

**LAND ADJACENT TO NO.9, SULEHAY ROAD,  
YARWELL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

NGR:	TL 06651 97858
Planning Ref.:	14/00916/FUL
PCAS job no.	1305
Site code:	SURE 14
Archive acc. code:	ENN107675

Prepared for  
Wythe Holland Ltd.

by  
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November 2014



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**Figure 2:** Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:1250, showing the existing building (blue) superimposed on the proposed development. Plan supplied by client.

**Figure 3:** Plan of the site at scale 1:200, with trench locations shown in red and the approximate position of the existing building in blue. Plan supplied by client.

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## **Colour Plates**

Plate 1: Trench 1 pre-excavation (looking S)

Plate 2: Trench 2 pre-excavation (looking W)

Plate 3: Trench 3 pre-excavation (looking E)

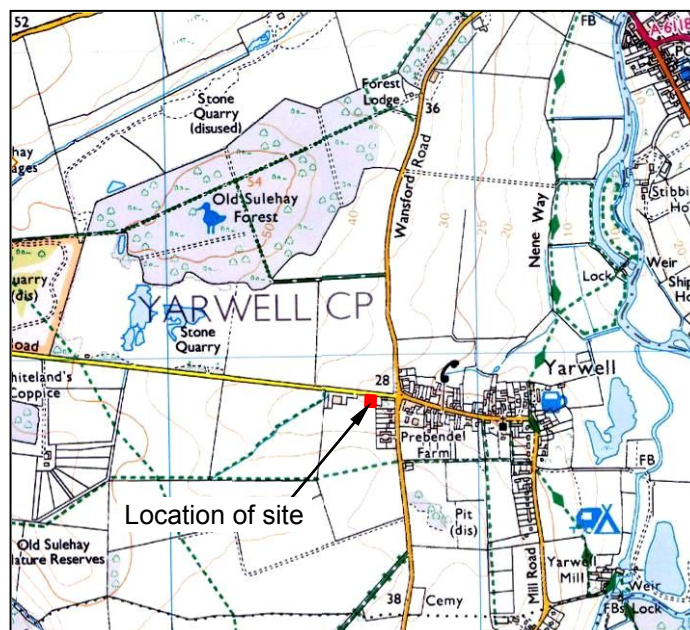
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Plate 5: Trench 2 representative section (looking N)

Plate 6: Section of ditch [303] (looking SSE)

*An archaeological evaluation consisting of three 10m x 2m trenches was undertaken on land adjacent to no.9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire, in order to inform a forthcoming planning application for the construction of two new houses.*

*The evaluation encountered a single undated ditch within Trench 3, and a layer of disturbed material within Trenches 1 and 2 relating to the demolition of recent structures.*



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## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Wythe Holland Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to no.9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire. The evaluation took place in order to inform a forthcoming planning application for the construction of two new houses.

## **2.0 Location and description (figs. 1 and 2)**

The village of Yarwell lies within the district of East Northamptonshire: it lies directly to the south of the Northamptonshire-Cambridgeshire boarder, approximately 1 mile to the south of Wansford in Cambridgeshire. It falls into the Historic Landscape Character Area 4f, 'Nene Valley: Yarwell to Wood Newton'. Yarwell is the only settlement within this Character Area, and is centred on a single street running off Wansford Road towards the River Nene. Apart from some ribbon development to the south, it has not expanded much since the early 19th century (NCC, n.d.)

The proposed development site lies on the western edge of Yarwell, on the south side of Sulehay Road, a short distance to the west from its junction with Wansford Road. The site is roughly rectangular, bordered by Sulehay Road to the north, a residential property to the east, and pen farmland to the west and south. It was formerly occupied by one building, now demolished, on the west side: this was a garage and incorporated an inspection pit for vehicle maintenance.

