Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: KISLINGBURY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd

Joe Abrams BA AIFA

With a contribution by Paul Blinkhorn

September 2003

ASC: KFA03/2

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REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

Site Data

ASC site code:	KFA03	*Project no:*	465
County:	Northamptonshire		
District:	South Northamptonshire		
Village/Town:	Kislingbury		
Parish:	Kislingbury		
NGR:	SP 6970 5970		
Extent of site:	*c.*1km		
Planning proposal:	Flood Alleviation scheme consisting of bank and walls		
Extent of development:	*c.*1km		
Client:	Edmund Nuttall Ltd Site Offices Kislingbury FAS Off A45 (Westbound) Kislingbury Northamptonshire NN7 4AW		
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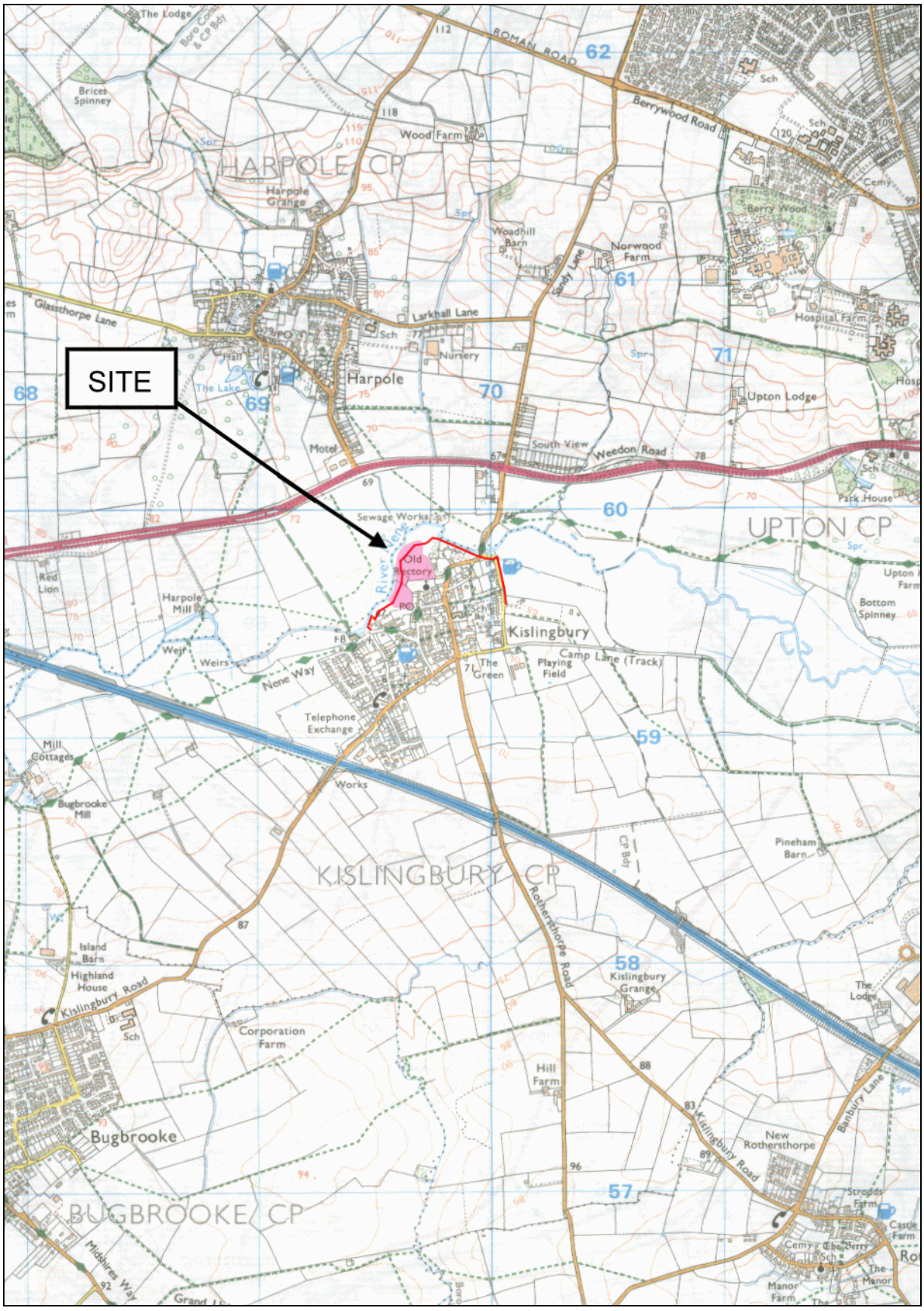

Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

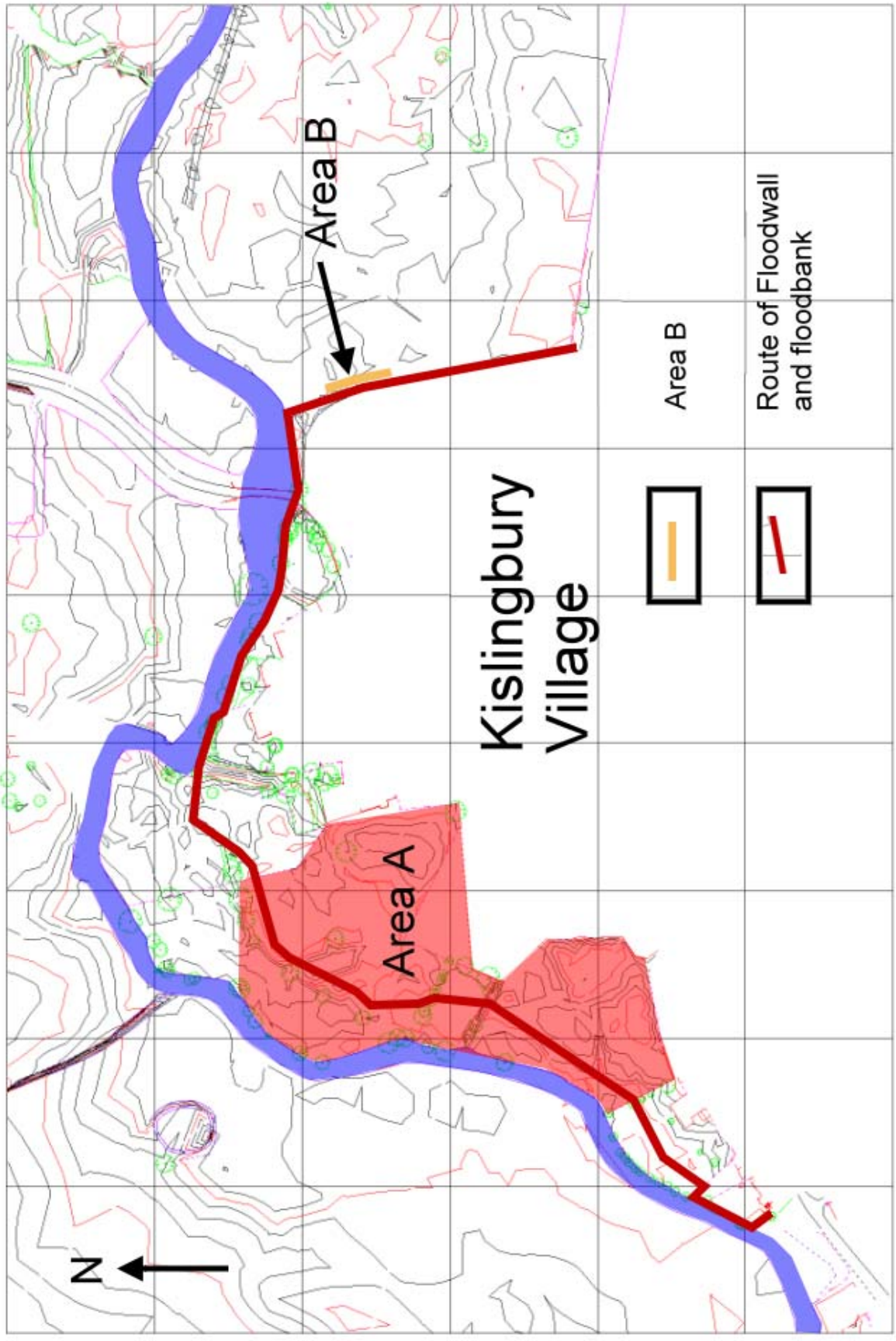

Figure 2: Route of floodwall and floodbank to the west, north and east of Kislingbury *(scale 1:4000)*

Summary

Between May and September 2003 an earthwork survey, watching brief and salvage excavation were carried out on land surrounding the village of Kislingbury, Northamptonshire. Seventeen earthworks were identified within the study area, although only eight of these were subsequently affected by the groundworks required ahead of the development.

During the watching brief twelve archaeological features were identified. During works conducted to the west of the village the archaeology included a wall, this was considered sufficiently significant to mount a salvage excavation. As a result detailed plans of the wall were made and pieces of animal bone and boar tusks were recovered from an associated occupation layer. Other archaeology included a second stretch of wall, a fishpond and three pits, two of which contained sherds of Medieval pottery. It is suggested that all of the above were Medieval in date. A paleochannel and a modern ceramic land drain were also observed in this area.

Immediately west of the Kislingbury road bridge groundworks revealed the remains of a substantial masonry structure. It is considered likely that this structure formed part of an earlier, possibly Medieval, bridge over the Nene.

To the east of the village the watching brief recorded the remains of a Post-Medieval building, this is very likely to have been a 19th century agricultural building. Associated earthworks and the platform of a second building were observed immediately east of the development area.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between May and September July 2003 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at Kislingbury (NGR SP 6970 5970: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Edmund Nuttall Ltd, and was carried out according to a brief Brief, prepared by Myk Flitcroft, Archaeological Planning Officer, Historic Environment Team (HET) on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

1.2 ***Reason for Work***

The watching brief at Kislingbury was commissioned in response to a PPG16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, South Northamptonshire District Council. Halcrow (consulting engineers) were involved in discussions on the historic environment implications of this development prior to a planning application being made. The general scope of the archaeological recording action had been accepted by them at this stage. The development consisted of the construction of a flood alleviation scheme for Kislingbury. This included construction of a defensive bank to the west of Kislingbury and a wall to the north and east. The route of these defences disturbed land in which earthworks had been recorded (SMR 7008, 7009, 7010). It was expected that these earthworks and any archaeological remains that were associated with them would be severely damaged or destroyed by the groundworks necessary for the construction of these flood defences.

1.3 ***Setting***

1.3.1 The site forms a broadly semi-circular shape, lying between the village of Kislingbury, to the south, and the River Nene to the west, north and east. The works are centred around National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 6980 5990 and are *c.*1km in length.

1.3.2 The site is on the southern floodplain of the River Nene approximately 5 km west of the historic core of Northampton. It is at an elevation of *c.*65m to 70m OD and the majority of the site is open land. The soils of the area comprise of the Fladbury 1 Association immediately south of the Nene, these are characterised as being 'stoneless clayey soils, variably affected by groundwater'. Further south the site includes soils belonging to the Wick 1 Association, 'namely deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils' (Soil Survey 1983).

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

In line with the requirements of the Brief (Section 2), the aims of the watching brief and earthwork survey were:

- To record and interpret the earthworks surviving west and north of St Luke's Church.
- To investigate and record buried remains associated with the earthworks that will be affected by the new flood defences in this area.
- To identify, and make a basic record of, any additional archaeological remains revealed in the course of construction of the new flood defences.

2.2 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- Project Design
- Earthwork Survey of Area A (Fig. 8)
- Intensive/Constant Watching Brief: machine stripping under archaeological control, Area A (Fig. 2)
- Intensive/Constant Watching Brief: machine stripping not under archaeological control, Area B (Fig. 2)
- Intermittent Watching Brief on all other groundworks (Fig. 2)
- Report (this document) and Archive

2.3 *Standards*

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments* and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual.*

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

The name Kislingbury is thought to derive from the combination of three separate Saxon words *ceosol* (gravel), *inga* (people) and *burh* (fortified place), or 'fort of the gravel dwellers' (Whynne-Hammond 1994). Given the location of the historic core of the village on a spur of natural subsoil consisting of gravel/sand this interpretation seems highly likely.

