

Land at Midland Road
Thrapston
Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Orbit Homes

CA Project: 661037
CA Report: 18070
Site Code: MRT17
Event Number: ENN108973

March 2018



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Midland Road
Location:	Thrapston, Northamptonshire
NGR:	499919 277941
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	29 January 2018 - 2 February 2018
Planning Reference:	East Northamptonshire District Council 12/01957/OUT
Location of Archive:	There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of the county. Provision will therefore be made for retaining the project archive until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive.
Site Code:	MRT17

In January and February 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orbit Homes, was carried out in part fulfilment of a condition attached to the consent for residential development. The evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen trenches.

The trenches were distributed across open land to east and south of recent and ongoing residential development. A geophysical survey of the site had identified evidence for possible settlement activity largely within in the eastern and central parts of the site along with traces of possible ridge and furrow largely in the north-western part of the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.

The evaluation revealed evidence for late prehistoric activity largely concentrated in the eastern and central part of the site. This included a possible D-shaped enclosure and a rectangular enclosure with a set of two concentric ring gullies located between them. The limited dating evidence suggests that the late prehistoric activity possibly spanned the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age.

A ditch recorded in the eastern part of the site produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the mid 11th to 14th century and it is possible that this and a parallel ditch within the same trench represent medieval activity. However, it is also possible that the pottery was intrusive given its abraded nature.

A pit/ditch terminus recorded in the western half of site produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the 17th to 18th century. Two undated possible pits/ditches were recorded within the same trench and possibly relate to contemporary post-medieval activity.

The evaluation in part corroborated the results of the earlier geophysical survey which had identified the possible enclosures in the eastern half of the site. Although curiously the northernmost east to west aligned boundary identified by the geophysical survey was not encountered, however, a series of furrows were revealed in this part of the site. Smaller features were recorded in the southern part of the site, most likely associated with settlement activity which had not been identified by the geophysical survey, probably largely due to the high level of modern disturbance in this area.

Overall, the site is generally characterised by agricultural activity of late prehistoric, possible medieval and post-medieval/modern date predominantly dispersed across the eastern and central parts of the site. There is evidence for late prehistoric activity and occupation of a rural nature predominantly located within the eastern half of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire (centred at NGR: 499919 277941; Fig. 1), hereafter the site. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orbit Homes, was undertaken in part fulfilment of a condition (condition 16) included in the planning permission for residential development (Planning Ref: 12/01957/OUT).
- 1.2 The scope of the archaeological evaluation was detailed within a brief for archaeological evaluation (NCC 2017a and NCC 2017b), issued by Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA) and following discussions between CA and NCCAA. The scope was also informed by the results of a geophysical survey carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics in December 2017 (PCG 2017) and an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared in 2012 (NA 2012).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Lesley-Ann Mather, NCCAA, and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015). It was monitored by Lesley-Ann Mather, including a site visit on 31st January 2018.

The site

- 1.4 The site lies on the southern edge of the village of Thrapston and covers approximately 1.1ha. It comprises a single former agricultural field, though the southern part of the site has been recently used for storage of materials from an adjacent development site. The overburden had already been partially removed from the latter area, and the southern part of the site had been subject to stripping prior to the archaeological evaluation taking place as indicated on Figure 2 and as shown by Figure 3. The site lies on land that slopes gently down from c. 58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to c. 55m aOD in the west. The site is bounded by an ongoing residential development to the west, by modern residential development to

the north, open agricultural land to the east and by a vegetated earthen bund to the south, beyond which is the A14 trunk road.

- 1.5 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as a mixture of Cornbrash Formation, limestone sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period; and Kellaways Clay Member, mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2018). No Superficial deposits are recorded but the natural bedrock gives rise to freely draining, lime-rich, loamy soils (CSAI 2018).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in a heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (2012). The following summary has been taken from the DBA and Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) data, based on a search obtained by CA in January 2018. It has been enhanced by the results of the evaluation.
- 2.2 No part of the site falls within, or is adjacent to, a nationally designated heritage asset (Listed Building, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield or Historic Park or Garden).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.3 A large Bronze Age ringwork, interpreted as a mini-hillfort, lies approximately 400m north-east of the site and was partly excavated in advance of residential development in 1997. The enclosure is c. 110m to 120m in diameter, with the enclosure ditch on average 4m wide and 1.8m deep. This is currently a very rare monument type in Northamptonshire. A trial trench evaluation carried out to the east of the site in 2007 recorded very little in the trenches adjacent to the site, but trenches further north in the vicinity of the mini-hillfort exposed a number of features including parts of three roundhouses as well as pits and postholes. An undated, unurned cremation burial was also recorded.

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.4 The evaluation to the east of the site exposed one Roman feature; a curvilinear gully of 1st to early 2nd century AD date. Roman pottery and coins have been found close

to the Huntingdon Road, north-east of the site and in the Nene valley to the west. It is possible that the Roman road from *Durobrivae* to Ircchester passed through or close to Thrapston.

Early medieval and medieval (AD 410–1539)

- 2.5 Thrapston was a small village in the 11th century which had expanded into a small town with a market by 1205. It survived the economic recession of the 14th century, probably owing its success at county level to its position both as a crossing point over the River Nene and being halfway between Oundle and Higham Ferrers. Two sherds of residual 12th to 15th-century pottery were found during the evaluation to the east of the site. Ridge and furrow features have been recorded both visually and by geophysical survey both within the site and in the wider landscape and a field system has been identified immediately east of the site.

Post-medieval (1540-1800)

- 2.6 Pottery of 17th- to 19th-century date was recovered from wheel ruts and quarry pits during the evaluation carried out to the east of the site, along with a small quantity of metalwork. In 1866 the Kettering and Huntingdon Branch of the Midland Railway was established and ran immediately to the south-west and south of the site until it closed in 1963. A number of post-medieval quarries are recorded in the vicinity of the site, including a large area immediately to the west, now being redeveloped for residential purposes. Other than a number of small, local boot and shoe businesses, there was little industrialisation within Thrapston until the establishment of the Smith and Grace Nene Side Ironworks on Midland Road, which had a substantial effect on the local economy, closing down in the 1980s.
- 2.7 The geophysical survey carried out within the site in December 2017 (PCG 2017) identified evidence for possible settlement activity largely within the eastern and central parts of the site along with traces of possible ridge and furrow largely in the north-western part of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 As stated within the WSI (CA 2018), the objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and

quality. In accordance *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable East Northamptonshire District Council, as advised by NCCAA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen trial trenches, thirteen measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide, one measuring 10m long by 3.6m wide and two measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide in the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches were targeted on geophysical survey anomalies and positioned to provide a representative sample of the site. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2009).
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003). Samples were taken from a range of features. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2005).
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with an appropriate Northamptonshire depository when one becomes available (accession number ENN 108973), along with the site

archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 – 8)

