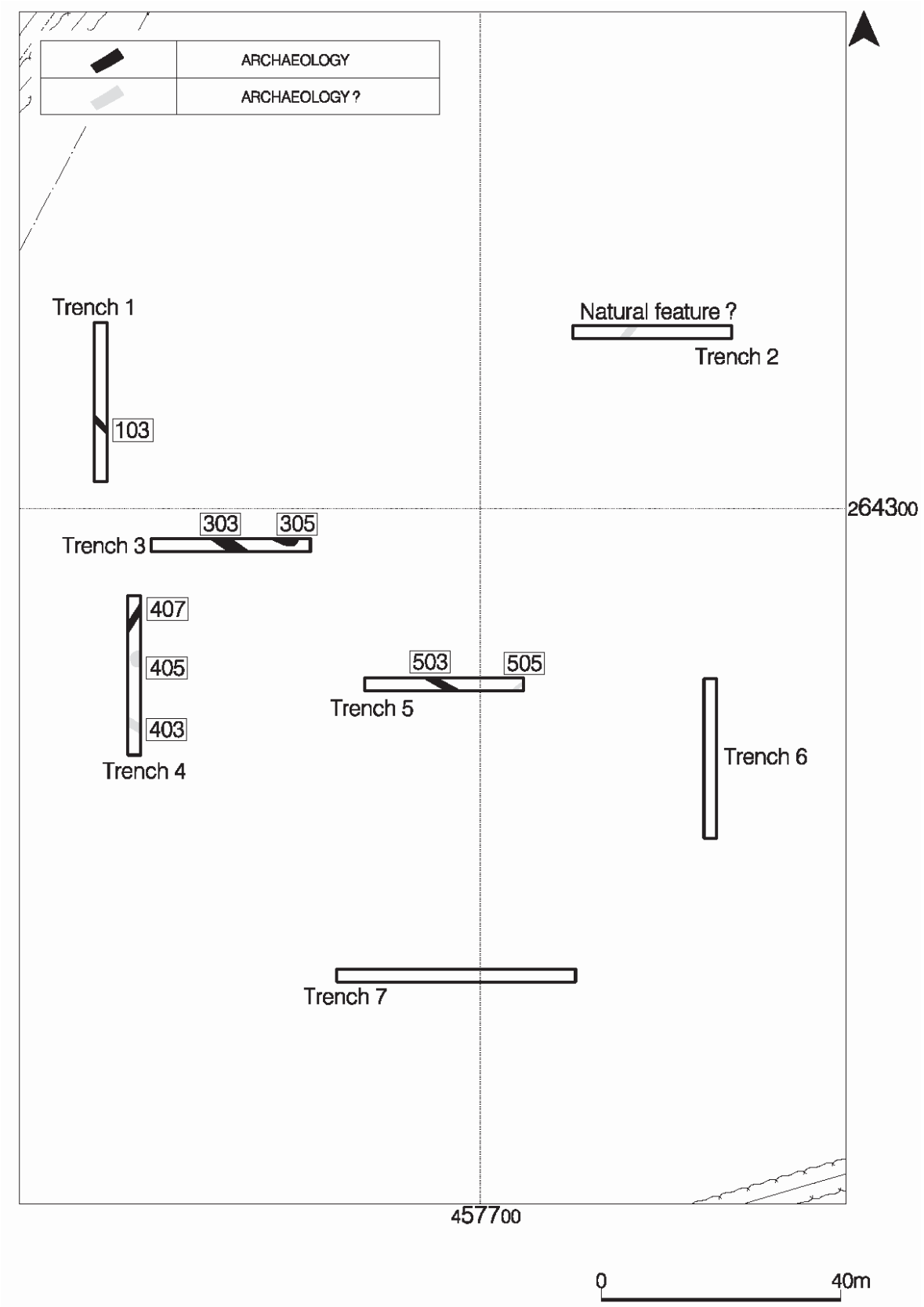

Figure 5: Location of excavated features

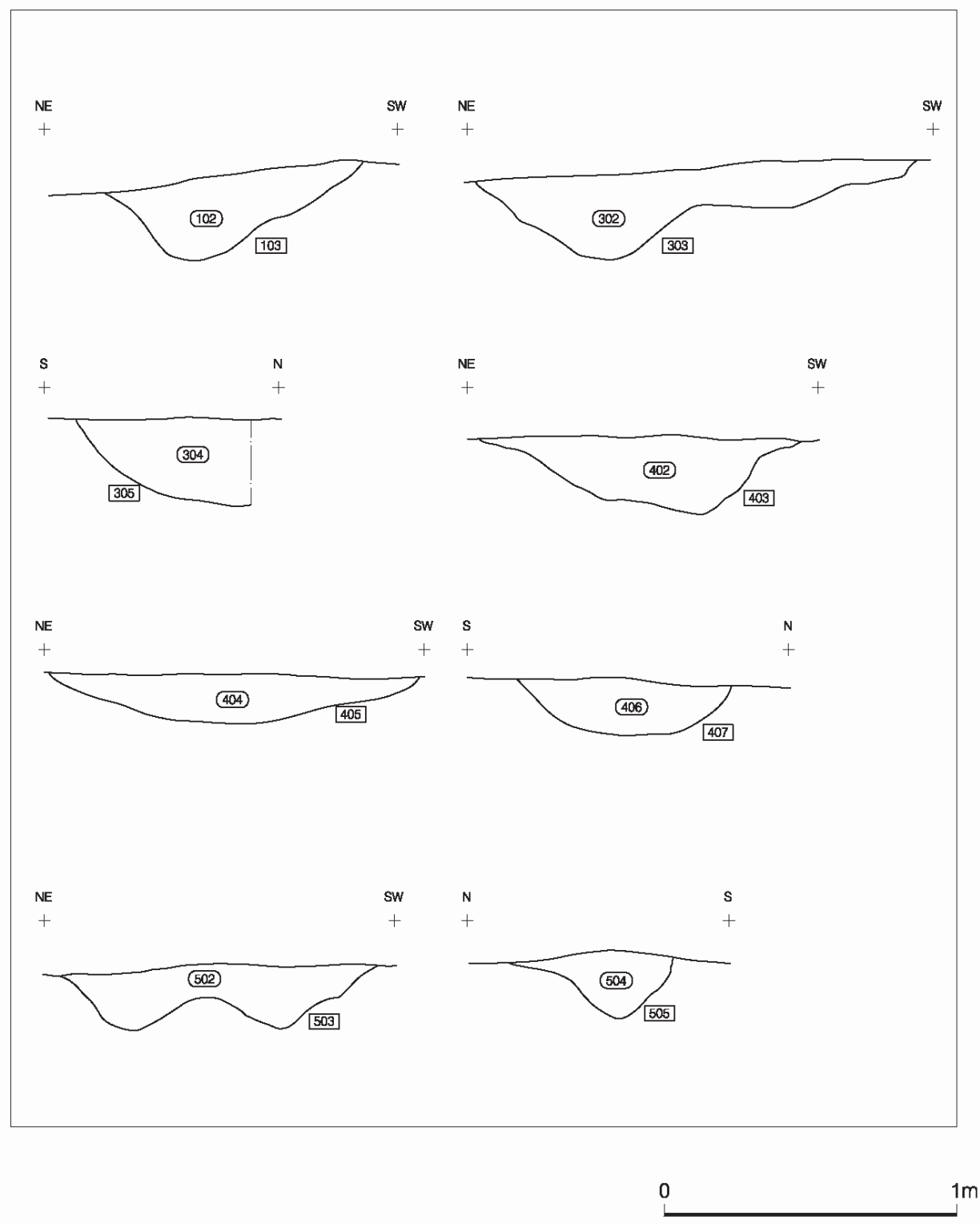

Figure 6: Sections through features

Plate 1: Ditch [103] facing SE

Plate 2: Ditch / pit [303] facing SE

Plate 3: Pit ? [305] facing NW

Plate 4: Ditch [403] facing SE

Plate 5: Pit / Natural feature [405] facing SE

Plate 6: Ditch [407] facing W

Plate 7: Ditch [503] facing NW

Plate 8: Ditch [505] facing ENE

5. Conclusions

5.1 The evaluation has confirmed that geophysical anomalies targeted by trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 are archaeological features that likely date to the Romano-British period.