3.1 *Prehistoric (Before AD 43) to Roman (AD 43-410)*

No sites are known from either of these periods within the immediate vicinity of the development area. However, a chance find *c.*400m southeast of the site consisted of a Bronze earring (SMR 7243/0/0), identified as being of Roman date.

Archaeology dating from this period was considered unlikely on the site.

3.2 *Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)*

Again no sites dating to this period are known within the immediate vicinity of the development area. However, there is documentary and place-name evidence (above) suggesting that the village at Kislingbury is likely to have Saxon origins. Notably the Domesday Survey of 1086 mentions that Kislingbury parish was owned by two Saxons, Tonna and Leuric, before being awarded to two Norman landlords the count of Mortain and Gilbert of Ghent following the conquest (Morris 1979). The estimated population of the village at the time of this survey was between 180 and 200 inhabitants (Tutchener 2000).

Both sources suggest that a significant Saxon population had existed at Kislingbury prior to the Norman invasion. Also the village lies within a landscape known to have been settled by Saxons. Several archaeological sites dating to this period have been excavated in nearby Northampton. As a result the existence of archaeology dating to this period was considered a possibility.

3.3 *Medieval (AD 1066-1520)*

During this period the settlement continued to have a largely agricultural economy based on the 'open field' system, a communal type of farming which has left its mark on the landscape in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks in fields surrounding the village.

Several earthworks have been identified within the development area (Welsh 1998). These are presently of unknown date, though it seems likely that they date to either the Medieval or Post-Medieval periods. An antiquarian writing in the 19th century (Baker 1822-30) suggested that the manor house for Kislingbury was located in Hall Close, northwest of the churchyard. Clearly part the development area lies immediately northwest of the churchyard, and contains the earthworks mentioned above (SMR 7008, 7009, 7010).

The Church of St Luke's which forms part of the border of the southern border of the development area, contains several Medieval structural elements including the socket stone of a cross in the churchyard (SMR 849) and the font, which is thought to date to the 14th or 15th century (Pevsner 1969).

The potential for the survival of significant archaeology dating to the Medieval periods was considered relatively high.

3.4 *Post-Medieval (AD 1520-1900)*

During the Post-Medieval period the economy of the village shifted to a mix of weaving and farming, and later to shoe-making and farming. The Northampton shoe industry was important not only in the town, but also for villages within a *c.*8 mile radius which were also involved in the production of shoes to supplement incomes derived from farming. The SMR records several buildings (SMR 849/0/2, 849/0/9, 849/0/12, 849/1/2, 849/1/3, 849/1/4, 7371) which date to the Post-Medieval period. These include several houses, The Sun Public House and the E & W Starmer shoe factory.

In view of the nature of the development at this site (Section 1.3.4) it is interesting to note that floods have a long history in Kislingbury, perhaps not surprisingly given its proximity to the Nene. The most notable occasion was the May flood of 1663, still commemorated by a plaque on the wall of a house on the corner of Starmers Lane. This indicates that the flood waters peaked at 1.47m and tore away sections of the south and west bridges. More recently, in 1998, the village was again subject to severe flooding, although the floodwaters stopped short of the 1663 levels (Tutchener 2000).

The potential for the survival of significant archaeology dating to the Post-Medieval period was considered relatively high.

3.5 *Modern (1900 – present)*

During the course of the 20th century the economy of the village changed. Improved transport conditions meant that workers could travel further for work, and the pull of Northampton and other big towns and cities encouraged many people to leave. As a result Kislingbury now serves largely as an attractive dormitory village for workers based in Northampton and elsewhere, relatively few people making a living directly from the village.

4 Results

4.1 Thirteen visits were made to the site during which an earthwork survey of Area A (Appendices 1 and 2), and the observation of a series of groundworks operations was undertaken. The full technical details of all the deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 3.

4.2 The topsoil (1) was a mid brown silty sand *c.*0.30m deep. This layer was present over the entire development area and several Post Medieval artefacts including pottery sherds were recovered. Below this was subsoil (2) an alluvial brown/mid orange silty clay deposit. Several pieces of squared Oolitic limestone, pieces of animal bone and several sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered (Appendix 6). One sherd of 17th century pottery was also recovered from this deposit. Alluvial Deposits such as this are often found in close proximity to rivers, depending on *when* the alluvium was deposited, it can sometimes overlie archaeology. This possibility was considered during the works and two trenches were excavated in order to test this possibility (Section 4.4).

Below subsoil 2 was the natural subsoil (5) a mid orange silt/coarse sand layer containing seams of gravel and occasional lenses of peat.

4.3 ***Salvage excavation - Area A***

During topsoil stripping in Area A (Figs. 3 and 4) a wall (**[14]**) was revealed. This was considered significant enough to warrant further investigation, and a salvage excavation was undertaken. As a result wall **[14]** and an associated occupation layer (15) were recorded. No dating evidence was recovered from either, however the style and materials used in its construction suggest that it is either Medieval or Post-Medieval in date. Wall **[14]** was a drystone wall constructed in a random un-coursed style, constructed from squared pieces of Oolitic limestone, and flint cobbles. It stretched *c.*4.40m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.25m in depth, and was aligned north-east-north to south-west-south.

Wall **[14]** (Plates 3 and 4) may have functioned as a land boundary, although there is some evidence to suggest that it was part of a more significant structure. This could have been either a house or at least a building associated with a house. Deposit 12 was mid brown in colour and overlaid the fabric of the wall, it contained four partially worked boar tusks, and several other pieces of animal bone. This deposit was considered to have been contemporary with, and essentially the same as deposit 15, which surrounded the wall covering an area *c.*5m in diameter. The existence of animal bone within both deposits, and the fact that they were only observed in association with wall **[14],** is of interest. Occupation debris, such as animal bones, is often found close to domestic areas rather than in association with boundary walls. It is this evidence which suggests that wall **[14]** could have been close to or part of a domestic building.

A second historical source of information adds to the artefactual remains. The antiquarian reference (Section 3.3) states that a Medieval Manor House existed northwest of the churchyard. As Figure 3 clearly shows, the salvage excavation was located *c.*130m northwest of churchyard.

Plate 1: Wall **[14],** Area A

Plate 2: Slot excavated through wall **[14]** and layer (15). This revealed subsoil (2).

Plate 3: Base of pond **[19]**

Plate 4: Western end of Trench 1, buried soil layer (22) visible in middle of section.

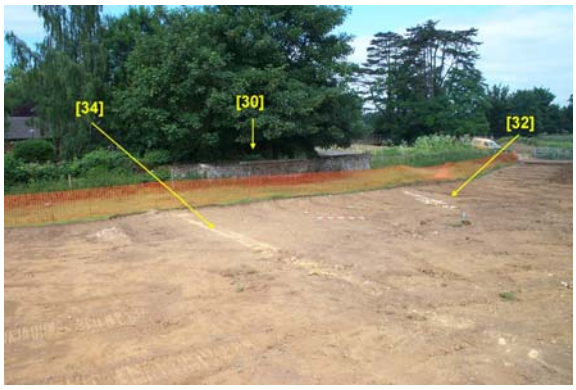

Plate 5: Walls **[30]**, **[32]** and **[34],** Area B

Plate 6: Wall **[34]**, facing west.

Of course such references are not always accurate, and the usual degree of healthy scepticism has been applied when considering the merit of this one. Nonetheless, the fact that the only significant structural remains observed within Area A were located northwest of the churchyard is intriguing, to say the least.

A pit (**[28]**) was recorded *c.*3.00m east of wall **[14]**. This contained deposit 27 a purple/dark brown clay from which no artefactual material was recovered. It was therefore not possible to date its period of use, or the point at which it became backfilled. However, pit **[28]** was sealed by layer 15, which also sealed wall **[14]**. This confirms that the pit went out of use prior to the deposition of layer 15, and is therefore Post-Medieval or earlier in date.

4.4 *Trenches 1 And 2 – Area A*

Two trenches were excavated within Area A prior to topsoil stripping (Fig.3). These were targeted to sample earthworks 13 and 14 (Fig. 8), which were considered to be of archaeological significance. These earthworks were also within the route of the flood defences, and were therefore likely to be destroyed or severely damaged by them. Both trenches are discussed below and the detailed technical information on each can be found in Appendix 7.

Trench 1 (Fig. 5, plate 5) contained only one archaeological feature, pond **[19]**. This pond is referred to as earthwork 13 in appendices 1 and 2, in which the above ground dimensions and character of it are described. Pond **[19]** was sub-rectangular shape in plan and measured 16.50m wide and 1.25m deep within Trench 1. It contained four deposits 16, 17, 18 and 20 (Fig. 5) no dateable artefactual material was recovered from any of these. The primary deposit was 18, a black clay deposit 0.25m deep, this contained no artefactual material. It occurred only at the base of **[19]** and had a high organic content, as would be expected at the base of a pond.

Deposit 20 was a mid brown fine sand containing occasional pieces of charcoal. This was observed on either side of pond and significantly it did not stretch into the base. This deposit is likely to have been topsoil material which eroded into the pond during its period of use.

Sealing deposits 18 and 20, was 17 an orange/light grey clay 0.60m deep. This contained fragments of shell, charcoal and waterlogged vertical plant roots (probably reeds). It is known that clay was sometimes imported during the construction of ponds in order to line the base and sides, and thereby waterproof them. It is possible that both deposits 17 and 18 were imported to line pond **[19]**, certainly neither deposit was found outside the limits of the pond. Alternatively, pond **[19]** may have been constructed within a paleochannel, similar to channel **[26]** (below), which was dammed at either end in order to create a pond. In this case the clay may already have been present, making this an ideal spot to construct a pond, as the waterproof base was already present.

Above 17 was deposit 16 a mid brown silty clay *c.*0.40m deep. This deposit was sealed by topsoil 1 with which it shared similarities in character (Appendix 3). It is suggested that this layer represents the final silting up of the pond and this explains the

slightly higher clay/silt consistency it possesses when contrasted to that present in topsoil 1.

Three layers were observed in the southwestern end of Trench 1. Stratigraphically the earliest of the three layers was 23 which overlay subsoil 2. Layer 23 was a mid brown silty sand 0.25m deep, this contained occasional medium pebbles and gravel lenses. Above this was layer 22 a black silty sand 0.20m deep, this contained occasional pieces of Oolitic limestone and moderate charcoal fragments. The character of these layers 22 and 23, and their even depth and horizontal position within the trench section (Fig. 5, plate 6) suggest they represent the remnant of a buried soil layer. Deposit 22 being the humic, upper part, and 23 forming the bulk of the topsoil.

Sealing 22 was layer 21, an orange/mid brown silt containing moderate quantities of rounded medium pebbles. This varied from 0.10m to 0.50m deep and was 4.50m long within the trench. It corresponded with the edges of the pond visible during the earthwork survey. Clearly this deposit was a bank surrounding the pond, and is likely to have been topsoil and subsoil material up cast during excavation of the pond.

Trench 2 (Fig. 5, plate 6) contained only one archaeological feature, paleochannel **[26]**. This paleochannel is referred to as earthwork 14 in appendices 1 and 2, in which the above ground dimensions and character of it are described.

Channel **[26]** was a curvilinear shape in plan, it measured 13.00m wide and 0.75m deep within Trench 2, and it contained two deposits 24 and 25 (Fig. 5). No dateable artefactual material was recovered from either. Deposit 25 was a blackish grey clay 0.50m deep, this contained no inclusions. Above this was deposit 24 a mid orange silty clay 0.75m deep, again this contained no inclusions. Both deposits appeared to be natural in origin, and on the basis of their character, combined with the morphology of earthwork 14 (Appendix 1) it is suggested that this feature was a paleochannel and therefore of little archaeological interest.