5.1 Sixteen trial trenches were excavated across the site (Fig.2) largely in accordance with the proposed trench plan. Trench 5 was split into two halves (Trench 5a and Trench 5b) owing to a large spoil heap in the centre of its original position. This alternation was agreed with NCCAA. Following the site meeting two trenches (Trenches 12 and 14) were extended as requested by NCCAA. Trench 12 was extended from 10m to 18m in length in order to better investigate a possible feature in its southern end. An 8m by 5m extension was also added to the west of Trench 14 to further investigate the lack of correlation with the geophysical survey. The trench descriptions are grouped by chronological period, so far as possible. The individual features and deposits are summarised below. Detailed summaries of the features and deposits encountered, finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

Summary and general stratigraphy

5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded in most of the trenches in the northern part of the site comprising a simple sequence of natural deposits overlain by subsoil and capped with topsoil. The southern part of the site had been subject to stripping prior to the archaeological evaluation taking place as indicated on Figure 2 and as shown by Figure 3. Accordingly it was not possible to establish the composition of overburden in this part of the site as it had largely been removed.

5.3 The natural substrate generally comprised Cornbrash Formation of light brown yellow limestone bedrock with a silty clay surrounding matrix. This gave way to a mid-grey yellow firm silty clay in the east of site in Trenches 2, 6, 14, 15 and 16 and in the northern half of Trench 12. In the northern part of site (where there had been no overburden removed prior to the archaeological evaluation) the natural substrate was encountered at an average depth of 0.41m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil comprising mid orange grey silty clay, c. 0.19m thick which in turn was sealed by topsoil, measuring c.0.22m thick and comprising mid greyish brown silty clay to clayey loam.

- 5.4 In the southern part of the site where the topsoil and subsoil had largely been stripped (across the area indicated on Figure 2) prior to the archaeological evaluation taking place, the natural geology was revealed at varying depths bpgl, generally between c. 0.10m bpgl and 0.45m bpgl. The natural substrate was already partially exposed at the ground surface in places (particularly in the location of Trenches 2 and 5). Whereas natural geology was recorded at a depth of 0.45m bpgl in Trench 1, however this was due to the ground been made up in this part of the site following the stripping of overburden. A 0.35m thick layer of hardcore had been deposited over what remained of the overburden in the location of Trench 1.
- 5.5 The geophysical survey carried out in December 2017 (PCG 2017) revealed possible pits and ditches interpreted as evidence for settlement activity, including possible enclosures. In addition a series of parallel linear features revealed in the north-western part of the site were interpreted as likely furrows (PCG 2017). A number of discrete potential archaeological features were also identified and were targeted by the trenches. The remaining trenches were distributed across the site. No features of archaeological interest were observed within Trenches 1, 3, 5a, 7, 11, and 15, four of which (Trenches 1, 3, 11 and 15) were blank. Only one feature considered to be of geological origin was revealed in Trench 7 and only one feature interpreted as a tree throw was revealed in Trench 5a. Additionally, only furrows and geological features were recorded in Trenches 9, 13 and 14. A single furrow and one feature considered to be of geological origin were recorded in Trench 9 and two furrows were recorded in Trench 13. Six furrows were recorded in Trench 14, however these were largely recorded in section and were not all visible in plan. A single furrow was also recorded in Trench 8 along with a possible pit/ ditch terminus.

Late Prehistoric

- 5.6 The trench descriptions are grouped by chronological period, so far as possible. The prehistoric pottery recovered was predominantly dated as late prehistoric and only two features, possible gully/beam slot 204 in Trench 2 and gully 603 in Trench 6 produced sherds specifically dated as Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age. Additionally, five features recorded in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 10 produced pottery dated as late prehistoric. Other features have been tentatively phased as late prehistoric based on their similar alignments.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 5.7 Two intercutting features, gully 202 and possible gully/ beam slot 204 were revealed at the north-east end of Trench 2. Gully 202 was aligned on a north-east to south-west axis and curved round to the north where it terminated within the trench. It measured 0.4m wide by 0.24m deep and had steep straight sides and a concave base (Fig. 4; Section AA). The single fill 203 did not produce any finds. Gully 202 was cut by a rectangular shaped feature 204, interpreted as a possible gully/ beam slot. It was observed running on a north-west to south-east alignment and terminated with a squared off end. It measured 0.48m wide by 0.51m deep and had vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 4; Section AA). The single fill 205 comprised a mid blue brown clay, from which a small quantity of Iron Age pottery and bone were recovered. An environmental sample (sample 7) was taken from fill 205 and analysed, producing a small assemblage of charred plant remains and charcoal fragments, possibly indicative of dispersed waste material from domestic settlement. The precise function of feature 204 is unclear at this stage, it has been interpreted as a possible gully/ beam slot but it remains possible that it represents a steep sided pit.
- 5.8 Possible ditch terminus/pit 206 (Fig. 4) was revealed broadly centrally within Trench 2. Although it was sub ovoid in plan it is considered likely to be the terminal end of a ditch, which correlates to a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey. A continuation of this feature passes through Trench 5b to the west, where a similar ditch was exposed and is considered likely to be the corresponding ditch on the other side of an entrance way. Ditch 206 measured 2.2 m wide and 0.54m deep with moderate straight sides and a flat base. It contained two fills of dark brown grey silty clay, a lower fill (210) with relatively few stone inclusions and an upper fill with frequent large stone inclusions (207) which is likely to be the result of deliberate backfill from the bank material.
- 5.9 Gully 208 (Fig. 4) extended out of the south-western side of possible ditch terminus 206 on a similar north-west to south-east alignment. It measured 0.57m wide by 0.6m deep and contained a single fill of dark brown grey clay secondary silting (209). One sherd of late prehistoric pottery and two burnt stones were recovered from this gully.
- 5.10 Gully 211 (Fig. 4) extended from the north-eastern side of possible ditch terminus 206 on a similar north-west to south-east alignment. It measured 0.45m wide by

0.15m deep and had moderate concave sides and a concave base. Its single fill (212), consisting of mid blue grey clay silt, produced no finds.

Trench 5a (Fig 2)

- 5.11 Possible pit/ tree throw 503a was partially exposed broadly in the centre of Trench 5a. It measured 1.72m wide by 0.31m deep and it contained a single fill (504a) comprising mid brown grey silty clay from which a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery was recovered and a small amount of animal bone.