5.2 Analysis of the pot sherds recovered from the fills of the features indicates that they suffered little abrasion post breakage. It is therefore probable that they did not lie around on the ground surface before coming to rest in the locations from which they were excavated, *i.e.* they were recovered from their original places of deposition.

5.3 It is tentatively suggested that the unabraded pot sherds may indicate that the archaeological features are part of, or relatively close to, RB domestic (farmstead ?) activity.

5.4 Magnetic anomalies targeted by trenches 2, 6 and 7 had a geological/geomorphological origin caused by the heterogeneous natural strata. Other targeted anomalies may be natural [405], or are of uncertain date [403] and [505].

5.5 The geophysical survey did not define the extent of the RB activity. However the absence of archaeological features in evaluation trenches 2, 6 and 7, which lie south and east of the archaeological ditches and pits, and the lack of archaeological type magnetic anomalies to the northeast may suggest that any further RB archaeology lies to the southwest, northwest and possibly north.

5.6 The types of pottery recovered are not closely dateable within the RB period although grouping into two date ranges, 1st - 2nd and 3rd - 4th centuries is suggested. The dates of the pottery could indicate that this location saw continuity of use throughout much of the RB period although two distinct phases of use are equally possible.

5.7 Although flint artefacts recovered during fieldwalking suggest an area of possible prehistoric activity, only one RB potsherd was recovered from the area of the evaluation trenches. The proposal area is cultivated rather than ploughed and it is suggested that this agricultural equipment has caused only shallow disturbance and has failed to damage RB archaeological deposits. Further fieldwalking in February/March 2006 at the north of the proposal area may provide more diagnostic results if overburden is shallower and archaeological deposits more readily disturbed.

5.8 The archaeological features lie in the area of the proposed site entrance. Initial groundworks to establish the entrance and associated compound, hardstanding etc. will adversely impact the archaeological deposits. A suitable strategy to mitigate the impact of this groundwork on the archaeology must be prepared and agreed with the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Team.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to *Kember Loudon Williams Ltd* for commissioning the evaluation trenching on behalf of *Capel House Property Trust Ltd* and for providing digital topographic mapping of the survey area. Thanks are also due to the tenant farmer Mr Evans for his assistance and his son James Evans who operated the excavating plant.

Fieldwork was carried out by A. Hancock BSc PgDip and M. Cuthbert BA. This report was prepared by Alastair Hancock and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site records
5. Finds
6. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be retained by ASC at their Milton Keynes office until such time as a suitable repository becomes available in Northamptonshire.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

IFA 1999b *Code of Conduct*. Institute of Field Archaeologists (Reading).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.*

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Secondary Sources

Ballinger, J & Foard, G. 1999. *Extensive Urban Survey: Daventry*. Section 3.1.2.5. Northamptonshire County Council

Ballinger, J. 1995. *East Midlands Regional Research Frameworks: Northamptonshire*. (Unpublished)

Brown, A.E. 1991. *Early Daventry*. University of Leicester

Faulkner, A.H. 1993. *The Grand Junction Canal*. (W.H. Walker & Brothers Ltd).

Gover J.E.B, Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M, 1975. *The Place-names of Northamptonshire*. English Place Name Society. CUP (Cambridge)

Hancock, A.J. 2005a *Geophysical Survey of Land at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire.* (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Hancock, A.J. 2005b *Fieldwalking Survey: Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire.* (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Hancock, A.J. 2005c *Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation.* (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd

Jones, R 2004 Signatures in the Soil: The use of Pottery in Manure Scatters in the Identification of Medieval Arable Farming Regimes. In the *Archaeological Journal 161: pp 159-188.*

Morris, J (ed.). 1979. *Domesday Book: Northamptonshire*. (Phillimore).

Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group. 2001. *NIAG Industrial Gazetteer.*

Rouse, C and Hunn, J.R 2005 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire.* (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. 1981. *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in North-West Northamptonshire.* (London).