4.5 *A Post-Medieval Building - Area B*

Three walls **[30]**, **[32]** and **[34]** were recorded within Area B (Figs. 6a & 6b). Wall **[30]** was standing to a height of 1.30m and formed a 16m stretch of the field boundary adjacent to Beech Road.

Only the base of walls **[32]** and **[34]** were surviving, sealed by topsoil. Wall **[32]** was a drystone wall built in a boulder construction style, from light yellow limestone blocks. No mortar was used to bond this stretch of wall, which was aligned east-west and measured 7.50m in length and 0.60m in width. Wall **[34]** was mortar bonded and constructed in a regular uneven coursed style. Sub-rectangular blocks of light yellow/orange ironstone were used in this wall which was aligned south-west-south to north-east-north and stretched 15.00m in length and 0.50m in width.

As figure 6a clearly shows these 3 walls were part of the same structure. These walls can be reliably dated to the Post Medieval period on the basis of their styles of construction, and the type of mortar used to bond them. Also, the structure is shown on a late 19th century Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6b), but not on an earlier 18th century map of the area. Such cartographic evidence is very helpful in tying down

changes in land-use during the Post-Medieval period. It is suggested that this building served an agricultural purpose, being located on the eastern edge of the village, it was probably a barn.

It is interesting to contrast the differences between the materials used and the construction styles of these walls with those already described for walls **[7]** and **[14]**. The differences are clearly shown in Plates 2 and 6, but the table below lists the key points.

Table 1: Key differences between the walls observed in Area A and Area B.

	Walls [7] and [14]	**Walls [30], [32] and [34]**
Bonding technique	Drystone	Mortar used on **[30]** and **[34]**
Width of wall	1.10m	0.50m – 0.60m
Materials used	Oolitic Limestone blocks of varying shapes and flint cobbles	Regular blocks of limestone and Ironstone.
Recorded on Post-Medieval maps?	No	Yes, on the Ordnance survey Map of 1883.

This is significant as it was not possible to assign a firm date to walls **[7]** and **[14]**, it is possible to say that their building style and the fact that they are not shown on later maps suggests they may well have been Medieval in date.

4.6 *Wall [36] - The Remains Of A Bridge?*

The remains of a masonry structure (**[36]**) were observed immediately west of the current Kislingbury road bridge. This wall (Fig. 7) was revealed during the re-instatement of a blocked river channel. Its proximity to the current road bridge, and the bank of the original river course, both suggest that this wall was part of an earlier bridge over the Nene.

The current bridge, although much repaired, is thought to have been constructed during the 16th century. In 1517 one Thomas Billing bequeathed money in his will for the repair of the Kislingbury bridge (Tutchener 2000). This suggests a bridge had been in operation at this site for some time prior to this.

It has not been possible to assign an exact date to wall **[36]**. However, the fact that it pre-dates the current road bridge, itself of considerable antiquity, suggests that it was constructed during the Medieval period.

4.7 *Other Archaeology Encountered During The Watching Brief*

The base of a masonry feature (**[7]**), likely to have been a wall, was observed immediately northeast of Area A (Fig.3). This was made up of sub-square Oolitic limestone blocks (0.20m L x 0.10m W x 0.05m D), and rounded flint cobbles. These were arranged in a random coursed style. Sherds of Medieval Potterspury ware pottery were recovered from deposit 6 (Appendix 6), which sealed the wall. The

presence of these sherds suggests that the wall fell into disuse, and disrepair, during the mid to late Medieval period.

Wall **[7]** was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 12.00m L x 1.10m W x 10.00m D. It was similar to wall **[14]** (section 4.3), although far more damaged, and is also thought to date to the Post-Medieval, or possibly, the Medieval period. It may have functioned as a boundary wall, or possibly have been part of a domestic structure although unlike wall **[14]**, there was little evidence to support the latter. This feature was revealed during a vegetation strip and immediately re-buried, the area was not subject to groundworks following this and therefore the wall was not threatened by the development, and further investigation was not considered appropriate.

A circular pit **[9]** was recorded *c.*20m southwest of **[7]** (Fig. 3). This contained deposit 8 a black silty clay, from which two sherds of Medieval shelly coarseware pottery were recovered (Appendix 6). The material within this deposit included burnt pebbles and it had a generally burnt appearance. Although the pit's function is uncertain, it is probable that it contained the debris created by a domestic fire, suggesting that settlement activity was located near this spot during the Medieval period.

A pit (**[11]**) containing similar material was observed towards the southwest end of Area A. This contained deposit 10 a black fine sand with lenses of burnt pink clay particularly toward the base. One sherd of Stamford ware and one sherd of shelly coarseware pottery were recovered from this deposit. Again this suggests that domestic fires, probably associated with Medieval settlement were located within close proximity to the development area.

A Post-Medieval ceramic land drain **[4]** was observed to the north of Area A (Fig. 3), this was capped with tabular Oolitic limestone slabs (0.40m L x 0.40m W x 0.10m). The drain was aligned north-south running towards the river.

4.8 *Modern Land Disturbance Observed During The Watching Brief*

During the groundworks for the foundation trench of the flood wall, west of the road bridge into Kislingbury (Fig. 3), it was observed that the ground had been artificially raised during the modern period. Approximately 1.20m of made ground was visible in the trench sections. Presumably this was to defend the houses and gardens in this part of the village from flooding by the river.

To a certain extent this made ground protected any archaeology present during minor groundworks. Where groundworks exceeded this depth, subsoil 2 was revealed, but no archaeology was recorded within it.

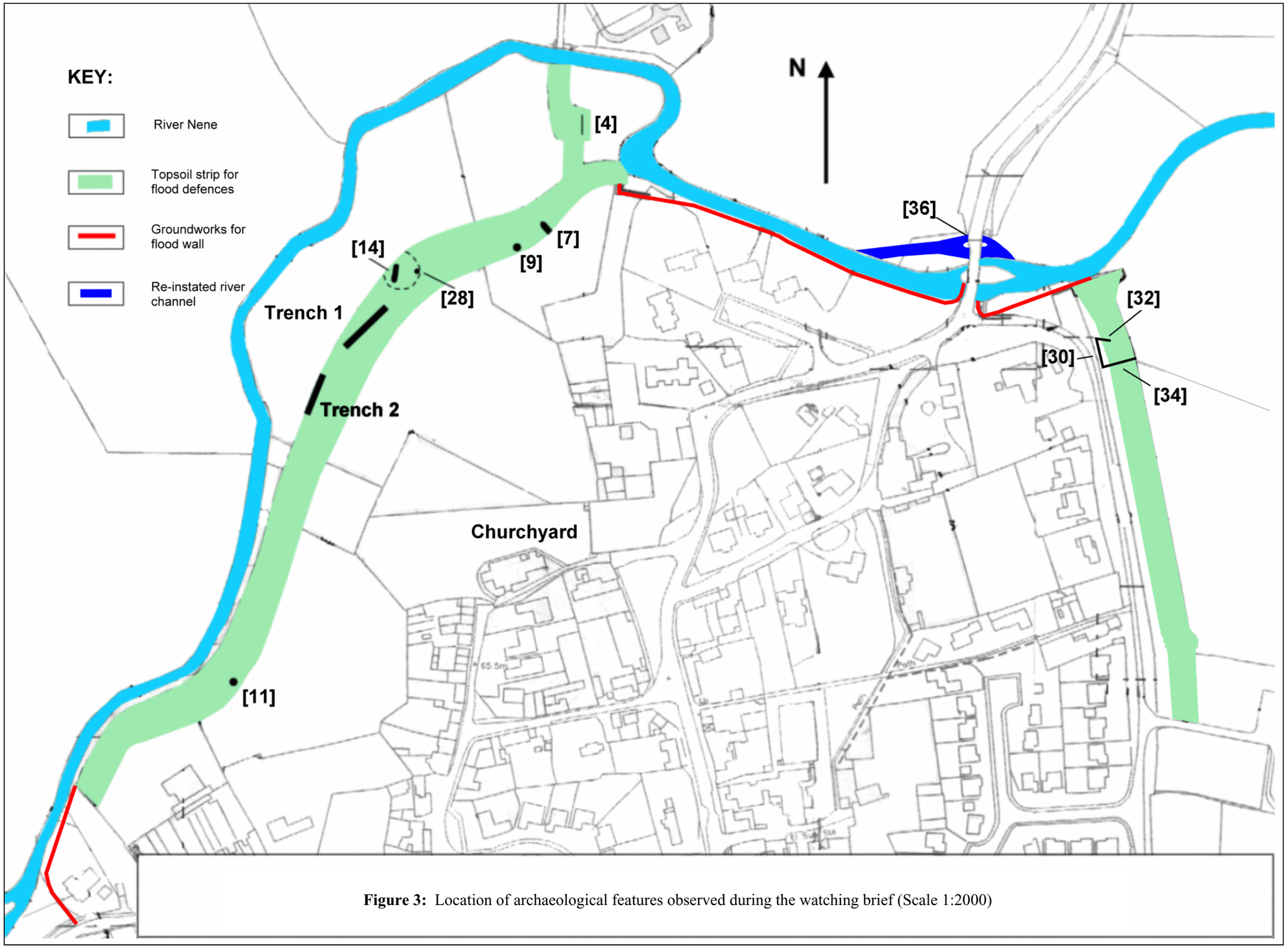

Figure 3: Location of archaeological features observed during the watching brief (Scale 1:2000)