Trench 5b (Figs 2 and Fig 5)

- 5.12 Ditch 502b was exposed running through the southern end of Trench 5b on an east to west alignment. It correlates with a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey, which further suggests that it relates to possible ditch terminus 206 in Trench 2 to the east, as detailed above. Ditch 502b measured 1.9m wide by 0.55m deep with straight moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig.5; Section BB). It contained a single fill (503b) of dark brown grey clay silt with frequent large stone inclusions from which a small quantity of late prehistoric pottery and animal bone was recovered.
- 5.13 Gully 506b (Fig.5) ran parallel to ditch 502b in the north of the trench. It measured 0.35m wide by 0.09m deep and contained a single fill of mid grey brown sandy clay. Although no finds were recovered from gully 506b its position parallel to ditch 502b and the nature of the fill suggests that it is broadly contemporary.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 6)

- 5.14 Trench 6 exposed two parallel curvilinear gullies 603 and 605 curving around to the north-west where they both peter out. The outer gully 603 measured 0.54m wide by 0.19m deep and had steep straight sides with a flat base (Fig.6; Section CC). It contained a single fill of mid brown grey sandy clay secondary silting (602) from which a small amount of Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered. An environmental sample (sample 1) was taken from 602, producing a few fragments of charcoal and a few shells, possibly indicative of dispersed material, as detailed in section 7.
- 5.15 The inner gully 605 measured 0.54m wide by 0.11m deep with moderate straight sides and a flat base (Fig.6; Section DD). It contained a single fill (604) from which a small quantity late prehistoric pottery, fired clay and animal bone was recovered.

Although no inner postholes or associated features were observed it is considered likely that gullies 603 and 605 represent the remains of a roundhouse of possible Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age date based on the limited pottery assemblage recovered from fill 602 of gully 603.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 and 7)

- 5.16 Ditch 1003 ran through the centre of Trench 10 on a north-east to south-west axis and measured 1.44m wide by 0.66m deep (Fig.7; Section EE). It had straight moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1004) of mid grey brown silty clay with frequent large stone inclusions which appear to be more concentrated towards the eastern side of the ditch, possibly indicating a former bank was located on the eastern side of the ditch. A small quantity of late prehistoric pottery and animal bone was recovered from the fill 1004. An environmental sample (sample 4) was taken from 1004, producing small fragments of charcoal, which may be indicative of dispersed material from nearby settlement.
- 5.17 Approximately 0.3m to the west ditch 1005 ran on a parallel alignment to ditch 1003. It measured 1.2m wide by 0.3m deep with moderate concave sides and a flat base (Fig.7; Section EE). No finds were recovered from its single fill of mid grey brown silty clay (1006).
- 5.18 Both ditches 1003 and 1005 broadly correlate with a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey which appears to form the partial remains of a rectangular enclosure.

Medieval Trench 12 (Fig 2)

- 5.19 Ditch 1203 ran through the northern half of Trench 12 on a roughly east to west alignment. It measured 1.23m wide by 0.45m deep and had moderately straight sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1204) comprising mid red brown sandy clay from which a single sherd of pottery dated to the mid 11th to 14th century was recovered. It broadly correlates to a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey. A broadly parallel ditch 1205 was recorded at the southern end of Trench 12. However, it was not excavated during the evaluation as the southern end of the trench was flooded and it was not possible to excavate a section due to health and safety constraints.

Post-medieval to modern

Trench 8 (Fig 2)

- 5.20 Possible pit/ ditch terminus 805 was exposed at the south-eastern end of Trench 8 and the trench was subsequently extended in length in order to better reveal and characterise it. It was sub ovoid as seen measuring 3.3m by 1.15m by 0.29m deep, with moderate straight sides and a flat base. A single sherd of 17th to 18th century pottery was recovered from its single mid grey brown sandy silt fill (806).

Undated

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 8)

- 5.21 Two undated pits/ ditches 403 and 405 and one undated ditch 407 were revealed in Trench 4. Possible pit/ ditch terminus 403 (Fig 8) was partially exposed in the northern end of Trench 4. It measured 3.1m long and in excess of 1.4m wide and was 0.33m deep, it had moderately straight sides with a flat base. It contained a single fill of mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions (404) from which no artefacts were recovered.
- 5.22 Approximately 0.3m to the south-west of possible pit 403 was a partially exposed possible pit/ditch terminus 405. It measured 2.1m by over 1.45m by 0.19m deep, it had straight moderate sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (406) of mid grey brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered. An environmental sample (sample 6) was taken from 406 producing a moderate assemblage of molluscs indicative of a well-established open landscape as further detailed in section 7. Undated features 403 and 405 are considered likely to represent partially exposed pits rather than ditch terminal ends.
- 5.23 Ditch 407 (Fig 8) ran through the northern half of Trench 4 cutting the southern edge of pit 405. It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 0.88m wide by 0.13m deep with moderate concave sides and a flat base. No artefacts were recovered from its single mid red brown sandy silt fill (408).

Trench 16 (Fig 2)

- 5.24 Three undated features were recorded in Trench 16 comprising a ditch 1605 and two possible tree throws/pits 1603 and 1607. Trench 16 contained two possible tree throws, 1603 in the north-east and 1607 in the south-west. Possible tree throw 1603 was partially exposed within the trench and was broadly sub oval and measured 1.61m by over 1.9m by 0.23m deep. It had a slightly irregular moderate sides and an

irregular base. Possible tree throw 1607 was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and base. It measured 1.2m in diameter by 0.19m deep. Both features (1603 and 1607) contained similar fills of mid grey brown silty clay (1604 and 1608 respectively) from which no artefacts were recovered. It is considered likely that 1603 and 1607 represent the remains of tree throws rather than pits based on their irregular profiles.

- 5.25 Ditch 1605 ran on an east to west axis through the centre of Trench 16 and measured 0.74m wide and 0.19m deep. It had moderately sloping concave sides with a concave base and contained a single fill of mid grey brown silty clay (1606) from which no artefacts were recovered.

Furrows (Fig 2)

- 5.26 East to west orientated furrows were recorded in Trenches 8, 9, 13 and 14 comprising one furrow in Trenches 8 and 9, two furrows in Trench 13 and six furrows in Trench 14. At least one furrow was excavated in each trench (as further detailed in Appendix A). The shallow ditches 407 and 1605 recorded in Trench 4 and 16 respectively may also conceivably represent the remains of furrows. The furrows in the west of site, on the limestone geology proved to be very shallow measuring 1.1m wide by 0.12m deep. The furrows excavated in Trench 14 on the clay geology were more substantial, measuring 3.1m wide by 0.26m deep.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from 14 deposits (fills of gullies, ditches and pits). The recovered material dates to the late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. The quantities of the artefact types are listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1).

The Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. The pottery assemblage comprised 23 sherds (238g) recorded from 10 deposits. All of the pottery was recovered from the fills of pits, gullies and ditches. The condition of the assemblage is poor; the majority of sherds are heavily abraded and the mean sherd weight is average for a largely prehistoric assemblage (10.34g).