The central National Grid Reference of the site is TL 06651 97858

## **3.0 Topography and Geology**

The Yarwell to Wood Newton Landscape Character Area is located on the Nene Valley side, overlooking the River Nene to the east. The ground slopes gently down towards the river (NCC, n.d.). The site itself slopes gently from north to south, with approximate Ordnance Datum heights of 30.2m above sea level at its northern edge and 29.6m adjacent to the road.

The local geology consists of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Formation with outcrops of Blisworth Clay Formation (Great Oolite) clay (*ibid*). Stone quarrying is widespread to the west of Yarwell.

## **4.0 Planning Background**

Full planning permission for the construction of two houses was granted by East Northamptonshire District Council in August 2014 (planning application number 14/00916/FUL).

This permission was granted subject to the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and agreed in writing by the Planning Authority (condition 4). The initial phase of the agreed scheme of investigation was evaluation trenching, which is reported on here.

## **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

A Roman villa on the north-west side of the Yarwell crossroads, approximately 40m to the north-east of the present development site, was partially excavated in 1953 by the pupils of Oundle School. The building proved to be of considerable size, with a number of interior divisions; remains were just 0.2m below existing ground level. Finds from the site included pottery, tile, plaster and a stone capital; no tessellated or tiled floors were discovered. The excavation results were never published (EH PastScape ref. 361340).

Yarwell was a manorial settlement in the Middle Ages, post-dating the Norman Conquest - there is no Domesday Book entry for a settlement of this name. The manor house had disappeared by the end of the 16th century (ENDC, 1996).

Yarwell parish was enclosed in 1777; the landscape displays the typical pattern of Parliamentary enclosure, crossed by straight roads, laid out by the Enclosure Commissioners, and with the majority of field boundaries also being straight (NCC, n.d.).

Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks on land adjoining no.9, Sulehay Road by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust in 2003 recorded no significant archaeological activity (NMR ref. 1441063). These works took place to the immediate west of the present application site, but as the groundworks did not penetrate the topsoil the presence / absence of archaeological remains could not be ascertained (Savage 2014).

## **6.0 Methodology**

In accordance with the Planning Decision Notice, a scheme of archaeological investigation to assess the archaeological potential of the site was prepared for the site and approved by the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council. The approved methodology was for a scheme of three trial trenches to be excavated within the development site, prior to the commencement of any construction groundworks, in order to advise on the requirements for any further archaeological mitigation.

Three trenches measuring 10m in length were excavated within the proposed house footprints. Trenches were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, prior to being cleaned and any archaeological deposits identified. Any cut archaeological features were manually excavated.

Features exposed were planned at a scale of 1:50 on trench plans, which were positioned according to the approved trenching plan. All excavated features were drawn in section at a scale of 1:20, and section drawings were located on the base plans. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept; a digital photographic record, supplemented by colour slide photography, was made; extracts from this are reproduced in Appendix 1. Finds were stored in labelled bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, finds were washed, marked and sorted. They were then dispatched to specialists for assessment, and the specialists' findings are included in Appendix 3.

The fieldwork was carried out by Leigh Brocklehurst and took place between the 11th and 12th of September, 2014. Weather conditions were variable, but generally favourable.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 Trenches 1 and 2 (fig. 6)**

Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned on the eastern side of the site; Trench 1 was orientated north-south and Trench 2 was orientated east-west (fig. 5).

Both trenches were excavated to natural deposits (103 / 203), which in Trenches 1 and 2 consisted of mid brown-yellow silty clay with 50-60% plated limestone, at a depth of between 0.62m and 0.85m below existing ground level (fig. 6a). This was overlain by a buried soil layer 101 / 201 of dark brown clayey silt, between 0.30m and 0.50m deep. This in turn was overlain by layer 100 / 200 - demolition material and hardcore, up to 0.35m deep, relating to recently demolished structures within the development area.

### **7.2 Trench 3 (fig. 7)**

Trench 3 was oriented east-west and positioned on the western side of the site (fig. 5).

At the base of the trench, the natural 302 was exposed, consisting of mid brown-yellow silty clay with 50-60% plated limestone at a depth of 0.68m. This was overlain by a buried soil 301 of dark brown clayey silt, 0.40m deep. This was overlain by demolition material and hardcore, 300, up to 0.28m deep - relating to the recently demolished structures.