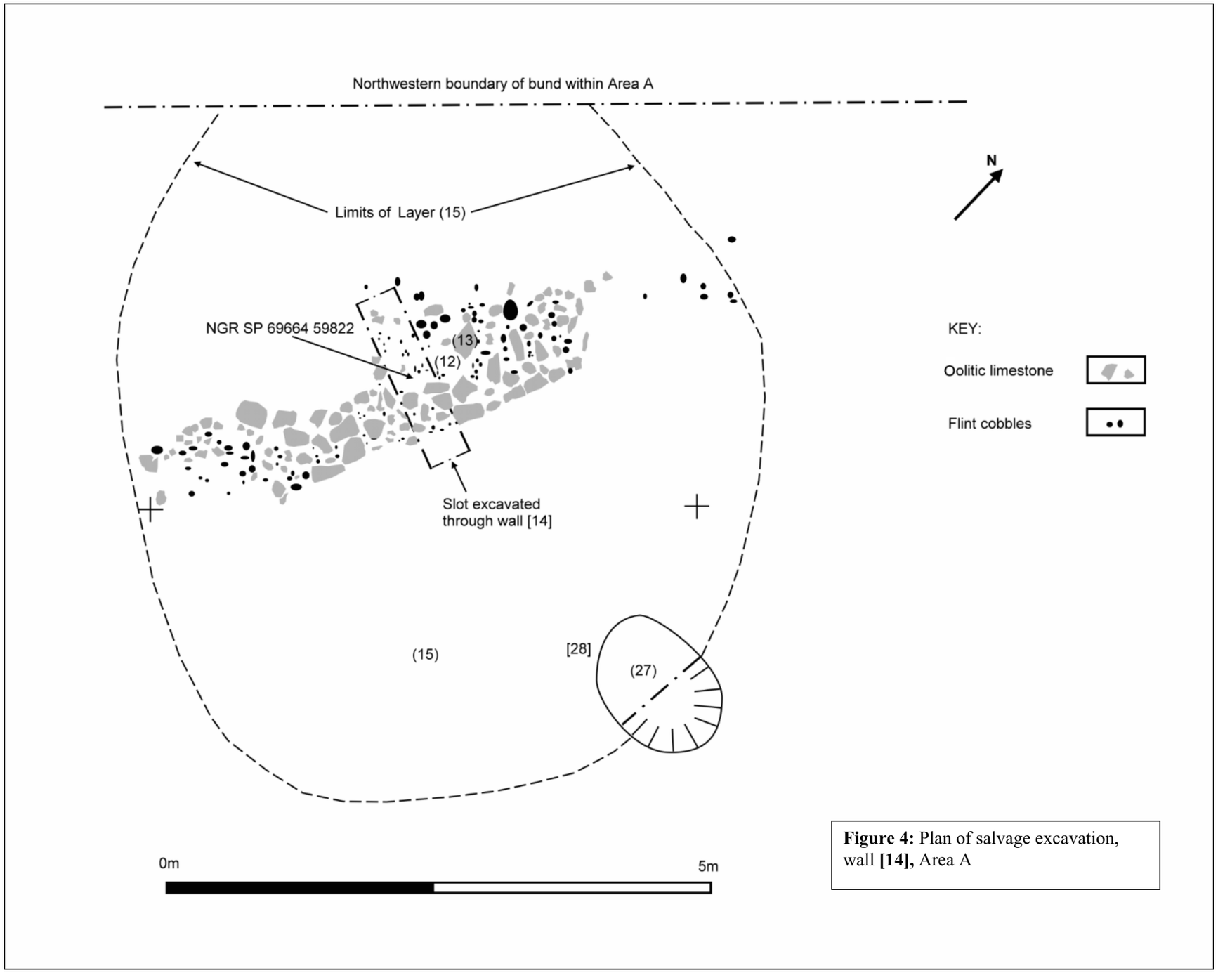

Figure 4: Plan of salvage excavation, wall **[14],** Area A

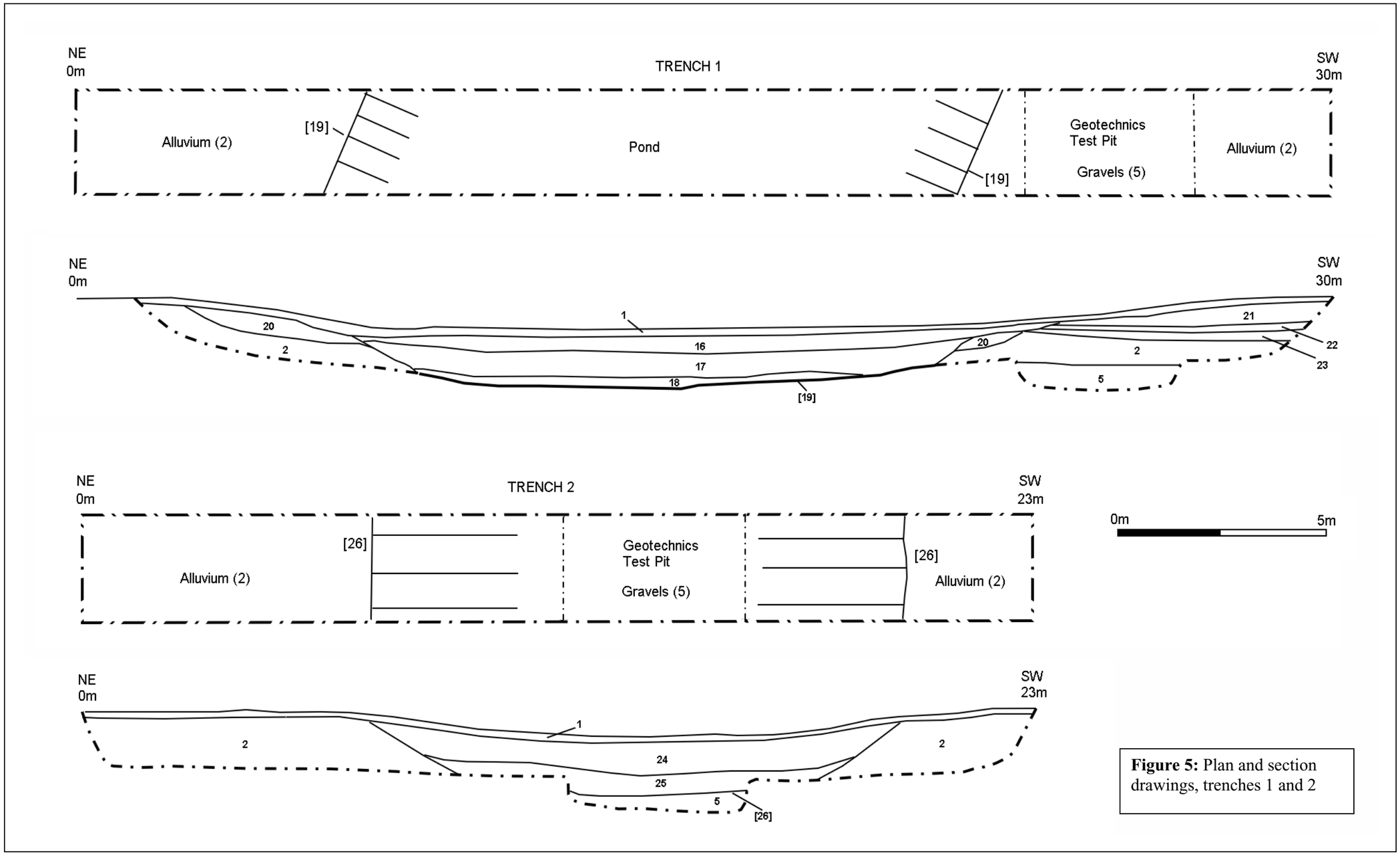

Figure 5: Plan and section drawings, trenches 1 and 2

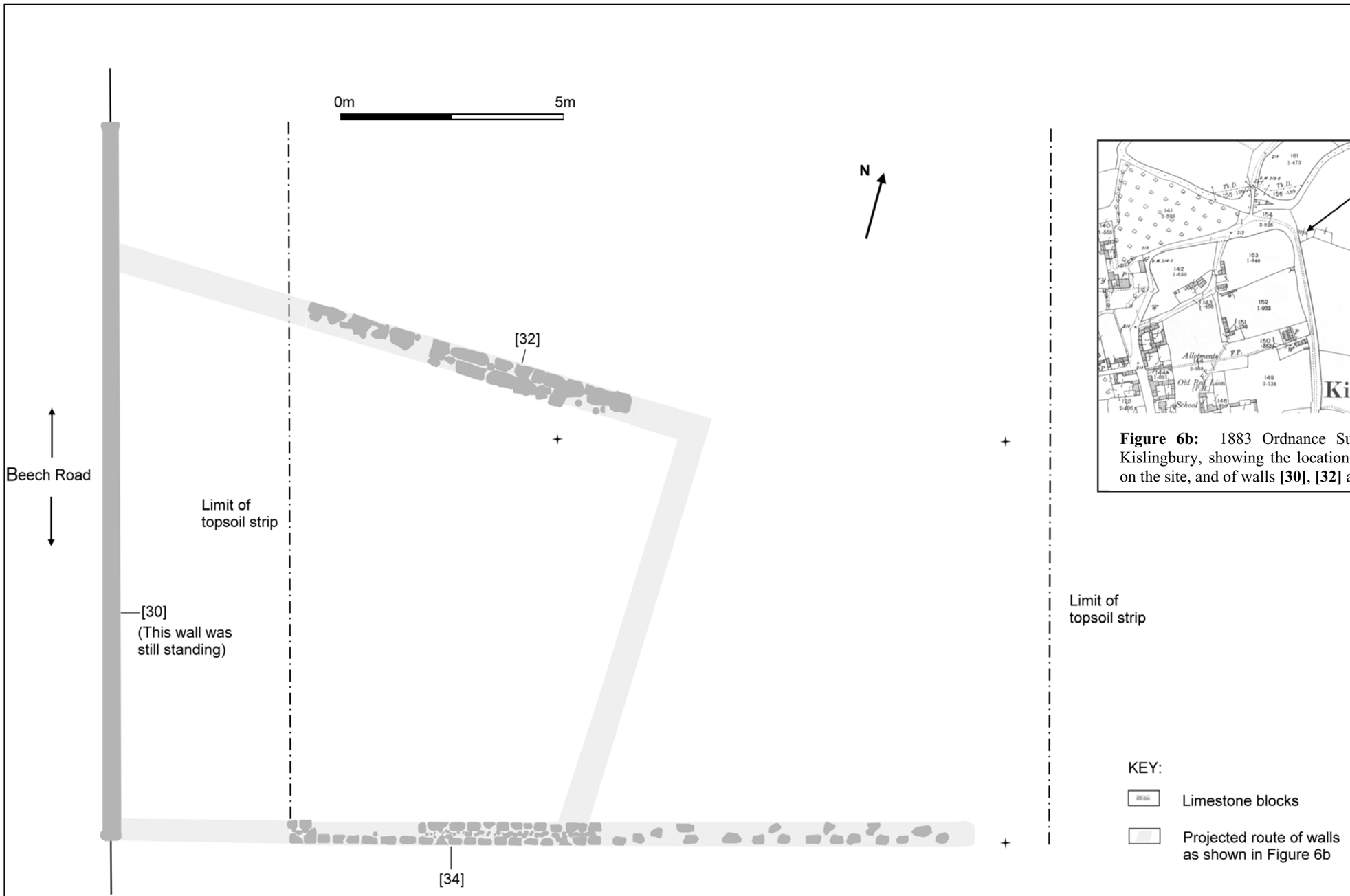

Figure 6a: Plan of walls **[30]**, **[32]** and **[34]**, Area B

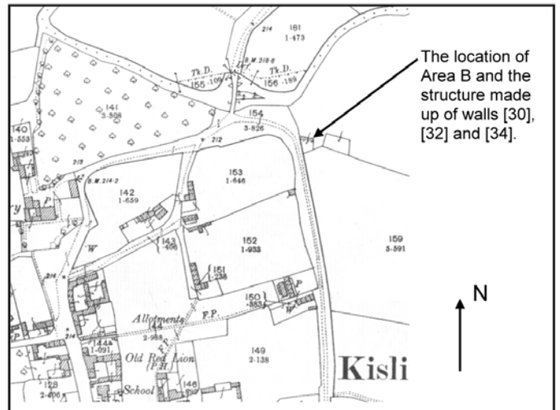

Figure 6b: 1883 Ordnance Survey Map of Kislingbury, showing the location of a structure on the site, and of walls **[30]**, **[32]** and **[34]**.