- 6.3 The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 magnification hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The prehistoric fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (2016). The fabric codes used here for recording have been created for this assemblage. Fabric codes for medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery, in Appendix B and in parenthesis in the text, are equated to the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series.

Late Prehistoric Pottery

- 6.4 Twenty one sherds (208g) in handmade fabric are considered to date to the Late Prehistoric period. The majority of sherds (16 sherds, 143g) are made in shell-tempered fabrics, which commonly characterise Late Prehistoric assemblages from this area. Three sherds (20g) are recorded in grog-tempered fabrics. Two sherds (45g) are recorded in a shell-tempered fabric with inclusions of clay pellets (LOCSHCP1). Shell and grog-tempered pottery has been previously recorded at Thrapston and dated to the Late Iron Age (Hull 2000-01, 82), however, earlier dating, within the Middle Iron Age range is also possible. There are no identifiable forms in any of the fabrics, although one sherd in fabric LOCSH1 and two in fabric LOCSHCP1, from the fill 205 of possible gully/beam slot 204 in Trench 2 and the fill 503b of ditch 502b in Trench 5b respectively, are decorated with score marks. Scored decoration is common in the East Midlands during the Middle Iron Age and dates to 400-100BC (Elsdon 1992, 83). One sherd in fabric LOCSH1, from the fill 205 of possible gully/beam slot 204 in Trench 2, is coated with burnt residue on its interior surface.
- 6.5 The assemblage is largely late prehistoric in date with the a few decorated sherds dating to the Middle Iron Age. It is domestic in nature and the presence of burnt residue on the interior of one sherd suggests that at least some vessels were used in the preparation of food.

Medieval Pottery

- 6.6 Fill 1204 of ditch 1203 in Trench 12 produced an abraded, unfeatured bodysherd (16g) in a quartz-tempered fabric with oxidised surfaces and a grey core. This may represent Abingdon ware (F362). Manufactured in south Oxfordshire, this pottery is dateable to the mid-11th to 14th centuries (Mellor 1994, 78–9).

Post-medieval pottery

- 6.7 An unabraded bodysherd of yellow slipware (F425, 14g), dateable to the late 17th to 18th centuries, was recorded from fill 806 of possible pit/ditch terminus 805 in Trench 8.

Other finds

- 6.8 Seven fragments of fired clay were recovered from four deposits. All fragments are made in sandy fabrics. One fragment (11g) from 1004, the fill of ditch 1003 in Trench 10, has a possible wattle mark on its interior. One fragment (9g) from 602, the fill of gully 603 in Trench 6, has a flat exterior surface. There are no other distinguishing features within the fired clay assemblage.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Animal bones amounting to 33 fragments (625g) were recovered via hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples from eight deposits dating broadly to the Late Prehistoric period. The material was highly fragmented but well preserved making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*) as detailed in Appendix C (Table 3).

Late Prehistoric

- 7.2 Thirty-one fragments of animal bone (514g) were recovered from the fills of ditch and gully features 204 in Trench 2, 502b in Trench 5b, 603 in Trench 6, 605 in Trench 6 and 1003 in Trench 10 as well as possible pit/tree throw 503a in Trench 5a. A limited amount of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones were identified, most of which were meat-poor skeletal elements, such as the bones of the lower legs and feet. No actual cut and/or chop marks were observed, but the bone did display impact damage commonly seen on waste from secondary butchery, where a carcass is separated into individual cuts of meat. In addition, several cattle and sheep sized bone, unidentifiable to species were recovered. These were mostly meat-rich rib and vertebrae fragments that bore small, repeated cut marks indicative of the filleting of meat during the final stages of butchery or meal preparation.

- 7.3 A single fragment of dog bone, a partial skull, was also recovered from deposit 503b, the fill of ditch 502b in Trench 5b but could provide no further information beyond species identification.

Undated

- 7.4 A further two fragments of bone (111g) were recovered from deposits which remain undated. These comprise a sheep/goat radius from deposit 406, the fill of possible pit/ditch terminus 405 in Trench 4 together with a cattle mandible from 1006, the fill of ditch 1005 in Trench 10. No evidence of butchery was observed and no further information beyond species identification was obtained.

Plant Macrofossils

- 7.5 Four environmental samples (73 litres of soil) were processed from a range of late prehistoric gullies and ditches within Trenches 2, 6 and 10 and from an undated possible pit/ditch terminus within Trench 4 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.6 Seven preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 4 in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.7 The flots varied in size with moderately high to high numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material was generally poorly preserved.

Iron Age

Trench 2

- 7.8 Fill 205 (sample 7) of possible gully/beam slot 204 contained a small assemblage of charred plant remains and of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. The charred plant remains included indeterminate grain fragments, a glume base fragment of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Spelt wheat is generally the predominant wheat species within assemblages of this date within southern Britain (Greig 1991). This assemblage may be indicative of dispersed domestic settlement waste material.

- 7.9 A few shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata* were noted.

Trench 6

- 7.10 A few small fragments of charcoal and no charred plant remains were recovered from fill 602 (sample 1) of gully 603. There were also a few shells of *Vallonia costata* recorded. This assemblage may be representative of dispersed material.

Trench 10

- 7.11 Fill 1004 (sample 4) of ditch 1003 contained a very few small charcoal fragments and no charred plant remains. Again this assemblage may be reflective of dispersed material.

Undated

Trench 4

- 7.12 No charred remains were observed from fill 406 (sample 6) of possible pit/ditch terminus 405. The moderate mollusc assemblage included shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Cepaea* sp. and *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade-loving species *Vitrea* sp. and *Oxychilus cellarius*. This assemblage may be indicative of a well-established open landscape with some longer unkempt grass in the vicinity of the pit.
- 7.13 There is no indication of the likely date of this feature from the environmental remains.

Summary

- 7.14 There is a slight indication from the assemblage from Trench 2 of settlement activities taking place in the wider vicinity of this area of the site during the late prehistoric period. The limited dating evidence suggests that this possibly spanned the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age.



8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation predominantly revealed evidence for late prehistoric activity largely concentrated in the eastern half of the site. The prehistoric pottery recovered was predominantly dated as late prehistoric and only two features, possible gully/beam slot 204 in Trench 2 and gully 603 in Trench 6 produced sherds specifically dated as Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age. A further five features recorded in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 10 produced pottery dated as late prehistoric. It is considered likely that other features recorded in the eastern part of the site represent late prehistoric activity based on their similar alignments. The limited dating evidence suggests that this activity possibly spanned the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age.