Cut into the natural substrate was a linear ditch-like feature **303**, aligned NNW-SSE, 2.40m wide and up to 0.36m deep. This contained a single fill 304 of mid brown clayey silt with 20-30% plated limestone. Animal bone was recovered from within this material.

## **8.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

It is unclear what the linear feature within Trench 3 was, as it contained no datable finds and could not be associated with any other features. The animal bones recovered from its fill were all from cattle, but add little to the interpretation of this feature.

As a Roman villa exists in close proximity to the development area (around 40m to the north-east) it is possible that this feature indicates some form of contemporary activity around this residence, but this is impossible to either prove or refute on present evidence – the feature could be of any cultural period.

The layers overlying the natural substrate in all three trenches showed evidence of modern disturbance, likely relating to the demolition of structures which until recently occupied the site. The red silty clay layer present within Trenches 1 and 2 is also likely to relate to these structures.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

Archaeological evaluation was effective in demonstrating the presence of archaeological remains on the western side of the site. The body of data thus produced will be sufficient to inform the planning and development process.

## **10.0 Project Archive**

The project archive, consisting of the site recording and the finds, is under preparation at the PCAS offices in Saxilby. At present, there is no receiving museum for archaeological archives generated in Northamptonshire; an accession number ENN 107675 has been

allocated to this project, and with archive will be deposited with a printed copy of this report when a venue is determined. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online through the ADS website, PCAS report no 1305.

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Wythe Holland Ltd. for this commission.

