

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND AT TOWCESTER RACECOURSE
TOWCESTER
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

on behalf of Fletcher King Howard Construction Consultants



Joe Abrams BA AIFA

January 2003

ASC: TRC03/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	TRC03	<i>Project no:</i>	444
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>District:</i>	South Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Towcester		
<i>Parish:</i>	Towcester CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 7061 4764		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.1.75ha		
<i>Present land use:</i>	disused rough grassland		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	New stables and parking facilities		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	S97/0108PO		
<i>Client:</i>	Fletcher King Howard Construction Consultants Queenswood 67 The Avenue Cliftonville Northampton NN1 5BT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Robert Langley		
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Internal Quality Check

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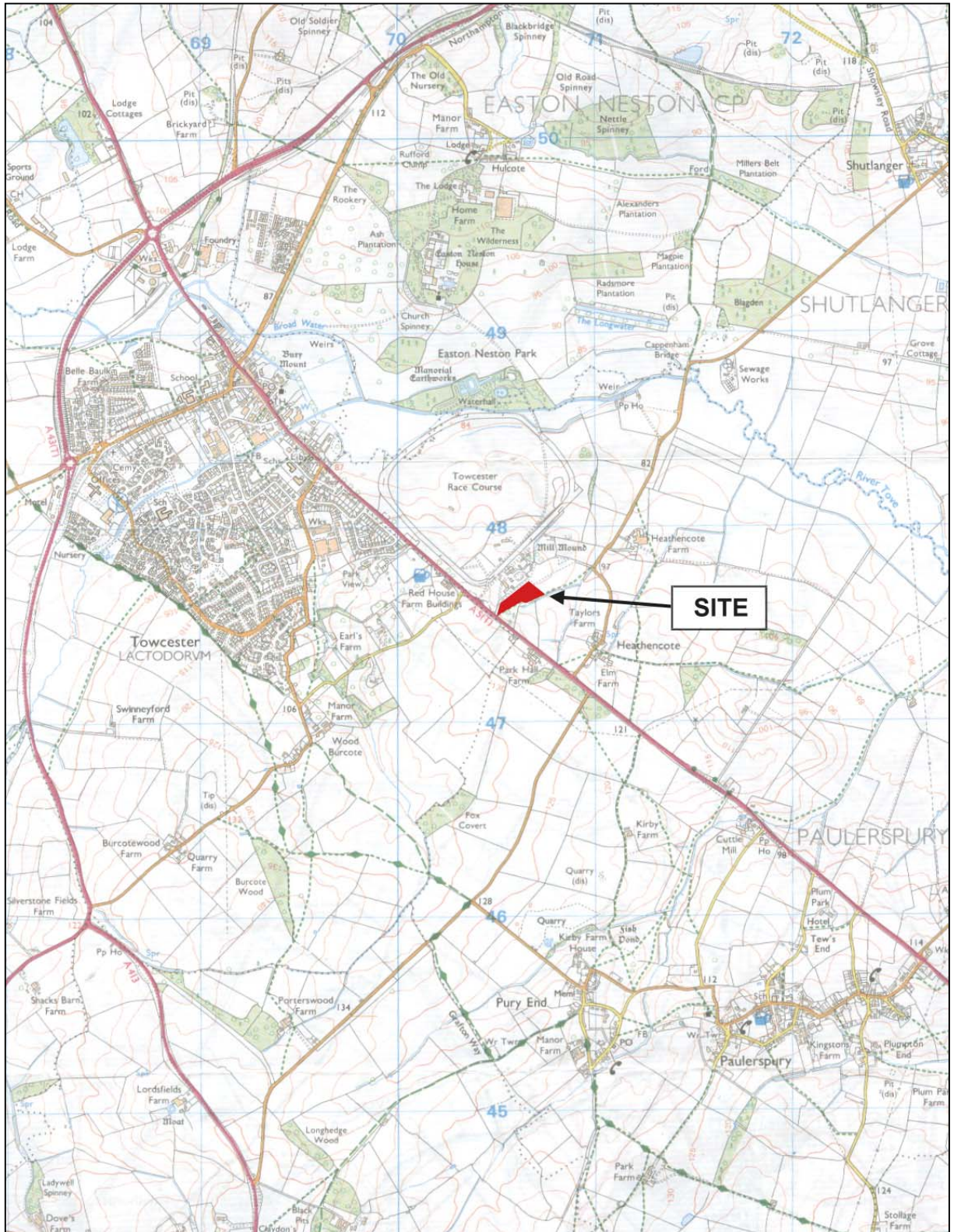