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

Wilson, N. 2004. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Middlemore Farm, Daventry*. (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.7

Levels	
Trench base north	126.0 m OD
Trench top north	126.7 m OD
Trench base south	126.4 m OD
Trench top south	127.1 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
N	457652 264323	**S**	457652 264303
Orientation	N - S		
Reason for Trench	Investigate geophysics anomaly		

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
100	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam, occasional subangular flint and stone inclusions.	-	300	-
101	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, occasional rounded pebble and subangular flint inclusions.	-	400	300
102	Fill	Light greyish brown sandy silt, friable and waterlogged. Occasional subrounded pebble inclusions. Ditch.	600	300	700
103	Cut	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break of slope to concave base. Ditch.	600	-	700 - 1000
1000	Natural	Mid reddish brown clayey sand.	-	-	700

Trench 2

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.3

Levels	
Trench base east	124.0 m OD
Trench top east	124.3 m OD
Trench base west	124.5 m OD
Trench top west	124.8 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
E	457731 264322	**W**	457711 264322
Orientation		E - W	
Reason for Trench		Investigate geophysics anomaly	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
200	Topsoil	= 100	-	150	-
201	Subsoil	= 101	-	150	150
1000	Natural	Light yellowish brown sand, reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay.	-	-	300

Trench 3

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.4

Levels	
Trench base east	126.0 m OD
Trench top east	126.4 m OD
Trench base west	126.7 m OD
Trench top west	127.1 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
E	457678 264295	**W**	457658 264295
Orientation		E - W	
Reason for Trench		Investigate geophysics anomaly	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
300	Topsoil	= 100	-	150	-
301	Subsoil	= 101	-	250	150
302	Fill	Light greyish brown friable sandy silt. Ditch / pit.	1500	300	400
303	Cut	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope SW side, uneven stepped NE side, indiscernible break to concave base. Ditch / pit.	1500	-	400 - 700
304	Fill	Light greyish brown friable sandy silt. Ditch / pit.	-	300	400

305	Cut	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Section extended only halfway across feature as it extended beyond the side of the trench). Ditch / pit.	-	-	400 - 700
1000	Natural	Bands of reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay.	-	-	400

Trench 4

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.4

Levels	
Trench base north	126.8 m OD
Trench top north	127.2 m OD
Trench base south	126.9 m OD
Trench top south	127.3 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
N	457656 264289	**S**	457656 264269
Orientation	N - S		
Reason for Trench	Investigate geophysics anomaly		

Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**	**Max Width (mm)**	**Max Thckn (mm)**	**Depth BGL (mm)**
400	Topsoil	= 100	-	200	-
401	Subsoil	= 101	-	200	200
402	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Ditch.	1080	250	400
403	Cut	Gradual break at surface, uneven slope on NE side with gradual break to uneven/slightly convex base. Moderate slope at SW side with gradual break to base. Ditch.	1080	-	400 - 650
404	Fill of pit ?	Mid reddish brown subangular ironstone and shale gravel in mid reddish brown sand matrix. Pit ? Could be natural.	1280	160	400
405	Cut of pit ?	Moderate break from surface with gradual slope to sides without discernible break to concave base. Pit ? Could be natural.	1280	-	400 - 560
406	Fill of ditch	Dark blackish brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Ditch..	720	180	400
407	Cut of ditch	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. Ditch.	720	-	400 - 580
1000	Natural	Mid reddish brown clayey sand.	-	-	400

Trench 5

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.4

Levels	
Trench base east	125.4 m OD
Trench top east	125.8 m OD
Trench base west	126.0 m OD
Trench top west	126.4 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
E	457705 264277	**W**	457685 264277
Orientation	E - W		
Reason for Trench	Investigate geophysics anomaly		

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
500	Topsoil	= 100	-	300	-
501	Subsoil	= 101	-	100	300
502	Fill	Light greyish brown sandy silt, waterlogged, occasional sub angular pebble inclusions. Fill of ditch.	1080	210	400
503	Cut	Moderate break from surface with moderate slope on sides. Moderate break to concave base either side of pronounced linear central convex division. (Two parallel ditches ? or recut ditch ?). Cut of ditch.	1080	-	400 - 610
504	Fill	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, occasional subrounded pebble and subangular gravel (< 0.03m) inclusions. Fill of ditch.	400	240	400
505	Cut	Gradual break from surface at north, sharp at south. Uneven slope a north side, moderate on south without discernible break to concave base. Cut of ditch.	400	-	400 - 640
1000	Natural	Mid reddish brown clayey sand.	-	-	400