8.2 The evaluation in part corroborated the results of the earlier geophysical survey (PCG 2017) which had identified the possible enclosures in the eastern half of the site. Although curiously the northernmost east to west aligned boundary identified by the geophysical survey was not encountered; however, a series of furrows were revealed in this part of the site. Smaller features were recorded in the southern part of the site, most likely associated with settlement activity which had not been identified by the geophysical survey, probably largely due to the high level of modern disturbance that has occurred in this area. Also the possible features identified by the geophysical survey in the western half of the site largely appear to relate to modern disturbance or represent the remains of furrows.

Late Prehistoric

8.3 Late prehistoric pottery was recovered from ditch 502b exposed in Trench 5b and gully 208 in Trench 2. Possible gully/beam slot 204 in Trench 2 produced an assemblage of pottery of Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age date. The geophysical survey evidence suggests that these features form part of an enclosure which may have been 'D' shaped and most likely extended beyond the southern limits of the site. The possible terminus recorded within Trench 2 indicates a possible entrance way, with additional gullies extending from it, indicating there may have been some reworking of the enclosure.

8.4 To the north of this, ditches in Trench 10 broadly correlate with the geophysical survey and confirm the presence of a rectangular enclosure system. Ditch 1003 in Trench 10 contained pottery of late prehistoric date and ditch 1005 is considered likely to be contemporary based on its similar alignment. The geophysical survey

evidence suggested that related ditches forming the northern limits of the enclosure would be revealed at the southern end of Trench 14. However, no related evidence was recorded in Trench 14, although a series of furrows were revealed and it is possible that these had truncated any earlier remains within the location of Trench 14.

- 8.5 Between these enclosures a set two concentric ring gullies 603 and 605 exposed within Trench 6 and a curvilinear gully 202 within Trench 2 are representative of the remains of possible roundhouses. The possible gully/beam slot 204 indicative of a rectangular structural feature within Trench 2 two is further evidence of likely settlement activity within the south-eastern quadrant of the site. This is supported by the pottery and environmental evidence recovered from features within these trenches.
- 8.5 Other probable late prehistoric features included possible pit 503a in Trench 5a which produced a sherd of late prehistoric pottery and gully 506b in the north of Trench 5b.
- 8.6 This evaluation compliments the results of an excavation undertaken on land to the south of Huntingdon Road in 2000 (Hull 2001), approximately 400m to the north-east of the site which revealed a Bronze Age mini-hillfort or elite residence. In and around this enclosure Iron Age pits and working hollows were also found. The evidence for possible settlement activity during the late prehistoric period revealed within the evaluation trenches may indicate a transition of occupation from the Huntingdon Road site. An evaluation carried out in 1990 to the east of the site also highlights the likelihood of an Iron Age settlement within the immediate vicinity based on evidence for an Iron Age enclosure ditch excavated in a trench to the 400m to the east of the site.

Medieval

- 8.7 Ditch 1203 recorded in the eastern part of the site in Trench 12 produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the mid 11th to 14th century and it is possible that this and parallel ditch 1205 recorded within the same trench represent medieval activity. Notably ditch 1203 appears to broadly correspond with the alignment of a possible furrow identified by the geophysical survey further to the west of Trench 12 and this supports the possibility that these ditches relate to medieval agricultural activity. However, it is also possible that the pottery recovered from ditch 1203 was intrusive

given its abraded nature. It is also possible that ditches 1203 and 1205 relate to earlier activity.

Post-medieval

- 8.8 A possible pit/ditch terminus 805 was exposed within Trench 8 in the west of the site, which produced a sherd of 17th to 18th-century pottery. This feature was not identified by the geophysical survey. Similarly two undated possible pits/ditches 403 and 405 and ditch 407 in Trench 4 to the immediate south-west of Trench 8 were not identified by the geophysical survey and may represent broadly contemporary activity.
- 8.9 This evaluation has shown that the state of preservation in the northern half of site is good. The partial exposure of the natural geology in the southern half of the site through the prior topsoil and subsoil strip (across the area shown on Fig. 2) indicates that there has been some disturbance to the archaeological remains in this area. However, archaeological remains were still clearly identified, in particular in Trenches 2, 5b and 6 and appear to broadly correspond with the earlier geophysical survey results for the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 8.10 Overall, the site is generally characterised by agricultural activity of late prehistoric, possible medieval and post-medieval/modern date predominantly dispersed across the eastern and central parts of the site. There is evidence for late prehistoric activity and occupation of a rural nature predominantly located within the eastern half of the site.



9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by Alice Krausova, Robert Falvey, Eilidh Barr, Izabela Jurkiewicz, Abigail Breen, Bethany Hardcastle, and Rachel Jordan. The report was written by Ralph Brown. The finds reports were written by Pete Banks (prehistoric pottery and other finds) and Jacky Sommerville (medieval and post-medieval pottery), with the biological evidence reports written by and Andy Clarke (animal bone) and Sarah Wyles (palaeoenvironmental evidence). The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench no.	Context no.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot Date
1	100	Layer		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Firm compaction. 30% stone inclusion. 10% CBM inclusion	>20	>1.8	0.35	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangish brown. 10% sub angular stone inclusion less than 0.08m	>10	>1.8	0.01	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow gravely clay with frequent large sub-angular limestone inclusion	>20	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Firm compaction, 30% stone inclusion, 10% CBM inclusion	>20	>1.8	0.15	
2	201	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay with stoney patches	>20	>1.8		
2	202	Cut		Gully	NW-SE curvilinear with steep straight sides and concave base	>1.3	0.4	0.24	
2	203	Fill	202	Secondary silting	Mid blue brown clay, firm compaction. Occasional stone inclusions, less than 15mm. Occasional manganese and chalk inclusions	>1.3	0.4	0.24	
2	204	Cut		Gully/beam slot?	Linear. Steep near vertical sides with a flat base. NW-SE alignment.	>1.77	0.48	0.51	Iron Age
2	205	Fill	204	Secondary silting	Mid blue brown clay, firm compaction. Occasional stone inclusion of less than 115mm. Occasional manganese and rare charcoal inclusions.	>1.77	0.48	0.51	Iron Age
2	206	Cut		Ditch Terminus/pit	NE-SW Sub-oval with moderate straight sides and a gentle break in slope to a flat base	>0.94	>1.03	0.54	
2	207	Fill	206	Deliberate backfill?	Dark brown grey silty clay. 75% inclusion of large angular stones. Firm compaction	>0.94	>1.03	0.54	