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

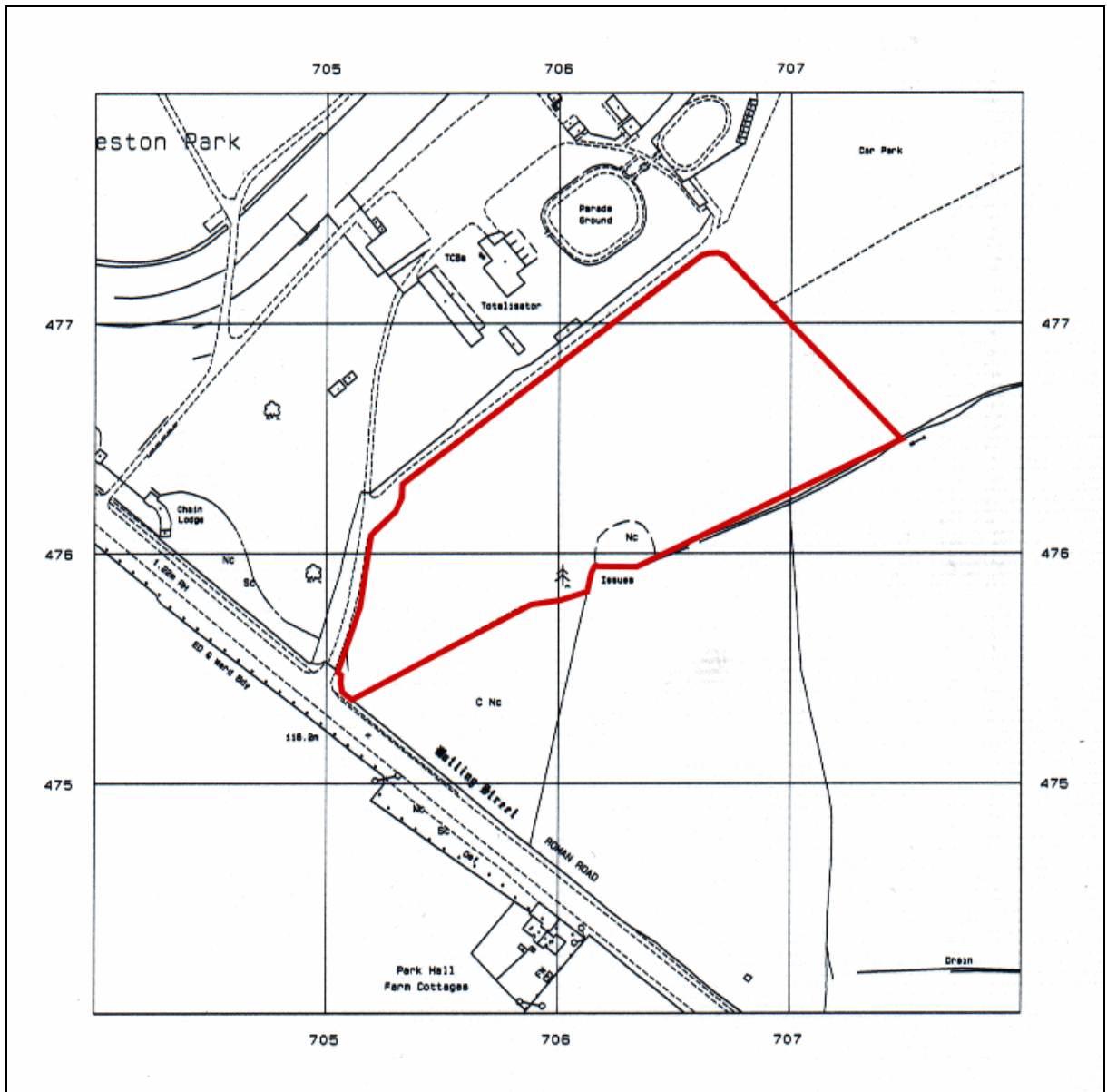


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:2500)

Summary

During January and February 2003 a watching brief and earthworks survey was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of new stables and associated parking, on land at Towcester Racecourse, near Towcester, Northamptonshire. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and three post Medieval tree stumps were recorded within the development area.

1 Introduction

1.1 During January and February 2003 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief on a site at Towcester Racecourse (NGR SP 7061 4764; Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Fletcher King Howard Construction Consultants on behalf of Towcester Racecourse Company Ltd, and was carried out according to a brief (Kidd 1997) prepared by Northamptonshire Heritage, and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Marshall 2002).

1.2 Reason for Work

The watching brief at Towcester Racecourse was commissioned in response to a PPG16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, South Northamptonshire District Council. The condition was placed due to the proximity of the development area to Towcester, the site of *Lactodorum* Roman Town, and the Roman Road known as Waling Street, which borders the racecourse to the west. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks exist on the development area, and the former boundary of the Grade II registered park of Easton Neston was located close to, and possibly within the site. It was expected that these earthworks and any archaeological remains present within the development area would have been severely damaged or destroyed by the groundworks associated with the construction of new stables and car parking area.

1.3 Setting

1.3.1 The site is a sub-rectangular shaped plot approximately 1.75ha in size. It is located *c.*1km southeast of the centre of Towcester, within the parish of Towcester CP at NGR SP 7061 4764.