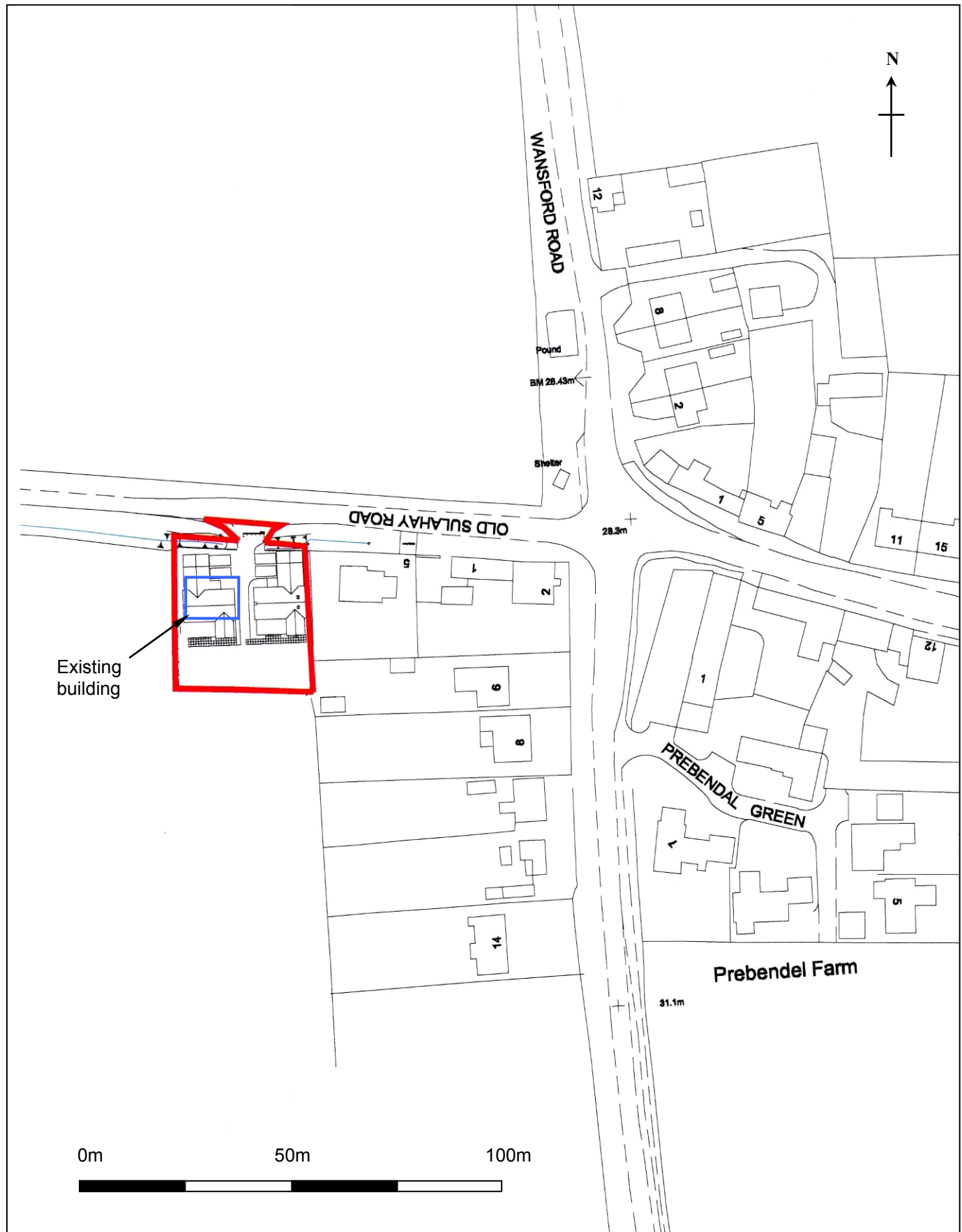
## **12.0 References**

East Northamptonshire District Council (ENDC), 1996, *Yarwell Strategy Statement*.

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), n.d., *Historic Landscape Character Assessment*.

Savage, R. D., 2014, *Land adjacent to no.9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Specification for an archaeological evaluation*. PCAS

Planning documents viewed online at: <http://pawebssrv.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=N5K282GO03N00>



**Figure 2:** Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:1250, showing the existing building (blue) superimposed on the proposed development. Plan supplied by client.



**Figure 3:** Plan of the site at scale 1:200, with trench locations shown in red and the approximate position of the existing building in blue. Plan supplied by client.