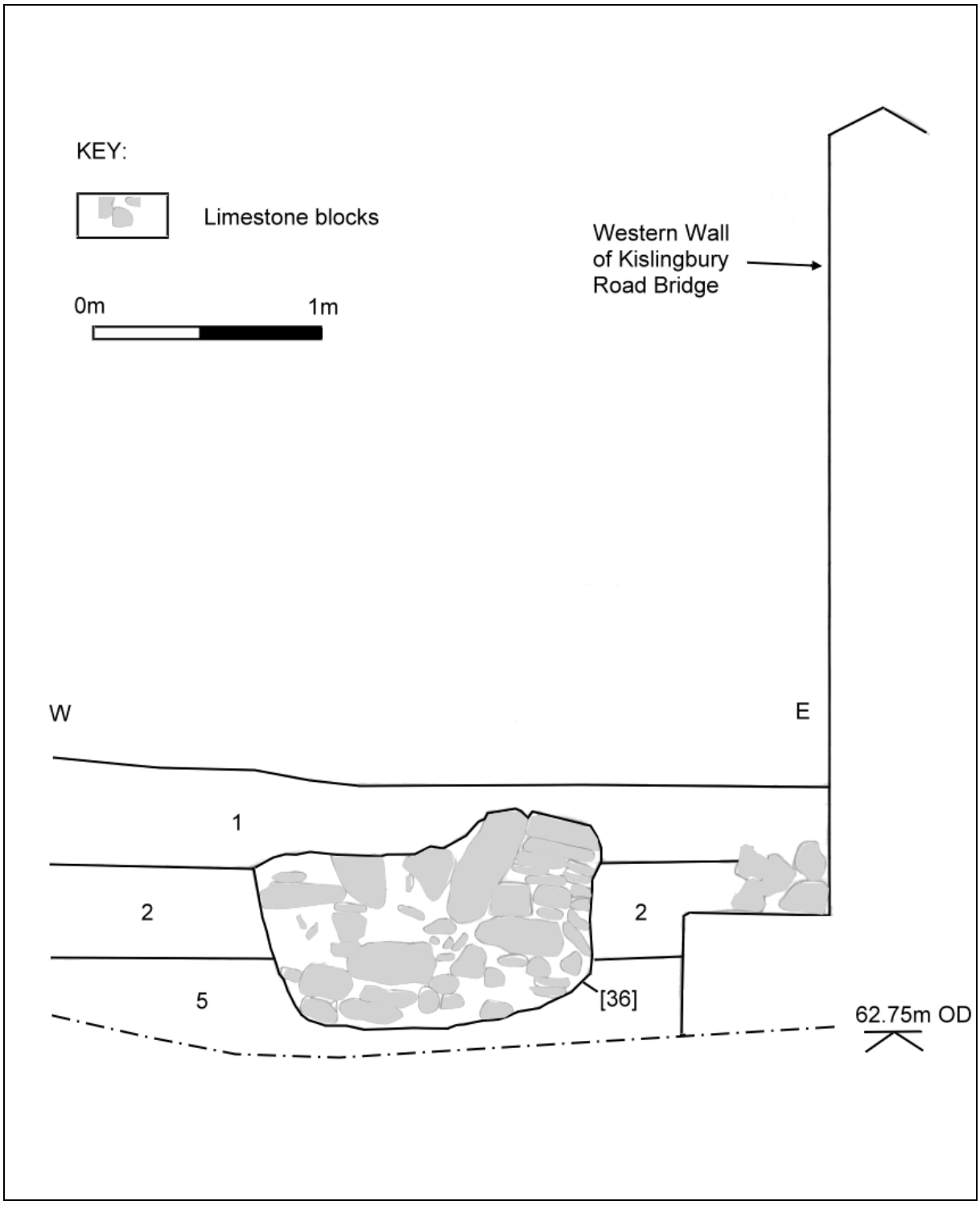

Figure 7: Section of re-instated river channel, showing wall **[36]**

5. Conclusions

5.1 The earthwork survey combined with the watching brief has significantly advanced our understanding of the archaeology contained within the development area.

5.2 By its very nature this flood defence scheme meant that the watching brief took place on the strategically important land separating the historic core of the village from the river Nene. This river was doubtless a major communication route and source of food to the inhabitants of the village during any pre-modern period. Due to the location of the development area in close proximity to the Church and core of the village, it was suspected that signs of Post-Medieval, and possibly earlier archaeology, would be observed during the project. This suspicion proved to be correct as two stretches of wall, one of which contained material indicative of nearby occupation were recorded, and the existence of a man-made fishpond was proven through the excavation of a trench across the earthwork. Three pits indicating domestic activity within close proximity were also recorded. These features were dated to the Medieval period on the basis of artefactual material, and their style of construction.

5.3 An antiquarian reference (Baker 1822-30) to a Medieval Manor House having existed northwest of the Churchyard provided the watching brief within Area A with particular significance. During the works a wall was recorded northwest of the churchyard, and occupation evidence was found in association with it. Immediately south of this wall, and also possibly associated with it, a large fishpond was recorded. Such a feature was often associated with a high status Medieval household, which used ponds to store protein rich freshwater fish as a supplement to the diet for its often wealthy inhabitants.

5.4 It cannot be said that the salvage excavation on this wall provided unequivocal proof of the location, or even the existence, of the Manor House. It did however provide the first *physical* evidence to back up the idea that a Medieval building, possibly a Manor House existed at this location.

5.5 The remains of what appears to have been part of a bridge were recorded immediately west of the current Kislingbury road bridge. No dating material was available for this structure. However, the bridge is thought to date to the 16th century. Therefore it is possible that this earlier structure was Medieval in date.

5.6 The remains of three walls associated with a Post-Medieval barn were recorded east of the village. The platform of a second structure and the earthworks of a boundary ditch and well preserved ridge and furrow field systems were also observed in this area adjacent to Beech Road.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Simon Spink of Edmund Nuttall Ltd for commissioning ASC to undertake this work, and for his interest in the archaeological works. Thanks are also due to Chris Russell and various other Edmund Nuttall Ltd staff for their on-site support and co-operation during the works. This facilitated the successful recording of the archaeology encountered during the works. Myk Flitcroft, Archaeological Planning Officer, Northamptonshire Heritage monitored the site on behalf of the local planning authority, South Northamptonshire District Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Abrams and Jonathan Hunn, report and illustration preparation was undertaken by Joe Abrams of ASC Ltd.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Report (this document)
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs/slides
10. Colour slides
11. B/W prints & negatives
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

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Appendix 1: Earthwork Survey

1 Introduction

Prior to any ground works taking place on the site, an earthwork survey was undertaken in order to record the location, condition and alignment of any earthworks which existed within Area A (Fig. 2). A previous survey (Welsh 1996) of this area had been carried out from vantage points in the Churchyard. This had identified several earthworks of potential historical interest. It was hoped that the ASC earthwork survey would identify whether the earthworks recorded in the earlier study were of historical interest, or natural features and also accurately record and describe all earthworks present within Area A, ahead of the groundworks associated with the flood alleviation scheme.

2 Methodology

A total station EDM was used to survey the location and extent of all the earthworks in the field. This survey was combined with a topographical survey produced by Halcrow on behalf of the Environment Agency. Together these form an interpretive survey presented in Figure 8, at a scale of 1:1250 as required in the brief (Flitcroft 2003).

A written description and interpretation was made for each earthwork. Full details of these are provided in Appendix 2. Handheld GPS and measuring tapes were used to produce supplementary plans and sketches included in the archive for this project. A photographic survey was undertaken using digital, black and white and colour slide film.

3 Results

Seventeen earthworks (Fig. 8) were recorded within the southern and northern fields which make up Area A. These can be split into seven types and are discussed below:

- Platforms
- Quarry pit/ponds
- Channels
- Bank/flood defences
- River Access
- Boundary ditches
- Modern drains

3.1 Platforms 7, 10 And 16 (Fig. 8)

Amongst the most significant earthworks recorded during the survey were platforms 10 and 16. Platform 10 was *c.*120m long x 95m wide x 1m higher than the surrounding floodplain. This formed the higher and larger of the two platforms.

Platform 16 was located immediately northeast of 10 and formed a lower terrace. It was *c.*70m long x 46m wide x 0.50m higher than the surrounding floodplain. The top

of both platforms consisted of largely flat terrain, and the gradually sloping ridge which defined the northern edge of the earthworks curved from southeast to northwest, following the bend in the river.

They were located immediately northwest of the churchyard and immediately southeast of the floodplain for the river. The fact that they were between 0.50m and 1.00m higher than the floodplain makes them potentially very important, as they would have been the only pieces of land within Area A which would have remained dry during *most* seasonal floods. This would have made them attractive for settlement purposes.

It is possible that the natural topography was slightly higher at these points. However, some landscaping is clearly visible on the northwestern ridges of both platforms. This indicates that the value of the platforms as flood defences has clearly been recognised, and accentuated, by previous inhabitants of the village. A line of mature trees along the ridge again demarcates the ridge as a boundary between the river, its immediate floodplain, and the higher, drier ground occupied by platforms 10 and 16. It is also interesting to note that the opposite side of the river has a very gradual, flat slope away from the river, possibly because any efforts at flood defence within the village have been targeted on the south side of the river close to the historic core.

Platform 7 was located within quarry pit 6 (below) in the southern field. This earthwork was 17.00m long x 12.00m wide (northern end) 4.00m wide (southern end) and 0.50m high and trapezoidal in shape. The sides sloped gradually and merged with the base of 6. This platform is considered to be of less significance than those discussed above, primarily because it is located at the base of a relatively large quarry pit and therefore on low-lying land in an area which is/was subject to seasonal flooding, therefore it is extremely unlikely to have been used for settlement purposes. It is suggested that this feature is part of the quarry pit, perhaps an area which was not fully excavated.

3.2 Quarry Pits/Ponds 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 And 17 (Fig. 8)

Two sub-rectangular earthworks (13 and 17), likely to have been ponds, were recorded in the northern field. Pond 13 was located in the southwestern part of platform 10: the northern end of the earthwork measured *c.*33.00m long x 14.00m wide x 1.00m deep. On the southeastern corner of the earthwork was an irregular depression measuring *c.*14.50m long x 10.00m wide x 0.50m deep.

Pond 17 was located *c.*50.00m north of platform 16. This earthwork consisted of a rectangular pond at its eastern end which measured 20.00m long x 18.00m wide x 1.00m deep. The western part of the earthwork was a curvilinear channel measuring *c.*65.00m long x 8.00m wide x 0.50m deep. This earthwork was outside Area A, but was recorded because of the similarities it shared in morphology and probably in function to other earthworks within Area A, particularly pond 13.

It is considered likely that both ponds 13 and 17 are contemporary with platforms 10 and 16. Pond 13 is located within the platform area and would therefore have been ideal for storage of fish and as a landscape feature close to the site of any settlement which may have existed on the platform area. Pond 17 with its associated curvilinear

channel possessed the same east-west curve as the northern ridge of 16, to the south and the river to the north. It seems likely that both features mirrored the curve of the river as they were intended to stem the seasonal floodwaters which affected this piece of land, one by storing water in a channel and pond, and one forming a ridge above which the majority of floodwaters would not rise.

Two earthworks, likely to have been quarry pits or ponds, were recorded in the southern field. Pit 8 was circular in shape and measured 16.00m in diameter x 0.60m deep. Immediately north of this was pit 9, also circular in shape, this measured 15.00m in diameter x 0.80m deep. Both features were immediately southwest of the churchyard.

Earthwork 6 was located in the southern field on the eastern boundary with a line of Post-Medieval houses. It was semi-circular in shape and measured 51.00m long x 45.00m wide x 1.00m deep. This was a large pit, likely to have been the result of quarrying. It is suggested that the material from 6 has been re-deposited in the gardens of the properties bordering Area A, which are *c.*1.00m higher than the land within it. Having a raised garden is often a form of flood defence, particularly in locations as close to a river course as this field.

A very similar earthwork (12) was recorded in the northern field. Again this bordered a Post-Medieval property with a raised garden, and again it is suggested that 12 is a large shallow quarry pit. Quarry pit 12 was irregular in shape and measured *c.*65.00m long x 35.00m wide x 0.50m deep.

3.3 Channels 4 And 14 (Fig. 8)

Two channels were recorded (4) in the southern field and (14) in the northern field. Both can be described as meandering curvilinear earthworks with gradually sloping sides. Channel 4 was *c.*100m long x 11.00m wide x 1.00m deep, wheras channel 14 was *c.*60m long x 12.50m wide x 0.60m deep.

It is suggested that both earthworks are in fact part of the same channel which has been partially backfilled in the centre of Area A, where two lines of trees and a fence separate the southern and northern fields. It seems likely that 4 and 14 are the remnant of a former river channel, perhaps secondary to the present course of the river or perhaps only seasonally in use. It is not clear when this river course was last in use but neither earthwork is thought to have been the result of human action.

3.4 Bank/Flood Defence 3 And 11 (Fig. 8)

Two bank earthworks were recorded, one in the southern field (3), the other in the northern field (11). Bank 3 was c.70.00m long x 9.00m wide x 1.00m high. This was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and ran parallel to a line of Post-Medieval property boundaries which bordered the southeastern part of the southern field. It is very likely that this bank was constructed in order to act as a flood defence to these properties which lie very close to the river.

Bank 11 measured 5.00m long x 3.00m wide x 0.50m high. It formed a bridge across a depression located in the northeastern part of the site, and may have been constructed to provide access to the central part of Area A.

3.5 River Access 1 (Fig. 8)

Earthwork 1 was located immediately adjacent to the river and is likely to have been formed through the repeated trampling of livestock gaining access to the river. This sub-circular depression measured 8.00m diameter x 0.70m deep, and contained numerous hoofprints belonging to the sheep which currently use the field.

Earthwork 2 lies immediately east of 1 and was an L-shaped slope leading down towards the river. It seems likely that this has also been formed by the repeated passage of livestock to the river.