2	208	Cut		Gully	Linear. Steep sloping sides, rounded base. NW-SE orientated.	>0.9	0.57	0.6	
2	209	Fill	208	Secondary silting	Mid brown grey clay. Firm compaction. Less than 5% small pebble inclusion	>0.9	0.57	0.6	
2	210	Fill	206	Secondary silting	Dark brown grey silty clay, firm compaction. Less than 5% large stone inclusion	>0.51	>0.71	0.48	
2	211	Cut		Gully	NW-SE Linear with moderate concave sides and concave base	>0.8	0.45	0.15	
2	212	Fill	211	Secondary silting	Firm mid blue grey clay silt	>0.8	0.45	0.15	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty sand. Firm compaction, 30% stone inclusion, 10% CBM inclusion	>12	>1.8	0.26	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangish brown. 10% sub angular stone inclusion less than 0.08m	>20	>1.8	0.1	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown sandy clay with 70% large stone inclusions	>20	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown silty loam with small rounded stone inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.19	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish orangish brown silty clay with large stone inclusions, friable compaction	>20	>1.8	0.08	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid orangish brown silty clay with large stone inclusions and limestone	>20	>1.8		
4	403	Cut		Pit/ditch terminus	Circular, gentle straight sloping sides with a flat base	>1.4	3.1	0.3	
4	404	Fill	403	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable compaction. Small rounded stone inclusions	2.1	3.25	0.3	
4	405	Cut		Pit/ditch terminus	Oval. Moderately steep sloping sides with concaved base	>0.73	>0.64	0.19	
4	406	Fill	405	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable compaction and small rounded stone inclusions	>0.73	>0.64	0.19	
4	407	Cut		Ditch	Sub-linear. Steep concaved sides with	1.52	0.88	0.13	

					a flat base.				
4	408	Fill	407	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable compaction with inclusions of small rounded stones	1.53	0.88	0.13	
5a	500a	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid brownish grey silty loam	>10	>1.8	0.21	
5a	501a	Layer		Subsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	>10	>1.8	0.28	
5a	502a	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow gravelly clay with significant large stone inclusions	>10	>1.8		
5a	503a	Cut		Pit/Tree throw	Irregular in plan. Irregular sides and base.	<1.0	1.72	0.31	
5a	504a	Fill	503	Secondary silting	Mid brown grey silty clay, friable compaction. Less than 5% charcoal inclusion and less than 5% small angular stone inclusion	<1.0	1.72	0.31	
5b	500b	Layer		Mixed subsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay. 50% small limestone inclusions, firm compaction	>10	>1.8	0.18	
5b	501b	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with significant limestone inclusions and bedrock	>10	>1.8		
5b	502b	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderate straight sides, flat based. E-W alignment	<1.8	1.9	0.55	Iron Age
5b	503b	Fill	502b	Fill of ditch	Firm dark brown grey clay silt with 75% sub angular stone inclusions 0.05-0.25	<1.8	1.9	0.55	Iron Age
5b	504b	Cut		Tree throw/ bioturbation	Oval, concaved irregular sides. Concaved base.	>0.31	0.31	0.08	
5b	505b	Fill	504b	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay, moderately compact.	>0.31	0.31	0.08	
5b	506b	Cut		Gully	Linear, parallel symmetrical sides. Sides moderate slope, concaved base.	>0.85	0.35	0.09	
5b	507b	Fill	506b	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. Compact with less than 1% charcoal	>0.85	0.35	0.09	

					inclusion,				
6	600	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay, friable compaction, occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	>10	>3.6	0.1	
6	601	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown sandy clay, compact	>10	>3.6		
6	602	Fill	603	Secondary silting	Mid brown grey sandy clay, friable compaction. Less than 5% sub-angular stone and charcoal inclusions	>1.0	0.54	0.19	
6	603	Cut		Gully	NW-SE Curvilinear gully with steep straight sides and a flat base.	>1.0	0.54	0.19	
6	604	Fill	605	Secondary silting	Dark greyish brown sandy clay, friable compaction. Less than 5% sub-angular stone, charcoal and rooting inclusions	>0.95	0.3	0.11	Iron Age
6	605	Cut		Gully	NW-SE curvilinear, moderately steep straight sides. Flat base	>0.95	0.3	0.11	Iron Age
7	700	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent small angular stone inclusions`	>10	>1.8	0.15	
7	701	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow sandy clay/mid reddish brown silty clay with significant large angular stone inclusions of 50%	>10	>1.8		
7	702	Cut		Natural Fissure	N-S linear steep straight west side undercutting east side	>1.0	0.3	>0.40	
7	703	Fill	702	Geological fill	Mid brown grey sandy clay firm	>1.0m	0.3m	>0.40	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>10	>1.8	0.12	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent angular stone inclusions of around 20%	>10	>1.8	0.21	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brownish silty clay with significant angular stone inclusions	>18	>1.8		

8	803	Cut		Furrow	Linear, moderately sloping sides and concaved base. E-W alignment	>1.8	0.73	0.25	
8	804	Fill	803	Secondary silting	Mid brownish grey silty clay, loose compaction. 25% small angular stone inclusions	>1.8	0.73	0.25	
8	805	Cut		Ditch terminus/pit	Sub ovoid with moderate straight sides and a flat base	>1.8	1.15	0.29	
8	806	Fill	805	Secondary silting	Mid brownish grey silty clay, loose compaction, frequent small angular stone inclusion.	>1.8	1.15	0.29	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown soft clayey loam, occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.3	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown, friable sandy clay with frequent sub-angular assorted size stone	>20	>1.8	0.33	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown firm clayey sand, frequent large sub-angular stone inclusions	>20	>1.8		
9	903	Cut		Natural Fissure	Linear, vertical sides. E-W alignment	>1.0	0.6	>0.55	
9	904	Fill	903	Natural Fissure	Mid brownish red sandy loam. Friable compaction. 10% assorted side sub-angular stone inclusions	>1.0	0.6	0.1	
9	905	Fill	903	Natural Fissure	Mid bluish grey silty clay, firm compaction. 15% assorted sub-angular stone inclusions and rooting	>1.0	0.6	>0.45	
9	906	Cut		Furrow	Linear, straight sides, uneven bedrock at base. Shallow	>1.0	0.8	0.03	
9	907	Fill	906	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty loam, friable compaction. Less than 5% small pebble inclusions	>1.0	0.8	0.03	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable compaction. Small rounded pebble inclusion	>20	>1.8	0.2	