1.3.2 The elevation of the site is between *c.*113m OD in the northwest, sloping to 109m OD in the southeast. The development area is bordered by the Watling Street (A51 T) to the southwest, a drainage ditch and open farmland to the southeast and by the racecourse, offices and associated green areas to the northwest and northeast.

1.3.3 The natural soils of the area are derived from clay and the underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983, 411d), described as 'slowly permeable calcerous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcerous clayey soils'. The underlying geology comprises a chalky till.

1.3.4 Access to the site is from the northwest via an access road off Watling Street. The land within the development area is rough grassland except in the northeastern corner in which an area *c.*60m x *c.*60m has been levelled and covered in gravel as a rough car parking area.

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 1.3), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To record and interpret the earthwork remains.
- To attempt to date the felled parkland trees.
- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, which were liable to be threatened by the development.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.

2.2 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 2), which required:

- The earthwork survey should be undertaken following the standard Northamptonshire procedures.
- The felled trees should be dated using a tree-ring count.
- A detailed watching brief should be undertaken during initial groundworks.

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), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

- 2.4 Each site visit was recorded on ASC's Site Monitoring Sheets (Appendix 1). A photographic record (B&W prints, colour slides and digital photographs) was also maintained throughout the watching brief. A plan of the development provided by the client (Fig. 3) was used as the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 A settlement at *Tovecestre*, later Towcester, is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (Morris 1979). The origin of the name is thought to derive from ‘chester’, or town, on the River Tove (Gover 1933). The river Tove runs a short distance northeast of the town.

3.2 Prehistoric (before 600BC) to Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

An abundance of prehistoric finds have been discovered in the vicinity of Towcester. Notable finds include hand axes dated to the Palaeolithic and Neolithic (RCHME) 1982), and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead which has been on display at the Ashmolean Museum. Also, a Neolithic flint working site, including scrapers, points and cores was discovered beneath a Roman villa at Burcote, 2km south of the town.

Several coins have been discovered within the vicinity of the town as scattered finds, mainly Iron Age bronze coins from the North Thames Group (ibid).

3.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

A small Roman town known as *Lactodorum* stood on the site of modern Towcester. Archaeological evidence from various excavations within the town, suggest that it occupied a roughly oval shaped area on the western bank of the River Tove (Stean 1974). The settlement was located on an important Roman road now known as Watling Street, and may have started life as a staging post and/or garrison town on this road.

During the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD the settlement was ditched and walled, and stone towers were constructed at several points along these defences. A substantial standing section of the Roman wall could still be seen until the 1960's when it was demolished to make way for the telephone exchange (Sunderland 1998) c.2km northwest of the site.

Archaeological fieldwork on several sites within the town has revealed significant remains dating to this period. A watching brief in Meeting Lane c.1.75km from the site recorded a section across a Roman road, thought to be the southwest corner of a circuit road around the towns defences (Chapman 2001). Excavations in Water Lane c.1.5km northwest of the site recorded the presence of timber buildings dating to the period, these were surrounded by a rectilinear enclosure.

Significantly, both these projects were within the Roman defences, whereas trial trenching at Sponne School, immediately north of the defences recorded no archaeological features at all (Chapman 1998). This suggests that extra-mural settlement may not have existed around this part of *Lactodorum*. The development area which is the subject of this report lies c.1.5km southeast of the city defences, and therefore is likely to have been a considerable distance from the core of Roman settlement.

3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

With the collapse of the Roman Empire the economy of the country and the region changed and many former Roman towns, including *Lactodorum* were largely abandoned. Following the successful colonisation of the region by the Saxons a feudal system of government evolved and for much of this period Towcester was held by the kingdom of Wessex (Sunderland 1998).

During the 10th century Towcester became a frontier town as the Danes and the Saxons fought over the region eventually using the Watling Street, running directly through the town, to divide Danelaw to the east, from Wessex to the south and west. The Saxon King, Edward the elder, fortified the town in AD917 and it was made a royal *burgh* in the early 10th century (Page 1930).

The only notable finds of Saxon date have been a long-cross brooch, from the former station site (TDHLS 1995), and a silver sword mount from the Hawkesmoor School area of the town.

3.5 Medieval (1066-1500)

The town retained this status beyond the Norman Conquest (1066) until the 12th century, when it passed to the earls of Arundel (Baker 1836). Its location at the junction of Watling Street and the Oxford to Northampton road made it an ideal place for a market, and as such it prospered throughout the medieval period.

To the northwest of the racecourse is the motte of Bury Mount, probably constructed by the Crown in the 11th–12th century (RCHM(E) 1982). The current O.S. map (Explorer 207, Fig. 1) records the presence of a mill mound, presumably of medieval date, adjoining the racecourse buildings c.300m north of the site.