3.6 Boundary Ditch 15 (Fig. 8)

One boundary ditch (15) was recorded separating the northern and southern fields. This was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 60.00m long x 7.50m wide x 1.00m deep. A wooden fence was located on its southwestern edge and a line of mature trees were present in the base of this ditch, intended to accentuate the boundary. Clearly 15 is a property boundary designed to separate the two fields, and is likely to date from the Post-Medieval period.

3.7 Modern Drain 5 (Fig. 8)

Two modern drain covers (5) and an outlet into the river were visible in the southern field. These were recorded as they represent the 20th century continuation of earlier preoccupations with drainage and use of the river. Also it was considered highly likely that they would be picked up during the watching brief.

4 Discussion

It has been possible to categorise and group together the earthworks recorded during this survey and assign tentative dates to their likely periods of construction and use, details of which are given below. However, it should be noted that no physical remains were available to support these dates when this earthwork survey was carried out.

4.1 *Medieval Earthworks*

It seems likely that the land within Area A has been used by inhabitants of the village ever since its origins. It is located immediately adjacent to the river, no doubt an important trade and communication route and a source of food throughout the ages. Therefore it is possible that some of the earthworks which survive on this land may date to the Medieval period, and possibly earlier.

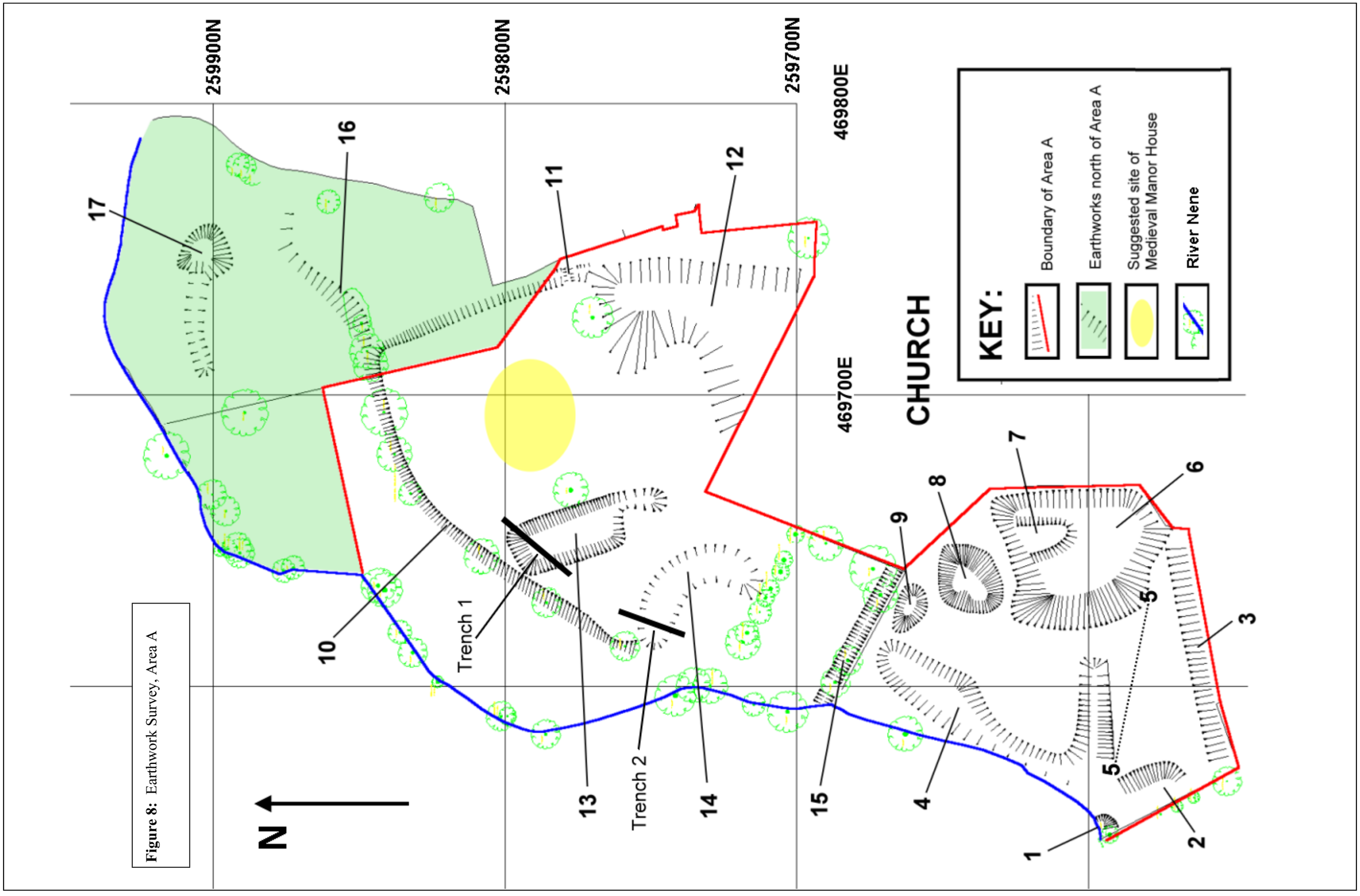

Figure 8: Earthwork Survey, Area A

It is interesting to note that an antiquarian writing in the 19th century (Baker 1822-30) suggested that a medieval manorial site was located in Hall Close, northwest of the churchyard. Platforms 10, 16 and pond 13 are all located immediately northwest of the churchyard on the only piece of raised and therefore habitable ground between the church and the river. It is therefore likely that this is the site to which Baker refers.

Platforms 10 and 16 and ponds 13 and 17 are likely to be contemporary (section 3.2). It is suggested that platforms 10 and 16 may have served as the ideal piece of raised, flat ground upon which to construct a manor house. Here it would have been close to the church, with a commanding view of and access to the river. Pond 13 may have served as an ideal place to store fresh fish, a common addition to Medieval Manor houses, and pond and channel 17 may have served as an outer flood defence to the north of the manor house.

Ponds 8 and 9 may also date to the Medieval period. Ponds of these dimensions were relatively common in Medieval villages, and it would not be unusual to find examples such as these on land between the river and the core of the village.

4.2 *Post-Medieval Earthworks*

Other earthworks at the site appear to be related to more recent activities. In particular quarry pits 6 and 12 have been used to provide material for raising the level of gardens immediately east of the site. Similarly, bank 3 serves as a flood defence for Post-Medieval properties to the southeast of Area A. Clearly these defences would only have been required after the construction of the houses and gardens and therefore all these earthworks are Post-Medieval in origin.

4.3 *Modern Earthworks*

The problem of seasonal flooding is obviously still a concern for the inhabitants of the village, and therefore the presence of a modern drainage system (5) was not unexpected.

5 Conclusion

Following the completion of the earthwork survey it was possible to recognise the parts of Area A containing significant earthworks which were threatened by the course of the Flood Alleviation scheme. Clearly earthworks 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (Fig. 8) were located on land which would be directly affected by the groundworks associated with the scheme.

Of these earthworks platforms 10 and 16 and pond 13 were considered to be potentially the most significant, possibly part of a Medieval Manorial complex.

Appendix 2: Earthwork Summary Tables

Earthwork 1				
Shape in plan:	Sub circular			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
-	-	8.00m	-	0.70m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69547 59590			
Interpretation:				
The river Nene is located immediately west of this earthwork, which represents the easiest point of access to the river within Area A. The large quantity of sheep hoof prints which mark this area suggest that this is a watering point, the continuous use of this area may have caused the formation of a depression at this point.				
	Earthwork 1, facing southwest			

Earthwork 2				
Shape in plan:	L-shaped slope/ridge aligned northwest to southeast.			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
24.00m	7.00m	-	-	1.30m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69567 59586			
Interpretation:				
Located immediately northwest and downslope of the farm gate towards the river. The floodplain to the south of 2) is at the same level as the base of 2). This suggests that the ridge of 2) is possibly banked material used to raise the ground level slightly above the average flood level.				
	Earthwork 2, facing southeast			

Earthwork 3				
Shape in plan:	Linear bank aligned east-north-east to west-south-west slopes gradually to the south.			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
c.70.00m	9.00m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69616 59575			
Interpretation:				
Linear bank which starts close to the farm gate and runs parallel to the adjacent property boundaries. Most likely a flood defence related to surrounding properties. The gardens in these properties are raised to the same level as the bank this would cause the lower part of 3) to hold water e.g. like a drainage ditch during wet periods.				
	Earthwork 3, facing east			

Earthwork 4				
Shape in plan:	Curvilinear channel			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
c.100.00m	11.00m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69581 59632			
Interpretation:				
Initially this has the appearance of an old river course or channel. However, it is also possible that this has been excavated in order to channel water away from the higher ground towards the river in order to drain the field.				
	Earthwork 4, facing southeast			

Earthwork 5				
Shape in plan:	Two circular drain covers			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
-	-	-	-	-
NGR Co-ordinates:	Eastern cover SP 69641 59581 Western cover SP 69570 59589			
Interpretation:				
The alignment of these was not apparent as an earthwork, however they were recorded as examples of how drainage has continued to be a theme during the modern period.				

Earthwork 6				
Shape in plan:	Semi-circular			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
c.51.00m	45.00m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69650 59600			
Interpretation:				
It is very apparent that gardens in adjacent properties have been raised. Is this a borrow pit? It would have been the most convenient location to get material from.				
	Earthwork 6, facing northeast			

Earthwork 7				
Shape in plan:	Trapezoidal			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
17.00m	12.00m (north) 4.00m (south)	-	-	0.50m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69650 59630			
Interpretation:				
The trapezoidal shape of 7 and its location in a medieval village would sometimes lead one to suspect that it was a house platform. However, in this case it is located at the base of a large depression close to a river and is not in an ideal location for a house.				

Earthwork 8				
Shape in plan:	Circular			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
16.00m	-	-	-	0.60m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69640 59647			
Interpretation:				
This may have been a pond or a smaller version of the quarry pit 6, used to raise the level of the adjacent churchyard to the northeast. The churchyard is noticeably higher than the land within the survey area.				
	Earthwork 8, facing north			

Earthwork 9				
Shape in plan:	Circular			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
-	-	15.00m	-	0.80m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69630 59661			
Interpretation:				
Possible pond or borrow pit used to raise the ground level in the church northeast to the same level as earthworks 8 and 6.				

Earthwork 9, facing north

Earthwork 10				
Shape in plan:	Sub-triangular			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
c.120.00m	95.00m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69793 59775			
Interpretation:				

Possibly the most significant of all the earthworks, this is a broadly flat platform, possibly for a Medieval Manor house (19th century antiquarian Baker – suggests the manor house existed northwest of the church. This platform and the associated pond 13 are northwest of the church, and are the most likely earthworks to be associated with a medieval manor house.

The river would have been an important trade and communication route, especially for giving access to nearby Northampton. Making this an ideal location.

The pond may have been used for fish storage. The curve of 10 and platform 16 follow the curve of the river at this point.

Earthwork 10, facing northeast

Earthwork 11				
Shape in plan:	Linear bank			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
5.00m	3.00m	-	-	0.50m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69735 59778			
Interpretation:				
Appears to form a bank/bridge across the ridge surrounding platform 10, post-dates platform 10, and is likely to have been constructed relatively recently in order to give access to the field when ground is wet.				

Earthwork 12				
Shape in plan:	Irregular depression			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
65.00m	35.00m	-	-	0.50m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69753 59737			
Interpretation:				
This may be a borrow pit used to raise the level of the surrounding gardens and thus protect them from floodwaters. Possibly also had a similar function to 6, 8 and 9 in the other field.				
	Earthwork 12, facing north.			

Earthwork 13				
Shape in plan:	Rectangular pond			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
33.00m	14.00m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69652 59781			
Interpretation:				

The base of this earthwork is rectangular and Ordnance Datum Levels taken in each corner show that it is perfectly flat. This earthwork is striking amongst those recorded in Area A as it has such squared corners.

This is likely to have been a pond possibly for the storage of fish.

Base dimensions were 10.00m long x 29.00m wide x 1.00m deep.