Trench 6

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.5

Levels	
Trench base north	124.3 m OD
Trench top north	124.8 m OD
Trench base south	124.6 m OD
Trench top south	125.1 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
N	457728 264278	**S**	457728 264258
Orientation		N - S	
Reason for Trench		Investigate geophysics anomaly	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
600	Topsoil	= 100	-	350	-
601	Subsoil	= 101	-	150	350
1000	Natural	Bands of light yellow sand, mid reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay.	-	-	500

Trench 7

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	30	**Width**	1.6	**Depth**	0.5

Levels	
Trench base north	125.2 m OD
Trench top north	125.7 m OD
Trench base south	125.9 m OD
Trench top south	126.4 m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
E	457711 264241	**W**	457681 264241
Orientation		E - W	
Reason for Trench		Investigate geophysics anomaly	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
700	Topsoil	= 100	-	300	-
701	Subsoil	= 101	-	200	300
1000	Natural	Bands of light yellow sand, mid reddish brown sandy gravel and areas of light yellow plastic clay.	-	-	500

Appendix 2: Summary Tables

Context Register

Context	Type	Description
100	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam, occasional subangular flint and stone inclusions.
101	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, occasional rounded pebble and subangular flint inclusions.
102	Fill of ditch	Light greyish brown sandy silt, friable and waterlogged. Occasional subrounded pebble inclusions.
103	Cut of ditch	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break of slope to concave base.
200	Topsoil	= 100
201	Subsoil	= 101
300	Topsoil	= 100
301	Subsoil	= 101
302	Fill of ditch / pit	Light greyish brown friable sandy silt.
303	Cut of ditch / pit	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope SW side, uneven stepped NE side, indiscernible break to concave base.
304	Fill of ditch / pit	Light greyish brown friable sandy silt.
305	Cut of ditch / pit	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Section extended only halfway across feature as it extended beyond the side of the trench).
400	Topsoil	= 100
401	Subsoil	= 101
402	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions.
403	Cut of ditch	Gradual break at surface, uneven slope on NE side with gradual break to uneven/slightly convex base. Moderate slope at SW side with gradual break to base.
404	Fill of pit ?	Mid reddish brown subangular ironstone and shale gravel in mid reddish brown sand matrix.
405	Cut of pit ?	Moderate break from surface with gradual slope to sides without discernible break to concave base.
406	Fill of ditch	Dark blackish brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions.
407	Cut of ditch	Moderate break from surface, gradual slope on sides without discernible break to slightly concave base.
500	Topsoil	= 100
501	Subsoil	= 101
502	Fill of ditch	Light greyish brown sandy silt, occasional sub angular pebble inclusions.
503	Cut of ditch	Moderate break from surface with moderate slope on sides. Moderate break to concave base either side of pronounced linear central convex division. (Two parallel ditches ? or recut ditch ?).
504	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, occasional subrounded pebble and subangular gravel (< 0.03m) inclusions.
505	Cut of ditch	Gradual break from surface at north, sharp at south. Uneven slope a north side, moderate on south without discernible break to concave base.
600	Topsoil	= 100
601	Subsoil	= 101
700	Topsoil	= 100
701	Subsoil	= 101
1000	Natural	Heterogeneous. Mid reddish brown clayey sand. Mid reddish brown sandy gravel. Light yellowish brown sand. Light yellow plastic clay.