3.6 Post Medieval (1500-1900)

During the English Civil War Towcester again became a frontier town when the Royalist forces of Prince Rupert, based in Oxford, put ordnance in the town to defend it from attacks by Parliamentary Roundheads based in Northampton. Ultimately the town fell to the Parliamentarians and troops were billeted here prior to their march to the battle of Naseby, in which the Kings fate was sealed (Sunderland 1998).

The lands of the parish of Towcester were enclosed in 1762 (Page 1930), and the presence of ridge-and-furrow within the site, suggests that it remained in agricultural use from at least the early medieval period until the construction of the racecourse.

During the 18th century Towcester prospered as a staging post for coach traffic. Watling Street was the road from London to Holyhead and ultimately to Dublin, the second city of Georgian Britain. As a result a huge amount of commercial traffic passed through the town, which contained many famous coaching Inns including the 'The Saracens Head' mentioned in the novel *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens. However, the arrival of the railway brought this period of prosperity to an abrupt end, the town went into decline almost overnight and has never regained the importance it held during this period (Sunderland 1998).

About 1km north-east of Towcester is the house and surrounding park of Easton Neston. The present house was built *c.*1685-95 by Sir William Fermor, and was remodelled in *c.*1700-1702 (Pevsner 1973). This house replaced a medieval manor house, originally associated with the village of Easton Neston. The medieval house was probably demolished when the present house was built (RCHME 1982, 43), and the medieval deer park was developed into extensive gardens. The development site lies on the edge of the Park, and was incorporated into it in 1826. The grand Chain Gate, which now forms the entrance to the Racecourse (Plate 1) was originally the entrance to Easton Neston Park. It was constructed in 1824 and is located *c.*200m west of the development area.

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

The site now forms part of the land owned by Towcester Racecourse, the expansion of which will soon see new stables and a car parking area constructed upon it.

4 Results

- 4.1 Five visits were made to the site during which an earthwork survey of the development area, including the recording of three post Medieval tree stumps, and the observation of a series of groundworks operations was undertaken.
- 4.2 The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay *c.*0.3m deep. This layer was present over most of the site, with the exception of 60m x 60m area in the northeastern corner which had been covered with rubble and gravel for use as a temporary car park. Below this was a layer of *c.*0.20m deep mid brownish orange silty clay subsoil. The natural subsoil lay beneath this, and was an orange/yellow clay layer. The deeper excavations revealed a layer of dark blueish grey clay, *c.*1.10m below the present ground surface.
- 4.3 Five furrows were recorded crossing the development area in a northwest to southeast alignment (Fig. 3). These were visible prior to the groundworks and were recorded both as part of the earthwork survey (Appendix 1), and during the watching brief (Plate 3). Such earthworks are well documented in the area, and are the remnant of medieval field systems. During the watching brief it became clear that these had been partially backfilled with 20th century bricks and other debris, presumably as an attempt to create a more level piece of land adjacent to the racecourse and conference centre buildings.
- 4.4 Three post Medieval tree stumps were recorded within the Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (Fig. 3). These trees were felled within the last 10 years and have been assigned a date of *c.*200 – 300 years using recognised techniques (Appendix 1). This is of interest as it confirms that the medieval agricultural field system fell into disuse and became part of the post Medieval Park. The three tree stumps recorded during this project are very likely to have been planted as part of the landscaping of this park.
- 4.5 Three modern features, a brick rubble access road and the bases of two bonfires containing glass and metal coils were visible after topsoil stripping at the site. It is assumed that grass and other vegetation had obscured these features, however they represent nothing of significant historical value.
- 4.6 No other archaeology was recorded at the site, and it is suggested that this piece of land has always been outside the core of settlement at Towcester. Instead it forms part of the agricultural hinterland surrounding the town and lying adjacent to Watling Street.



Plate 1: Now the entrance to Towcester Racecourse, and the development area, the 'Chain Gate' was originally built in 1824. This was the entrance to Easton Neston Park.



Plate 2: Work in progress, view from Watling Street.



Plate 3: Backfilled Medieval Furrows visible within the development area after topsoil strip. Facing south.



Plate 4: Service trenches in the south of the site. Facing north.



Plate 5: Topsoil and natural subsoil visible in the north of the site.



Plate 6: Natural subsoil visible in the northern part of the site.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and post Medieval tree stumps referred to in the *Brief (Kidd 1997)* were successfully recorded by an earthwork survey. An estimate of age was possible for the tree stumps, suggesting that they were part of the post Medieval parkland. An absence of earlier archaeological features at the site suggests that this piece of land is likely to have been open land, used for agricultural purposes. It formed part of the hinterland of Towcester, and has always been outside the boundaries of the settlement.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Robert Langley of Fletcher King Howard Construction Consultants for commissioning ASC to undertake the watching brief on behalf of Towcester Racecourse Company Ltd. Thanks are also extended to Stuart Perkins for on-site support. Myk Flitcroft, Archaeological Planning Officer, Northamptonshire Heritage is due thanks for his interest and support during this project. The fieldwork and report preparation was undertaken by Joe Abrams of ASC Ltd.