Earthwork 13, facing north

Earthwork 14				
Shape in plan:	Curvilinear channel			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
60.00m	12.50m	-	-	0.60m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69645 59746			
Interpretation:				

Curvilinear channel similar to 4 c.30m to the south could be the course of an old river channel/paleochannel.

Earthwork 14, facing west

Earthwork 15				
Shape in plan:	Ditch aligned northeast to southwest			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
60.00m	7.50m	-	-	1.00m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69636 59680			
Interpretation:				
Ditch aligned at right angle to the river, trees planted along it suggest that it is a property boundary and drainage ditch. Would be at least 200 years old judging by size/quantity and variety of trees.				

Earthwork 15, facing southwest

Earthwork 16				
Shape in plan:	Irregular curved platform			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
70.00m	46.00m	-	-	0.50m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69769 59869			
Interpretation:				

This appears to have been a second outer platform and ridge. It is located north of platform 10 and is slightly lower. It lies c.0.70m lower than platform 10.

Feature 17 to the north of 16 shares its broadly east west curve is 17 an outer defence to 16. The shared curves may also suggest that both earthworks are contemporary.

Earthwork 16, facing south

Earthwork 17				
Shape in plan:	Curvilinear ditch with rectangular pond on eastern end			
Dimensions:				
Length	**Width**	**Diameter**	**Height**	**Depth**
65.00m	8.00m	-	-	0.50m
NGR Co-ordinates:	SP 69751 59904			
Interpretation:				

This is a possible outer flood defence for platforms 10 and 16.

The east-west alignment of 17 and the curve of the northern ridge of 10 and 16 suggest that all three may be contemporary.

Earthwork 17, facing northwest

Appendix 3: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
1	Layer	Topsoil, mid brown, silty sand, hard, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional pieces of squared oolitic limestone (building material), coke, fragments of horsehoe's and 20th century glazed pottery.			0.30m
2	Layer	Subsoil, brown-ish mid orange silty clay, firm, moderate charcoal pieces, moderate pieces of squared oolitic limestone (building material), moderately frequent seams of flint cobbles within (2). Pottery sherds and animal bone.			0.30m
3	Fill	Fill of **[4]**. Orange ironstone in a single depth regular coursed style of brickwork.	13.00m	0.40m	0.10m
[4]	Cut	Linear shaped drain cut, aligned north-south, vertical sides, base not excavated. Contained a ceramic land drain.	13.00m	0.40m	0.10m
5	Layer	Natural subsoil. Mid orange silt/coarse sand, seams of gravel, and occasional lenses of peat. Firm.			
6	Fill	Fill of **[7]**. Dark brown silty clay, firm, squared oolitic limestone slabs 200mm L x 100mm W x 50mm D. Blocks are arranged in a random coursed style. Post-Medieval pottery and glass were recovered.	12.00m	1.10m	0.10m
[7]	Cut	Wall. Aligned north-south. Likely to have been a boundary wall. Its alignment is almost identical to the current property boundary marked by a metal fence *c.*20m south of this point. ***SP 69765 59851***	12.00m	1.10m	0.10m
8	Fill	Fill of **[9]**. Black silty clay, firm, contains occasional pieces of burnt stone. Contained sherds of pottery. Medieval pottery sherds.	0.60m	0.50m	0.08m
[9]	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular shape in plan, irregular slightly concave sides and base. Medieval pottery sherds and animal bone recovered.	0.60m	0.50m	0.08m
10	Fill	Fill of **[11]**. Black fine sand, friable, one lens of orange gravel measuring 1m long x 10mm deep, and one lens of burnt pink clay measuring 1m long x 10mm deep. This fill appears to be made up of burnt material, although the lack of burning in the base suggests that this may not have taken place within the pit, rather the burnt material was deposited in it at a later date. Contained sherds of pottery.	1.10m	1.00m	0.17m
[11]	Cut	Pit. Sub-circular shape in plan, gradual sloping concave sides, irregular base. Contained sherds of pottery. ***SP 69579 59612***	1.10m	1.00m	0.17m
12	Fill	Fill of **[14]**. Mid brown fine sand, firm, contained four boar tusks.	4.40m	1.10m	0.10m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
13	Fill	Fill of **[14]**. Made up of two types of stone. Light yellow Oolitic Limestone blocks 0.30m L x 0.15m W x 0.08m D. These had been squared and were similar to many of the other Oolitic limestone blocks encountered during the watching brief on Area A. Purple flint cobbles 0.10m Diameter. These two types of stone were arranged in a random un-coursed style. The wall was aligned north-east-north and south-west-south. No mortar had been used. Pieces of animal bone were recovered.	4.40m	1.10m	0.25m
[14]	Cut	Drystone wall. Rectangular shape in plan, vertical sides, aligned north-east-north to south-west-south. ***SP 69664 59822***	4.40m	1.10m	0.25m
15	Layer	Occupation layer. Purple-ish mid brown fine sand/silt, firm, containing occasional blocks of Oolitic limestone and pebbles. Pieces of animal bone were observed throughout this deposit. Typical of an occupation layer, suggesting wall **[14]** may have been part of a domestic structure rather than a boundary wall. This layer was same as (12).	7.00m diameter		0.10m
16	Fill	Fill of **[19].** Mid brown silty clay. No finds		16.50m	0.40m
17	Fill	Fill of **[19].** Orange-ish light grey clay, plastic, contained fragments of shell, charcoal and waterlogged twigs, possibly the base of reeds. Clay can be used as a waterproofing layer in the sides and base of a pond. No finds.		15.00m	0.60m
18	Fill	Fill of **[19].** Black clay, plastic, no finds.		11.00m	0.25m
[19]	Cut	Pond – earthwork 13. Rectangular shape in plan, concave sides, flat base, aligned northwest – southeast. ***SP 69649 59797***		16.50m	1.25m
20	Fill	Fill of **[19]**. Mid brown fine sand, firm, contains occasional pieces of charcoal.		4.50m	0.50m
21	Layer	Orange-ish mid brown silt, firm, moderate rounded pebbles.		6.00m	0.20m
22	Layer	Black silty sand, firm, occasional Oolitic limestone rectangular slabs, moderate charcoal fragments.		6.50m	0.50m
23	Layer	Mid brown silty sand, firm, occasional medium pebbles and gravel.		6.50m	0.25m
24	Fill	Fill of **[26]**. Mid orange silty clay, firm.		13.00m	0.75m
25	Fill	Fill of **[26]**. Black-ish grey clay, firm.		10.50m	0.50m
[26]	Cut	Paleochannel – earthwork 14. Linear shape in plan, gradual sloping concave sides, flat base, aligned northwest – southeast. ***SP 69619 59753***		13.00m	1.30m
27	Fill	Fill of **[28]**. Purple-ish dark brown clay, firm, occasional pebbles. No finds	1.30m	0.98m	0.20m
[28]	Cut	Oval shape in plan, rounded corners, slightly concave sloping sides, slightly concave base, aligned east-west. ***SP 69668 59801***	1.30m	0.98m	0.20m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
29	Fill	Fill of **[30]**. Light yellow limestone blocks measuring 250mm L x 170mm W x 100mm D and grey sandy yellow concrete mortar. This is the masonry and mortar which make-up wall **[30]**.	16.00m	0.45m	1.30m
[30]	Cut	Linear shape in plan, square corners, vertical sides, aligned east-west. This has been built in a regular, uneven coursed construction style. ***SP 70041 59781***	16.00m	0.45m	1.30m
31	Fill	Fill of **[32]**. White/light yellow limestone boulders measuring 750mm L x 300mm W x 150mm D, these are sub-angular in shape. No mortar was used as a bond.	7.50m	0.60m	
[32]	Cut	Linear shape in plan, rounded irregular corners. Aligned east-west. This was built in a boulder construction style. ***SP 70047 59793***	7.50m	0.60m	
33	Fill	Fill of **[34]**. Orange/light yellow ironstone blocks measuring 400mm L x 150mm W x 150mm D, these are sub-rectangular in shape. Yellow sandy mortar was used.	15.00m	0.50m	
[34]	Cut	Linear shape in plan, square corners. Aligned south-west-south to north-east-north. This has been built in a regular uneven coursed construction style. ***SP 70053 59781***	15.00m	0.50m	
35	Fill	Fill of **[36]**. Sub angular Orange/light yellow ironstone boulders and white/light yellow limestone boulders. 400mm L x 200mm W x 200mm D. Mid brown clay was used to bond these boulders.		1.50m	0.95m
[36]	Cut	Only visible in section, aligned north-south, near vertical sides, concave base. The wall/foundation material in **[36]** was built in a random uncoursed construction style. ***SP 69965 59849***		1.50m	0.95m

Appendix 4: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type
1	4	75						
2			1	20				
2								Metal (fe) nail 30g
2								Piece of metal (fe) horseshoe 55g
2	30	260						
6	2	40						
8	2	5						
10	2	20						
12			2	30				
13			9	30				

Appendix 5: Summary Of Details From Field Monitoring Sheets

Date	Observations	Comments
27 May 2003	Observed topsoil strip north of Area A, this cut across earthwork 17. No trace of archaeological deposits in the base of this feature, no trace of banks on either side of it. The topsoil (1), subsoil (2) and geological layer of gravels (5) revealed in this first piece of stripping were the same as those revealed across the rest of the site. See Appendix 3, for more detailed descriptions. A land drain **[4]** was recorded this had been capped with tabular slabs of Oolitic limestone. This was aligned north-south and stretched for *c.*13m. A cluster of Medieval pottery was observed within the topsoil 1 at GPS co-ordinate SP 69758 59871. There were charcoal flecks and pieces of squared Oolitic Limestone (200mm L x 120mm W x 50mm D) in association with the pottery. All are suggestive of nearby occupation, perhaps even on this spot, but at a lower depth that the groundworks are needing to go. Thus this was recorded as a hotspot. The masonry would be of the type expected in Medieval or Post-Medieval buildings in this area. Topsoil stripping across the boundary/drainage ditch which forms the dividing line between the flood wall and the flood bund did not reveal the full depth of this feature. This ditch is likely to be Post-Medieval and possibly Medieval in date. Currently it is aligned northeast – southwest and its dimensions are 30m + L x 4m W x 0.70m D. It may well preserve high quality environmental remains. Stripping moved south to earthwork 16 (platform) this revealed that topsoil and subsoil were deeper within this area than to the north of it. This suggests that earthwork 16 is not a part of the natural topography, rather it is the result of material being banked up in order to create a raised platform. A second hotspot, this time consisting of *c.*30 pieces of squared Oolitic limestone was recorded at SP 69740 59854. This material was within the topsoil and was not bonded in any way. However, this quantity of structural type masonry would indicate that a building may have stood on or near this location. The masonry would be of the type expected in Medieval or Post-Medieval buildings in this area. Again ground works in this area were not going to go any deeper, therefore this had to be recorded as a cluster and could not be investigated further.	Works today were to provide access for plant and later for lorries into Area A – the largest stretch of the flood defence bund.
28 May 2003	Watched topsoil stripping on the northernmost part of Area A, rough job, strip only went down to subsoil (2). No archaeological features were observed. Stripping ceased after 20m as the fence defining Area A was in the wrong place. Watched topsoil stripping on the northernmost part of the southern field Area A. Stripping worked south from earthwork 15 (Figure 8). Stripping revealed natural gravels in the base of earthwork 4. It is suggested that this was a paleochannel.	a meeting between myself (on behalf of ASC), Simon Spink (Nuttalls) and Myk Flitcroft (Northamptonshire Heritage). The result was that Myk agreed that this was a deviation from the agreed project design, but in the circumstances (the development did not need to go