10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish orangish brown silty clay with occasional angular stone inclusions, friable compaction	>20	>1.8	0.08	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light orangish brown silty clay, friable compaction with large stone inclusions	>20	>1.8		
10	1003	Cut		Ditch	Linear. W side steep straight slope, S side moderately sloping. Concaved base. NNE-SSW orientation	>1.0	1.4	0.66	Iron Age
10	1004	Fill	1003	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, firm compaction. Large angular stone inclusions	>1.0	1.4	0.66	Iron Age
10	1005	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderately concaved sides with a uneven/concaved base. NNE-SSW alignment	>1.0	1.2	0.3	Iron Age
10	1006	Fill	1005	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable compaction. Assorted angular and rounded stone inclusions	>1.0	1.2	0.3	Iron Age
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.27	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent angular stone inclusions of around 20%	>20	>1.8	0.08	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Mid orangish brown silty clay with large assorted stone inclusions	>20	>1.8		
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay, compact	>20	>1.8	0.25	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown with yellow flecks, silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.3	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Mid orangish grey clay/dark reddish brown silty clay. Compact	>20	>1.8		
12	1203	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderately sloping sides and concaved base. E-W orientated	>1.8	1.23	0.45	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Secondary silting	Mid reddish brown sandy clay, friable compaction. Sub-angular stone inclusions of less than 5% of the	>1	1.24	0.45	

					deposit				
12	1205	Cut		Ditch	Not excavated	>1.8	2.5		
12	1206	Fill	1205	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Small stone inclusions of less than 0.010m 15% of the deposit	>1.8	2.5		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with vegetation and stone inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.2	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish orangish brown silty clay. Friable compaction with small assorted stone inclusions	>20	>1.8	0.1	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Mid orangish brown silty clay with large stone inclusions	>20	>1.8		
13	1303	Cut		Furrow	Linear, gentle sloping sides and concaved base. E-W orientation	>2.5	0.65	0.12	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable compaction with large stone inclusions of 70% of deposit	>1	0.65	0.12	
13	1305	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear not excavated	>2.5	1.1		
13	1306	Fill	1305	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable compaction with large stone inclusions of 70% of deposit	>2.5	1.1		
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay, compact	>20	>1.8	0.28	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish orangish brown silty clay with large stone inclusions, friable compaction	>20	>1.8	0.16	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish yellow firm clay	>20	>1.8		
14	1403	Cut		Furrow	Linear, uneven sides and concaved base Shallow	<1.8	3.1	0.26	
14	1404	Fill	1403	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	<1.8	3.1	0.26	
14	1405	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear	>6.8	5	0.2	
14	1406	Fill	1405	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	>6.8	5	0.2	
14	1407	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear	>1.8	2.3	0.18	
14	1408	Fill	1407	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	>1.8	2.3	0.18	
14	1409	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear	>1.8	1.9	0.1	
14	1410	Fill	1409	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	>1.8	1.9	0.1	
14	1411	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear	>1.8	2.8	0.26	

14	1412	Fill	1411	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	>1.8	2.8	0.26	
14	1413	Cut		Furrow	E-W Linear	>1.8	1.2	0.1	
14	1414	Fill	1413	Secondary silting	Light greyish brown silty clay, compact.	>1.8	1.2	0.1	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty loam. Friable compaction. Small stone inclusion all less than 0.05m	>20	>1.8	0.22	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangish brown silty clay, 10% small assorted stone inclusion	>20	>1.8	0.28	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Dark brownish orange, silty clay. Significant 50% angular stone inclusion less than 0.20m in size	>20	>1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown silty sandy loam. Compact. Less than 10% sub-angular stone	>20	>1.8	0.16	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay, moderately compact. Less than 5% rounded stone inclusion	>20	>1.8	0.23	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish orange silty clay, compact. 5% rounded stone inclusion	>20	>1.8		
16	1603	Cut		Tree Throw/Pit	Rounded/irregular, steep sides and uneven base	>0.87	>1.61	0.23	
16	1604	Fill	1603	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compact. Less than 10% small rounded stone inclusions	>0.87	>1.61	0.23	
16	1605	Cut		Ditch	Linear, parallel symmetrical sides, steep slope. Concaved base NW-SE alignment	>1.0	0.74	0.19	
16	1606	Fill	1605	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compact with less than 5% small rounded stone inclusions	>1.0	0.74	0.19	
16	1607	Cut		Tree throw/Pit	Circular, steep sloping sides and flat base	>0.60	1.2	0.19	
16	1608	Fill	1607	Secondary silting	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compact. Less than 5% small rounded stone inclusions	>0.60	1.2	0.19	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
205	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Coarse shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH1	7	46	MIA/LIA
	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Shelly grog-tempered fabric.	LOCSHG1	1	13	
	Fired Clay		Sandy	1	48	
209	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Sparse fine shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH2	1	12	Late Preh
209	Burnt Stone			2	28	
406	Industrial Waste			1	2	-
503	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Shell-tempered fabric with clay pellets.	LOCSHCP1	2	45	Late Preh
503	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Coarse shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH1	1	35	
504	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Common fine shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH3	1	8	Late Preh
602	Fired Clay	Flat outer surface.	Sandy	1	9	MIA/LIA
	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Grog-tempered fabric with quartz sand.	LOCGQ1	2	7	
	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Common fine shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH3	1	17	
604	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Common fine shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH3	2	12	Late Preh
	Fired Clay		Sandy	3	8	
806	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	F425	1	15	LC17-C18
1004	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Common fine shell-tempered fabric.	LOCSH3	3	13	Late Preh
	Fired Clay	Poss. wattle mark	Sandy	2	26	
1204	Medieval pottery	?Abingdon ware	F362	1	16	MC11-C14

Table 2: Pottery fabric description

Period	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Description
Late Prehistoric	LOCSH1			Common, coarse/very coarse, moderately sorted shell.
	LOCSH2			Sparse, fine, well sorted shell.
	LOCSH3			Common, fine, well sorted shell.
	LOCSHCP1			Sparse, coarse, moderately sorted shell/ Sparse, very coarse, moderately sorted clay pellets.
	LOCSHG1			Sparse, medium, well sorted shell/common, fine, well sorted grog.
	LOCGQ1			Sparse, medium, well sorted grog/common, medium, well sorted quartz sand.

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	Canid	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric									
204	205	3					2	5	231
502b	503B	2			1		1	4	101
503	504A		3					3	11
603	602						2	2	3
605	604						5	5	11
1003	1004	2		2		5	3	12	157
Subtotal		7	3	2	1	5	13	31	514
Undated									
405	406		1					1	14
1005	1006	1						1	97
Subtotal		1	1					2	111
Total		8	4	2	1	5	13	33	
Weight		450	25	37	24	58	31	625	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat, Canid = dog; MM = medium sized mammal