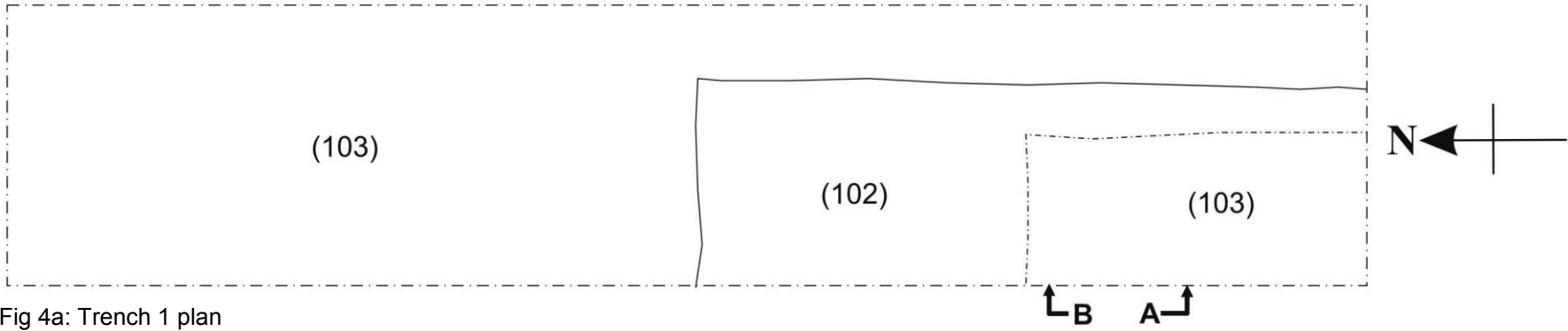


Fig 4a: Trench 1 plan

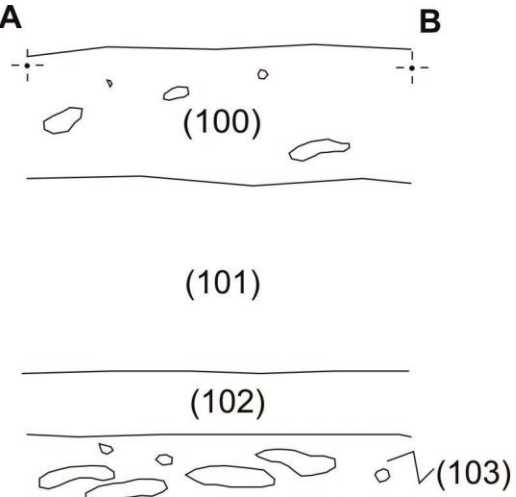


Fig 4b: East facing representative section of trench 1

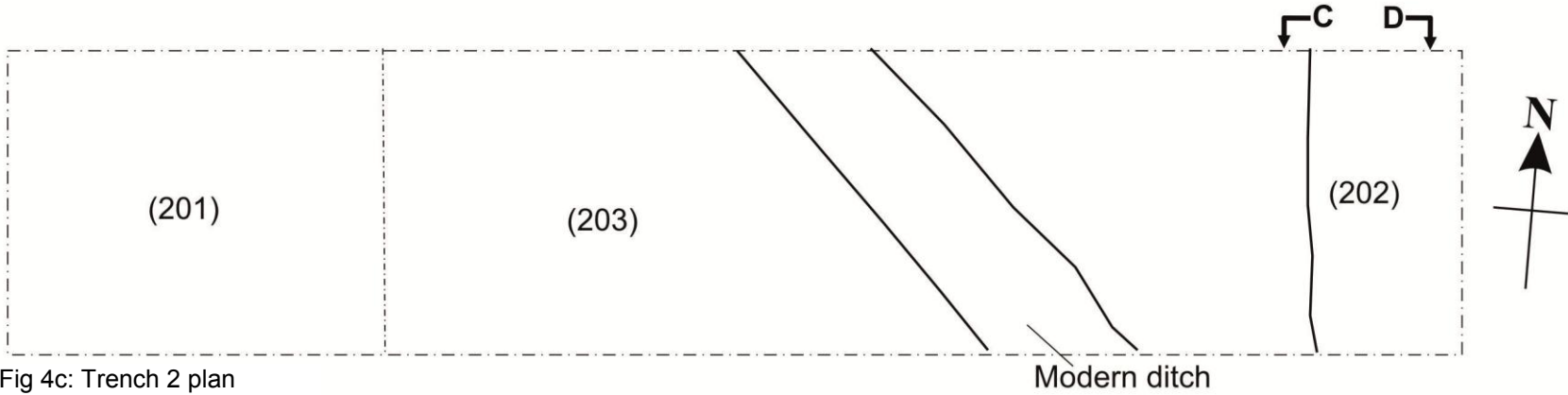


Fig 4c: Trench 2 plan

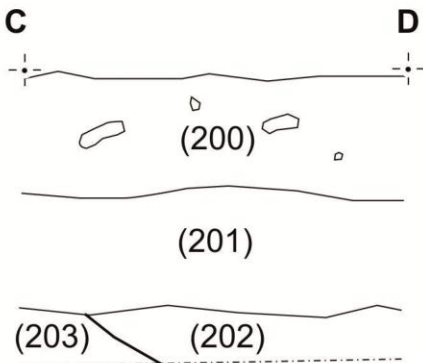