Date	Observations	Comments
28 May 2003	Alluvium (2) was revealed in the remainder of the stripping in this area. A pit **[11]** was excavated in the southern part of Area A south field (Fig. 3). Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this pit.	as deep as the gravels) then we could continue only stripping to the surface of the alluvium. In order to optimise the retrieval of archaeological information, two trenches should be excavated one across earthwork 13 and one across earthwork 14. Myk agreed to write a letter which would confirm the above and post this on to ASC and Nuttalls.
29 May 2003	Observed topsoil stripping in the sheep farm area to the south of Area A. This revealed gravels (5) and subsoil (2) alluvium. No archaeology observed, only the bases of bonfires and disturbance caused by tree roots was visible. Observed topsoil strip in the southern part of Area A northern field (Fig. 3). This was the piece of land adjacent to the churchyard. No archaeology observed. Several pieces of 19th century willow pattern pottery were observed within the topsoil. Observed the excavation of the footings for the flood wall in the centre of the site, north of houses and west of road bridge into the village. This revealed that the gardens and houses had been constructed on made ground. The topsoil was 0.3m deep below which was a yellow/brown clay subsoil mixture 0.7m deep. This was made ground, below this was the original topsoil (1), and below this was subsoil (2). This stratigraphic sequence continued for the length of the footings trench. The footings trench was 3.00m W x 1.30m deep (Fig. 3).	I agreed with Chris Russell that the excavation of trenches 1 and 2 across earthworks 13 and 14 would take place on Monday 2 June 2003.
30 May 2003	Observed topsoil stripping in the central part of Area A, north field. This revealed a significant length of wall. This was feature **[14]** and a significant quantity of squared Oolitic Limestone blocks were observed in the topsoil around this structure, suggesting they may once have been part of it. This wall is due north of the church – Is it part of the Manor house mentioned by Baker 1822-30), as being north of the church? Or is it part of a boundary wall associated with the house? The subsoil within earthwork 10 is deeper than that recorded north and south of it. This may suggest that this material has been banked up artificially in order to raise it above the floodplain immediately north and west of it.	Jon Hunn visited the site to discuss the implications of wall **[14]**, and begin recording it. A range of figures was faxed through to the site office in order to give an idea of the price range for the excavation of wall **[14]**.
2 June 2003	Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated today. This confirmed that earthwork 13 (Trench 1) was a pond **[19]** and earthwork 14 (Trench 2) was a paleochannel **[26]**. Excavation and recording of wall **[14]** took place today.	Myk Flitcroft visited the site again to day in order to monitor the excavation and recording of wall **[14]** and trenches 1 and 2.
3 June 2003	Excavation and recording of wall **[14]** and associated features concluded today. Observed topsoil stripping across the remainder of earthwork 13,	After today the watching brief will become intermittent as Area A has now been stripped. The next constant watching

Date	Observations	Comments
3 June 2003	this revealed that the base of this feature was noticeably damper than the surrounding land. No archaeological deposits were revealed as only topsoil was removed. Monitored the continuing excavation of footings for the floodwall in the centre of the site. This revealed no archaeology. It is unlikely to as the footings are between 1 and 3 metres from the river.	brief will be on Area B on the other side of the village.
5 June 2003	Observed the excavation of the floodwall, adjacent to houses. Over 1m of topsoil/made ground was again observed in the sections of the footing trench. No archaeology observed.	Will continue the intermittent watching brief on this and other groundworks at the site.
23 June 2003	Observed the stripping of topsoil within Area B and the land to the south of it. This consisted of a strip *c.*190m long and 15m wide adjacent to Beech Road. An earthwork SMR 7009/0/1 in area B. The SMR describes this as a mound. The GPS location was SP 96335 10132. To describe the earthwork as it was during the groundworks as a mound is an overstatement. The area could only be picked out by the fact that darker grass grew over it. During topsoil stripping it became clear that rubbish and organic material had been dumped here. Of more interest was the rectangular plot *c.*30m L x 20m W. This was the remains of a 19th century Barn. A boundary ditch was observed aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Both these features are shown on the 1883 Ordnance Survey Map.	
24 June 2003	Walls **[30]**, **[32]** and **[34]** were revealed in Area B. The day was spent cleaning and recording these. Their alignment and dimensions match perfectly with a building shown on the 1883 ordnance survey map of Kislingbury. These are very likely to make up a 19th century barn. No other archaeology observed within this eastern part of the village.	
28 Aug 2003	Observed groundworks around Kislingbury road bridge. The re-instatement of and old river channel revealed no archaeology	Will continue the intermittent watching brief on this and other groundworks at the site.
3 Sept 2003	Groundworks to clear sludge from below the arches of the road bridge and immediately west of the same structure revealed the remains of a wall. This wall **[36]** appeared to have been the remains of an earlier bridge pre-dating the current road bridge.	
5 Sept 2003	Visited to check the remaining groundworks east of the the road bridge. No further archaeology was recorded during this visit.	
9 Sept 2003	Final visit was to check the area east of the road bridge on the south bank of the river. A large tree was removed revealing no archaeology.	Final visit.

Appendix 6: Pottery Report

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 40 sherds with a total weight of 603g. All the assemblages are early medieval or later, although a single late Saxon sherd was noted, redeposited in an early medieval context. It is a rimsherd from a small Stamford ware jar, with close affinities to Kilmurry's group 2 forms (ibid. 1980, figs 47-8), and is likely to date to the 10th or 11th centuries (ibid. fig. 29).

Generally, the range of ware types and vessel forms is fairly typical of the contemporary pottery of the region, and suggests that there was medieval occupation at the site from the earlier 12th – 14th centuries, with the possibility of a late Saxon component outside the area of these excavations. One vessel worthy of note is a near-complete pottery bottle in a shelly ware fabric (F330 – see below) which may be unique. Such bottles are known in other fabrics, such as Brill/Boarstall ware (eg Mellor 1994, fig. 55 nos. 1-16), but shelly ware examples appear to be previously unknown. It occurred in context 2, an alluvial layer. Context 2 is dated to the late 17th century or later on the basis of one abraded and not very large (11g) sherd of that date. The rest of the assemblage from the deposit is medieval, and in much better condition than the later sherd, so it is entirely possible that the post-medieval sherd is intrusive, and that the alluvium is of roughly the same date as the latest medieval activity on the site, ie later 13th – 14th century.

The stratified pottery is mostly in good condition, with little evidence of transportation or attrition before deposition.

Fabric

The late Saxon and later pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F205: Stamford ware, AD850-1250. 1 sherd, 15g.
F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 8 sherds, 242g.
F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 6g.
F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, AD1200-1600. 1 sherd, 2g.
F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, AD1225-1400. 1 sherd, 11g.
F329: Potterspury ware, AD1250-1600. 23 sherds, 241g.
F426: Iron-glazed earthenware, L17thC+. 1 sherd, 11g.
F1000: Miscellaneous 19th/20th century wares. 4 sherds, 75g.

Chronology

Each context-specific medieval pottery group was given a seriated phase-date, as shown in Table X1

Table X1: RSP Phases and Major Defining Wares for the Medieval Ceramics of Northamptonshire

RSP Phase	Defining Wares	Chronology
Ph0	Shelly Coarsewares, Sandy Coarsewares	c. AD1100-1150
Ph2/2	Potterspury Ware	c. AD1250-1300

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table X2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table X2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	F205		F330		F360		F320		F324		F329		F426		F1000		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1															4	75	19thC
2			5	233	1	6	1	11	1	2	21	204	1	11			L17thC
6											2	37					Ph2/2
8			2	6													Ph0
10	1	15	1	3													Ph0
Total	1	15	8	242	1	6	1	11	1	2	23	241	1	11	4	75	

Bibliography

Kilmurry, K, 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. c. AD850-1250* British Archaeol Rep British Ser **84**

Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

Appendix 7: Trench Summary Tables

<table>
<tr><th colspan="5">Trench 1</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">  </td><td colspan="4">Max Dimensions</td></tr>
<tr><td>Width</td><td>2.50m</td><td>Depth</td><td>30.00m</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">NGR Co-ordinates</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Northeast end of trench
SP 69644 59800</td><td colspan="2">Southwest end of trench
SP69628 59782</td></tr>
<tr><td>Orientation</td><td colspan="4">Northeast - Southwest</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason for Trench</td><td colspan="4">To gain information about earthwork 13</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Notes – Trench 1 contained Pond [19], buried layers. Full technical details of these deposits and cuts can be found in Appendix 3.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th colspan="5">Trench 2</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">  </td><td colspan="4">Max Dimensions</td></tr>
<tr><td>Width</td><td>2.50m</td><td>Depth</td><td>22.00m</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">NGR Co-ordinates</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Northeast end of trench
SP 69618 59761</td><td colspan="2">Southwest end of trench
SP 69609 59741</td></tr>
<tr><td>Orientation</td><td colspan="4">Northeast - Southwest</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason for Trench</td><td colspan="4">To gain information about earthwork 14</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Notes – Trench 2 contained Paleochannel [26]. Two deposits buried layers. Full technical details of these deposits and cuts can be found in Appendix 3.</td></tr>
</table>

Appendix 8: SMR Summary Sheet

<table>
<tr><td>SMR Record Number:</td><td>Parish:
Kislingbury</td><td>Site Name:
Kislingbury Flood Alleviation Scheme</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date of Fieldwork:
May - June 2003</td><td>Grid ref:
SP 6970 5970</td><td>Fieldworker:
Joe Abrams</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sponsor:
Edmund Nuttall Ltd</td><td colspan="2">Activity:
Watching brief and salvage excavation</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Landowner name/address:
Various n/a</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Finds location:
ASC Ltd, Letchworth House, Chesney Wold
Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE.</td><td>Finds Destination:
No Museum exists at present, therefore the finds and records will remain with ASC Ltd for the foreseeable future.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Records location:
ASC Ltd, Letchworth House, Chesney Wold
Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE.</td><td>Records Destination:
No Museum exists at present, therefore the finds and records will remain with ASC Ltd for the foreseeable future.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Finds Quantity:
1 box containing pottery, bone and metal finds.</td><td>Records Quantity:
1 box containing all paper records and a CDROM containing all the digital data.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Summary of Results:

Between May and September 2003 an earthwork survey, watching brief and salvage excavation were carried out on land surrounding the village of Kislingbury, Northamptonshire. Seventeen earthworks were identified within the study area, although only eight of these were subsequently affected by the groundworks required ahead of the development.

During the watching brief twelve archaeological features were identified. During works conducted to the west of the village the archaeology included a wall, this was considered sufficiently significant to mount a salvage excavation. As a result detailed plans of the wall were made and pieces of animal bone and boar tusks were recovered from an associated occupation layer. Other archaeology included a second stretch of wall, a fishpond and three pits, two of which contained sherds of Medieval pottery. It is suggested that all of the above were Post-Medieval and possibly Medieval in date. A paleochannel and a modern ceramic land drain were also observed in this area.

Immediately west of the Kislingbury road bridge groundworks revealed the remains of a wall. It is considered likely that this structure formed part of an earlier, possibly Medieval, bridge over the Nene.

To the east of the village the watching brief recorded the remains of a Post-Medieval building, this is very likely to have been a 19th century agricultural building.

Note – GPS was used to record the location of significant archaeology on the site. The following list supplies the National Grid Reference for all significant archaeological features.

• Wall [7] – SP 69765 59851
• Pit [11] - SP 69579 59612
• Wall [14] – SP 69664 59822
• Pond [19] - SP 69649 59797
• Wall [30] – SP 70041 59781
• Wall [32] – SP 70047 59793
• Wall [34] – SP 70053 59781
• Wall [36] – SP 69965 59849

The rectangular platform, boundary ditch and ridge and furrow earthworks recorded in the field immediately adjacent to and east of Beech Road (Area B) are earthworks outside the development which should be of historical interest to the Sites and Monuments record. The platform and boundary ditch are located at SP 7004 5979.

An earthwork recorded in the SMR as 7009/0/1 in Area B, and described as a mound, was merely and area in which the earth had been disturbed by rubbish disposal during the modern period. The area could only be picked out at all due to the darker colour and slightly raised ground in this part of the field. Topsoil stripping over this area revealed no archaeology. It is possible that the SMR referred incorrectly to the Post-Medieval barn platform referred to above, and located east of the development area.</td></tr>
</table>