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	1	1:10	102, 103
1	2	1:10	406, 407
1	3	1:10	402, 403
1	4	1:10	404, 405
1	5	1:10	502, 503
1	6	1:10	504, 505
1	7	1:10	302, 303
1	8	1:10	304, 305

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
102	3	544							
302	3	105							
304	3	42							
407	24	352							

Appendix 4: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Monksmoor Farm, Daventry				**SITE NO/CODE: 712/DMF**
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1				Pot in situ, ditch [103], facing SE
2				Ditch [103], facing SE
3				Ditch / pit [303], facing SE
4				Pit ? [305], facing NW
5				Pit [403], facing SE
6				Natural feature ? [405], facing SE
7				Ditch [407], facing W
8				Ditch [503], facing NW
9				Ditch [505], facing ENE
10				Natural feature ? in Trench 2, facing NE
11				Plan shot Trench 1, facing N
12				Plan shot Trench 2, facing E
13				Plan shot Trench 3, facing E
14				Plan shot Trench 4, facing N
15				Plan shot Trench 5, facing E
16				Plan shot Trench 6, facing E
17				Plan shot Trench 7, facing N

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 trenches at Monksmoor Farm, 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 and recommendations for further research.

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 & Form Key

UNS OX	Unsourced oxidised ware
BSW	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware
GRS	Unsourced sandy grey wares

E = bowl-jar, G = jar, H = beaker.

Conclusion

A total of 33 sherds with a weight of 1043g were identified from Monksmoor Farm. The assemblage is small and unfortunately not closely dateable within the Roman period (this is due to the lack of clear diagnostic evidence, the forms which are present have fairly long life-spans alongside unsourced fabrics). Nonetheless the pottery is in good order and displaying only slight abrasion, which indicates it was recovered from its original place of deposition.

Catalogue

102 2nd to 3rd/4th century AD			
GRS	3	544g	Gnn, sli-gc
302 Mid 3rd to 4th century AD			
GRS	3	105g	E, sli
304 Mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD			
BSW	3	42g	G, sli
407 *Mid 1st to 2nd century AD*			
GRS, UNS OX	24	352g	H, abr-sli

Appendix 6: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	**Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northants**					
Short Description:	Evaluation trenching targeting geophysical anomalies identified by a previous phase of work					
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)		DBA, Geophys, FW	
Current land use:	Arable		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		unknown	
Monument type:	Farmstead ?		Monument period:		Romano-British	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Potsherds – Romano-British					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Northamptonshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 457679 264285	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northants					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	49 ha		Height OD: (metres)		*c.* 125 m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	N/a		Project design originator:		A Hancock	
Project Manager:	J Hunn		Director/Supervisor:		A Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	Capel House Property Trust Ltd.					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	9/11/05		End date:		14/11/05	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	ASC Ltd		Pottery			
Paper:	ASC Ltd		Trench Records, context sheets, photograph register, photographs, pottery report, section drawings, report			
Digital:	ASC Ltd		Evaluation report, pottery report, digital photos			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Evaluation at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire					
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished client report					
Author(s):	A. Hancock					
Page nos	1 - 32		Date: 15/01/06			

Appendix 7: SMR Summary Sheet

<table>
<tr><td>SMR Record Number</td><td>Parish
Daventry</td><td>Site Name
Monksmoor Farm, Daventry</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date of Fieldwork
09/11/05 – 14/11/05</td><td>Grid ref.
SP 457679 264285</td><td>Fieldworker
A. Hancock</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sponsor
Capel House Property Trust Ltd.</td><td colspan="2">Activity
Evaluation trenching targeting geophysical anomalies identified by previous work</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Landowner name/address:
Capel House Property Trust Ltd
c/o Kember Loudon Williams Ltd
Ridgers Barn
Bunny Lane
Eridge
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN3 9HA</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Finds location
ASC Ltd</td><td>Finds Destination
N/a</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Records location
ASC Ltd</td><td>Records Destination
N/a</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Finds Quantity
33 pot sherds</td><td>Records Quantity
1 Box</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Summary of Results

In November 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a limited programme of evaluation trenching to investigate the archaeological significance of ditches and pits identified by geophysical survey at land northeast of Daventry, Northamptonshire.

The targeted geophysical anomalies proved to be ditches and pits containing 1st – 2nd and 3rd – 4th century Romano-British pot sherds. The exact nature of the type of Romano-British activity is uncertain although the pot sherds were unabraded, which may suggest that the ditches and pits are part of, or relatively close to, settlement activity. The dates of the pottery could indicate that this location saw continuity of use throughout much of the Romano-British period.</td></tr>
</table>