Fig 4d: South facing representative section of trench 1

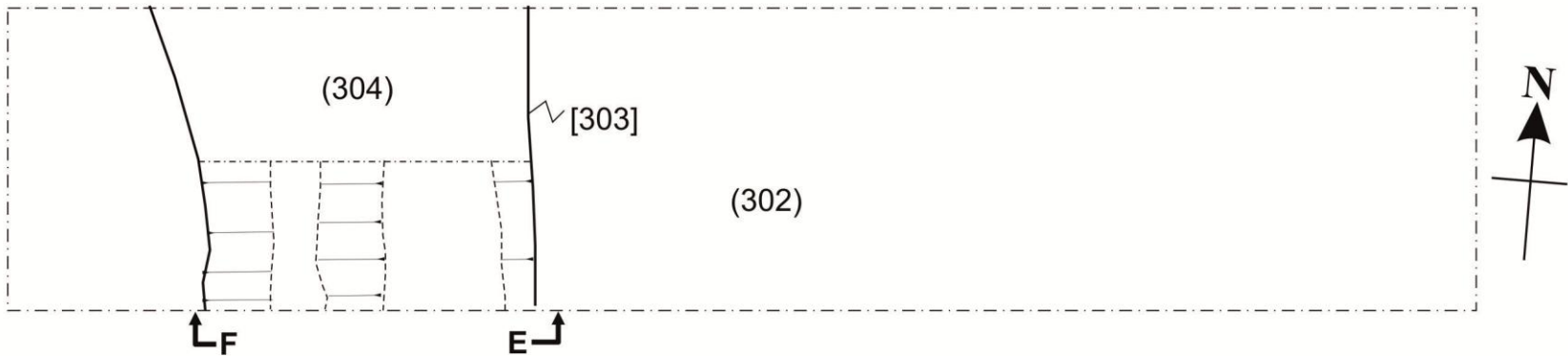


Fig 4e: Trench 3 plan

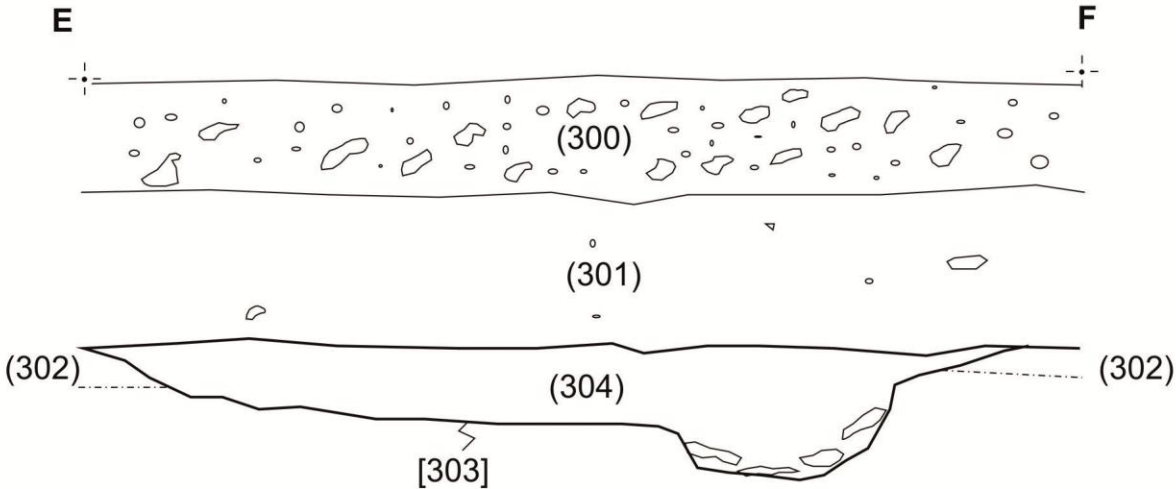


Fig 4f: East facing section of ditch [303]



Fig 4: Plan and section drawings from trenches 1, 2 and 3 at scales 1:50 and 1:20.

## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 pre-excavation (looking S)



Plate 2: Trench 2 pre-excavation (looking W)



Plate 3: Trench 3 pre-excavation (looking E)



Plate 4: Trench 1 representative section (looking W)



Plate 5: Trench 2 representative section (looking N)



Plate 6: Section of ditch [303] (looking SSE)

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/dating
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Layer	Surface spread of demolition material including brick, glass, waste, etc (none retained), 0.35m deep	Modern
101	Layer	Compact dark brown clay-silt, with some modern CBM inclusions (none retained), 0.50m deep	Modern
102	Layer	Red silty clay rectangular spread at southern end of trench, with some modern CBM inclusions (none retained), same as (202), 0.18m deep, 5m long, 1.5m wide.	Modern
103	Layer	Natural substrate, mid brown-yellow silty clay with 50-60% limestone (<200mm) - limestone brash.	Geological
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Layer	Hardcore ground surface, 0.32m deep	Modern
201	Layer	Compact dark brown clay-silt, with some modern CBM inclusions (none retained), 0.30m deep	Modern
202	Layer	Red silty clay rectangular spread at eastern end of trench, with some modern CBM inclusions (none retained), same as (102), 0.10m deep, 2m long, 1m wide.	Modern
203	Layer	Natural substrate, mid brown-yellow silty clay with 50-60% limestone (<200mm) - limestone brash.	Geological
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Layer	Hardcore ground surface, 0.28m deep	Modern
301	Layer	Compact dark brown clay-silt, with some modern CBM inclusions (none retained), 0.40m deep	Modern
302	Layer	Natural substrate, mid brown-yellow sandy clay with 50-60% limestone (<200mm) - limestone brash.	Geological
303	Cut	Linear U shaped ditch with elongated step on east edge and rounded base, aligned NNW – SSE, 0.36m deep, 2.4m wide.	Undated
304	Fill	Fill of feature <b>303</b> : Firm mid brown clay-silt with 20-30% plated limestone (<200mm).	Animal bone, undated

## Appendix 3: The Faunal Remains

by J. Wood

### Introduction

A total of 9 (103g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at land adjacent to no. 9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, East Northamptonshire. The remains were recovered from a single ditch fill.

### Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging at grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of burning, butchery, working or gnawing was noted on the remains.

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
304		Cattle	Scapula	L	1	32	Fragment of glenoid and blade
		Cattle	Radius	L	1	34	Proximal medial shaft and articulation
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	7	37	Fragments

As can be seen, cattle were the only species identified within the assemblage.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

In the event of further works the site is liable to produce further remains of moderate condition, with a moderate potential of providing further information of site economy and animal husbandry practices.

### References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-194170**

### Project details

Project name	Evaluation at no.9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of three 10m x 2m trenches was undertaken on land adjacent to no.9, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire, in order to inform a forthcoming planning application for the construction of two new houses. The proposed development site is situated on the western edge of the village of Yarwell. A Roman villa of considerable size has been discovered to the north-west of the Yarwell crossroads, with finds from the site including pottery, tile, plaster and a stone capital. Monitoring in 2003 on land to the immediate west of the proposed development area recorded no significant archaeological activity. However, as the groundworks in this area did not penetrate the topsoil, the presence of archaeological remains could not be ascertained. The evaluation encountered a single undated ditch within Trench 3, and a layer of disturbed material within Trenches 1 and 2 relating to the demolition of recent structures.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2014 End: 12-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SURE 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1305 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YARWELL LAnd at no.9, Sulehay Road,
Study area	60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 06651 97858 52.5677134339 -0.426279274647 52 34 03 N 000 25 34 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	L. Brocklehurst

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Not yet known
Physical Archive ID	ENN 107675
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones"
Physical Archive notes	No receiving archive for Northamptonshire at time of reporting
Digital Archive recipient	Not yet known
Digital Archive ID	ENN 107675
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	No receiving archive for Northamptonshire at time of reporting
Paper Archive recipient	Not yet known
Paper Archive ID	ENN 107675
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"
Paper Archive notes	No receiving archive for Northamptonshire at time of reporting

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land adjacent to no.9 Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Archaeological evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Marcus, S
Other bibliographic details	PCAS report no. 1305
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services
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Entered by	Alison Lane ( <a href="mailto:alison@pre-construct.co.uk">alison@pre-construct.co.uk</a> )
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