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Sunderland J 1998 *Towcester: Official Guide*. Towcester Local History Society.

8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs/slides
7. Colour slides
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

Appendix 1: Earthwork Survey & Tree-ring Count

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 the remaining ridge and furrow earthworks which existed on the land. During the same visit three tree stumps were inspected, with a view to counting the annual growth rings. These trees were likely to have started life in the post Medieval period and therefore would have formed part of the landscape within Easton Neston Park, within which the land was located (See Section 3.7).

2 The Earthworks Survey

The furrows so clearly visible in the well maintained field immediately northwest of the site (Plate 11), have been partially levelled within the development area and were further obscured by long grass and undergrowth (Plate 10). Despite this it was possible to survey three types of medieval/post Medieval earthworks within the site, these are discussed below:

Ridge and Furrow earthworks within the development area (Fig. 3):

Five furrows were successfully identified and surveyed within the development area. These were aligned west north west to east south east. It was only possible to see them from the southwest corner of the site where raised ground allowed an opportunity to view the site from a slightly elevated position.

A relatively recent addition to the landscape is a road which forms the northwest boundary of the site. Beyond this is a field containing ten furrows, flanked by ridges. This field had not been levelled at all and the short manicured grass meant they were in particularly good condition. The existence of these earthworks was helpful in confirming the alignment of those surveyed within the development area, which were in long grass and had been partially levelled. However, it also confirmed that several ridges and furrows had been entirely eradicated prior to the survey and therefore could not be recorded.

Bank and ditch earthwork within development area (Fig. 3):

One bank and ditch earthwork was surveyed, on a northeast to southwest alignment. The bank was 1m wide and c.0.3m high: the ditch was located immediately northwest of the bank and was c.0.2m deep and 0.75m wide. This earthwork was only visible in the centre of the site (Fig. 3) although it is highly likely that it once extended right across the development area.

Drainage ditch/Southern border of site (Fig. 3):

A drainage ditch formed the southern boundary of the site. This was 1.65m deep, 5m wide and lay in the lowest part of the site. The land immediately northwest slopes

upwards towards the racecourse. To the southeast it slopes upwards towards Watling Street and the farmland which borders the site.

Due to the natural topography in this area, this part of the site is likely to have been seasonally wet. It is likely that this ditch was cut and maintained during the medieval and post Medieval period, in order to keep the surrounding farmland, and parkland, relatively dry during wet weather.

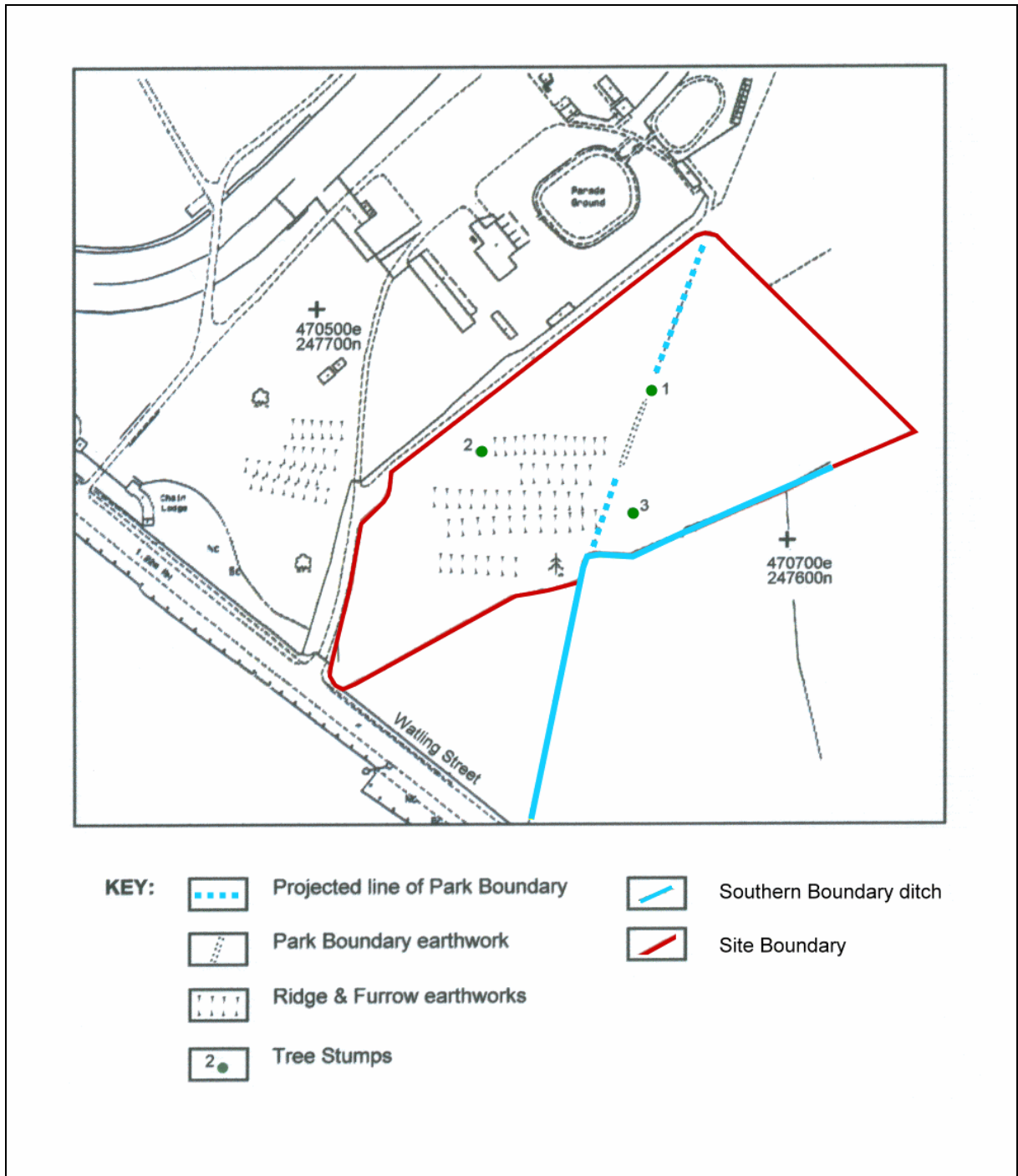


Figure 3: Earthwork Survey, clearly showing furrows within development area, Tree Stumps 1 – 3 and part of the earthwork boundary to the park.

3 Tree-ring Count

Three tree stumps were recorded and their locations surveyed within the development area. All three stumps appeared to be of oak, and were of considerable size and age when felled. Unfortunately the period between felling and this survey being undertaken has been at least four years, during which time the stumps have suffered from fungal attack. This has caused significant damage to the exposed surfaces of the stumps and made an accurate ring count impossible. Instead, estimates of age are based on the size of the trees and the species from which they derive which suggest the following ages. Brief descriptions and discussion appear below.

- **Stump 1 (Fig. 3, Plate 7):** The diameter of this stump was 1.25m and it had been subject to severe fungal attack, particularly around the core. This had caused severe damage to the condition of the tree-rings in this area. A tree-ring count was not possible in this case.
- **Stump 2 (Fig. 3, Plate 8):** The diameter of this stump was 2.50m and it was the best preserved of the three stumps. It was possible to count 150 annual growth rings. However, decay and uneven felling cuts meant that a full count was not possible. It is estimated that between 50 and 100 annual growth rings were missing from the count.
- **Stump 3 (Fig. 3, Plate 9):** The diameter of this stump was 2.10m and it was in the worst state of the three. The core had been entirely removed through decay therefore no ring count was possible. A tree-ring count was not possible in this case.

4 Discussion

On the basis of the species of these trees, their diameter and their location within an earlier ridge and furrow field system, it is possible to estimate their age. According to specialists in this field (Rackham 1976, Mitchell 1974) it is suggested that estimating the age of a tree on the basis of its diameter is ideally carried out on a tree felled at chest height on the average person, between 1.4m and 1.6m. Therefore the examples at this site would not have been ideal for this exercise even when newly felled as they were cut to within 0.3m of the ground surface.

The suggested average growth rate for an oak is 4mm per year, meaning that a tree of 1m diameter would be approximately 250 years old. Clearly the three stumps at this site are larger than this, but would have been considerably slimmer higher up the tree, where the measurements should have been taken. The fact that these trees were growing within the medieval ridge and furrow field system confirms that they postdate its period of use, and therefore it is likely that they started growing during the post Medieval period and are likely to be between 200 and 300 years old.

5 Conclusion

Significantly this bank and ditch cut right across the ridge and furrow earthworks and therefore post dated them. Also, tree stumps 1 and 3 (Fig. 3) were located broadly along the line of this boundary and may have been associated with it. It is possible that the bank and ditch and the oak trees which stood on stumps 1 and 3, together formed a boundary which was in use during the post Medieval period. Such a boundary may have been associated with the Easton Neston Park (see Section 3.6) which existed during the post Medieval period.



Plate 7: Tree stump 1



Plate 8: Tree stump 2



Plate 9: Tree stump 3



Plate 10: The partially levelled ridge and furrow earthworks present in the development area.



Plate 11: The better preserved ridge and furrow earthworks present immediately northwest of the site.




Plate 12: The partially levelled ridge and furrow earthworks present in the development area. Viewed from Watling Street, and more visible from the raised ground.

Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD					
Project Name: TOWCESTER RACECOURSE		Project Code: TRC03		Date of visit: 13/1/03			
Location: TOWCESTER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE							
Client/Developer: FK HOWARD CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS							
Architect:							
Site Manager/ Farmer:				Phone:			
Development Type:							
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): EARTHWORKS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SURVEY	
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST / COLD / DRY							
Observations: ARRIVE - 9.00 AM DEPART - 1.00 PM 5 FURROWS SURVEYED WITHIN DEVELOPMENT AREA, THESE WERE ON A NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST ALIGNMENT. POOR CONDITION DUE TO LEVELLING & 10 FURROWS LONG GRASS WHICH OBSCURED THEM. 10 FURROWS WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION IN A PIECE OF LAND TO N/W OF DAY AREA. THESE WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THE FURROWS CROSSING THE DEVELOPMENT AREA, BUT IN FAR BETTER CONDITION. A DITCH & BANK ALIGNED NORTHEAST - SOUTHWEST WERE ALSO RECORDED. 3 TREE STUMPS WERE RECORDED - ALL IN POOR CONDITION.							
Comments: EDM + PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF EARTHWORKS & STUMPS WAS UNDERTAKEN.							
Completed by: SOE ABRAMS							

For sketch plan, use reverse

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 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project Name:		Project Code:		Date of visit:		
TOWCESTER, RACECOURSE		TRC 03		3/2/03		
Location: NEAR TOWCESTER, NORTHANTS						
Client/Developer: FK HOWARD/						
Architect:						
Site Manager/ Farmer:			Phone:			
Development Type:						
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DRY, SUNNY						
Observations: ARRIVE 9.15AM DEPART 11.00AM						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OBSERVED VEGETATION/TOPSOIL STRIP ACROSS MAJORITY OF SITE. DROT + 360 USED. - PATCHES OF YELLOWISH/BROWN NATURAL CLAY OBSERVED. - NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OR ARTEFACTS OBSERVED. 						
Comments: MET WAYNE 360 DRIVER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PHONED ROBERT LANGLEY - IN MEETING UNTIL 11:00AM - WAYNE SAYS 'VEGETATION/TOPSOIL' STRIP WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY OVER WHOLE SITE. - TOMMOROW 4/2/03 - REMAINDER OF TOPSOIL WILL BE STRIPPED DOWN TO NATURAL. - 5/2/03 - DRAINAGE CUTS WILL GO IN. 						
Completed by: JOE ABRAMS						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project Name: TOWCESTER RACECOURSE		Project Code: TRC 03	Date of visit: 4/2/03
Location: NEAR TOWCESTER, NORTHAMPTON			
Client/Developer: FK HOWARD			
Architect:			
Site Manager/ Farmer: ROBERT LANGLEY		Phone:	
Development Type:			
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SNOW/SUN/WIND			
Observations: ARRIVE - 1.50 PM DEPART - 3.20 PM			
LARGE AREA NOW STRIPPED c 50% OF WHOLE, VERY UN-EVEN STRIP WITH MIX OF:			
- TOPSOIL - DARK BROWN SILTY CLAY c. 0.3m DEEP			
- NAT SUBSOIL - LIGHT YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY,			
NOTICED DISCRETE LINES OF MOD 20TH C BRICK			
IN SINGLE DEPTH LAYERS NO. MORTAR.			
THESE ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY PART OF			
TEMP/MANESHIPT 20TH C ACCESS ROAD ACROSS			
THE SITE & EXPLAIN WHY FURROWS WERE			
LEVELLED. DN			
TOPSOIL STRIP HAS REMOVED REMNANT RIDGE & FURROW, ALTHOUGH PARTS ARE VISIBLE.			
KEY TIMES TO VISIT SITE:			
1) FR 1 7/2/03 - END OF TOPSOIL STRIP/PRE-CAPPING			
2) DRAINAGE CUTS - WK OF 10/2/03 - PHONE + CONFIRM			
3) FOUNDATION CUTS - WK OF 17/2/03 - MAY NOT BE WORTH VISITING DEPENDS ON EARLIER RESULTS,			
Comments: MET JOHN - (ENGINEER) HE SAYS THAT			
TOPSOIL STRIPPING + STOCK PILING WILL CONTINUE			
ALL WEEK (UNTIL FRI 7 FEB). ON WEEK BEGINNING			
10/2/03 - CAPPING WILL BE PUT OVER SITE &			
ROLLED FLAT ETC. DRAWING 'MAY' GO IN.			
WEEK BEGINNING 17/2/03 FOUNDATIONS WILL BE			
CUT.			
Completed by: SGE ABRAMS			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project Name: TOWCESTER RACECOURSE		Project Code: TRC 03		Date of visit: 7/2/03	
Location: TOWCESTER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE					
Client/Developer: FK HOWARD CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS					
Architect:					
Site Manager/ Farmer: R STUART				Phone:	
Development Type:					
Foundations	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST / DRY.					
Observations: ARRIVE 3:00 PM DEPART 4:15 PM					
- ENTIRE TOPSOIL STRIP NOW COMPLETE. HOWEVER, THE NATURAL SUBSOIL (AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES ARE MARKED BY REMNANT TOPSOIL/SUBSOIL.					
- TWO BURNT AREAS OBSERVED, PATCHES STILL WITHIN TOPSOIL 1) WAS 1m DIA, CONTAINED MODERN GLASS & WOOD					
2) 3m DIA, CONTAINED BURNT MODERN MATERIAL, METAL COILS, GLASS					
- FOUR FURROWS SPOTTED IN WESTERN END OF SITE. NOT SURPRISINGLY THESE HAD ALREADY BEEN SURVEYED IN ON THE EARTHWORKS VISIT.					
SIGNIFICANTLY THEY WERE PARTIALLY BACKFILLED WITH MODERN BRICKS, THIS EXPLAINS WHY THEY WERE NOT AS VISIBLE AS THOSE IN FIELD GREATLY NW OF THE SITE. PHOTOS TAKEN OF FURROWS.					
Comments: NEXT PHASE OF WORK INVOLVES REMOVING C.1m OF NAT SUBSOIL FROM THE NORTH OF THE SITE TO THE SOUTH. THIS WILL CREATE A FLAT/LEVEL PIECE OF LAND FOR FOOTINGS. ALSO FOOTINGS & MAY DRAINAGE MAY GO IN ON SAME WEEK. VISIT ON WED 12 FEB TO CHECK PROGRESS.					
Completed by: J. ABRAMS					

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project Name: TOWCESTER RACECOURSE		Project Code: TRC 03		Date of visit: 14/2/03		
Location:						
Client/Developer FK HOWARD						
Architect:						
Site Manager/ Farmer: STUART/ROBERT LANGLEY				Phone:		
Development Type:						
Foundations	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: FINE/COLD/SUNNY						
Observations: ARRIVE - 9.30 A.M DEPART 11.00 A.M						
CUT & FILL & DRAINAGE EXCAVATIONS TAKING PLACE.						
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OBSERVED. THE NATURAL SUBSOIL WAS FULLY EXPOSED, AND EXCAVATIONS FOR DRAINAGE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE SITE & FOR LEVELLING IN THE NORTH WENT C. 0.6m INTO NATURAL SUBSOIL.						
→ TOPSOIL - 0.3m DEEP SILTY CLAY. DARK BROWN V. FEW INCLUSIONS, OCC PEBBLES ROUNDED.						
→ NAT SUBSOIL - ORANGE/YELLOW CLAY OCC PATCHES OF WHITE CLAY/GREY CLAY. THE DEEPER THE EXCAVATIONS THE MORE THE CLAY IS DARK GREY						
→ SUBSOIL - 0.2m DEEP MID BROWN SILTY CLAY, OCC PEBBLES						
NOTE - THE MED LEVEL RIDGE & FURROW IS NO LONGER VISIBLE HAVING BEEN TRACKED OVER + COMPLETELY REMOVED IN PARTS.						
Comments:						
→ WILL CONTACT MYK FLITCROFT & DISCUSS WHETHER FURTHER VISITS ARE NECESSARY.						
→ DELIVERIES OF CRUSHED CONCRETE ARE COMING IN ORDER TO PUT A CAPPING ON THE SITE.						
Completed by: SOE ABRAMS						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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Appendix 3: SMR Summary Sheet

SMR Record Number	Parish Towcester CP	Site Name Towcester Racecourse
Date of Fieldwork January/February 2003	Grid ref. SP 7061 4764	Fieldworker Joe Abrams
Sponsor FK Howard Construction Consultants	Activity Earthwork survey, Tree-Ring count and Watching Brief	
Landowner name/address Towcester Racecourse Company Ltd		
Finds location N/a	Finds Destination N/a	
Records location	Records Destination	
Finds Quantity N/a	Records Quantity	
<p>Summary of Results</p> <p>Earthwork Survey – 5 furrows were recorded within the development area these were on a west north west to east south east alignment. Part of the Easton Neston Park Boundary was recorded crossing the site in a northeast to southwest alignment.</p> <p>Tree-Ring Count – 3 stumps were recorded within the development area, these were all oak and they were estimated to be between 200-300 years old. A tree-ring count was not possible due to fungal attack. These trees are likely to have been part of the Easton Neston Park.</p> <p>Watching Brief – The ridge and furrow earthworks were visible after the topsoil strip. The furrows had been partially backfilled with topsoil, modern glass and 20th century bricks. Two burnt patches were visible within the subsoil these contained several pieces of burnt modern material including glass and coils. These burnt patches were the bases of bonfires.</p> <p>Aside from the ridge and furrow earthworks, there were no significant archaeological features recorded at the site.</p>		