Table 4: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

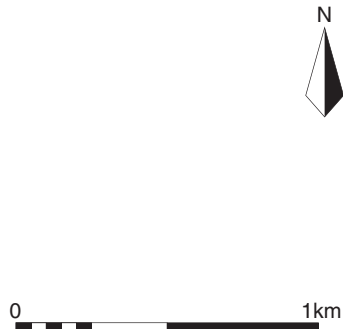
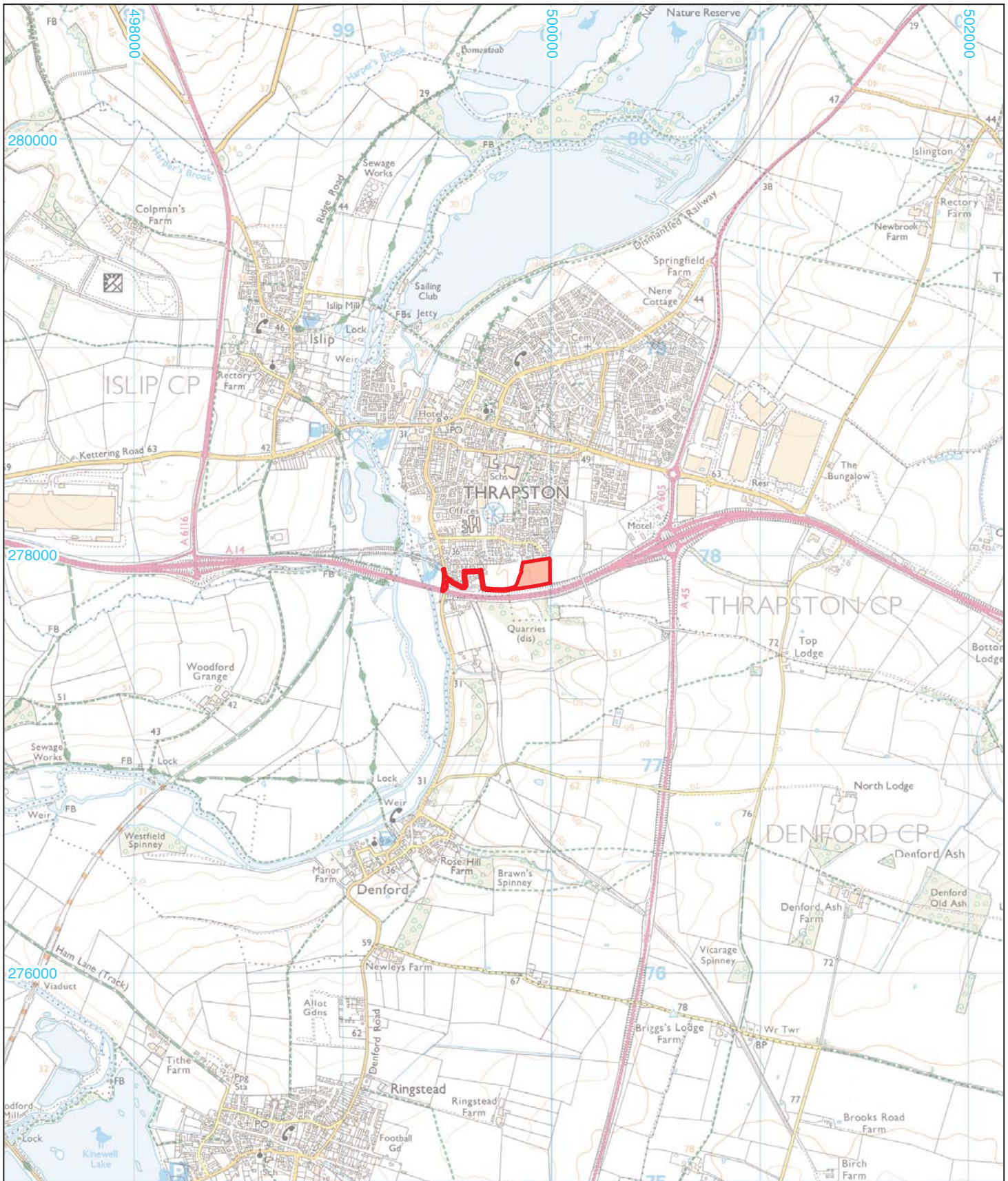
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 2 - Iron Age Gully											
204	205	7	15	20	65	*	*	*	Indet grain frags, spelt glume base, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	*/**	Moll-t (*)
Trench 6 - Iron Age Gully											
603	602	1	20	20	65	-	-	-	-	-/*	Moll-t (*)
Trench 10 - Iron Age Gully											
1003	1004	4	20	200	80	-	-	-	-	-/*	-
Trench 4 - Undated Pit											
405	406	6	18	40	80	-	-	-	-	-	Moll-t (***)

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire
Short description	<p>In January and February 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orbit Homes, was carried out in part fulfilment of a condition attached to the consent for residential development. The evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen trenches.</p> <p>The trenches were distributed across open land to east and south of recent and ongoing residential development. A geophysical survey of the site had identified evidence for possible settlement activity largely within in the eastern and central parts of the site along with traces of possible ridge and furrow largely in the north-western part of the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed evidence for late prehistoric activity largely concentrated in the eastern and central part of the site. This included a possible D-shaped enclosure and a rectangular enclosure with a set of two concentric ring gullies located between them. The limited dating evidence suggests that the late prehistoric activity possibly spanned the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age.</p> <p>A ditch recorded in the eastern part of the site produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the mid 11th to 14th century and it is possible that this and a parallel ditch within the same trench represent medieval activity. However, it is also possible that the pottery was intrusive given its abraded nature.</p> <p>A pit/ditch terminus recorded in the western half of site produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the 17th to 18th century. Two undated possible pits/ditches were recorded within the same trench and possibly relate to contemporary post-medieval activity.</p> <p>The evaluation in part corroborated the results of the earlier geophysical survey which had identified the possible enclosures in the eastern half of the site. Although curiously the northernmost east to west aligned boundary identified by the geophysical survey was not encountered, however, a series of furrows were revealed in this part of the site. Smaller features were recorded in the southern part of the site, most likely associated with settlement activity which had not been identified by the geophysical survey, probably largely due to the high level of modern disturbance in this area.</p> <p>Overall, the site is generally characterised by agricultural activity of late prehistoric, possible medieval and post-medieval/modern date predominantly dispersed across the eastern and central parts of the site. There is evidence for late prehistoric activity and occupation of a rural nature predominantly located within the eastern half of the site.</p>
Project dates	29/01/2018 to 02/02/2018
Project type	Field evaluation
Previous work	<p>NA (Northamptonshire Archaeology) 2012 An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NA Report 12/158</p> <p>PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2017 Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land Between Oakleas Rise and Midland</p>

	Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	499919 277941	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Ralph Brown	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch, pit	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Accession no. ENN108973	Content
Physical	undetermined	Pottery, animal bone and fired clay.
Paper	undetermined	Site records, trench sheets, context sheets and drawings.
Digital	undetermined	Report, digital photos and spreadsheets.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at Midland Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18070		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Midland Road, Thrapston,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/02/2018	
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- Furrow
- Field drain
- Spoil heap (from groundworks prior to archaeological evaluation)
- Approximate area subject to stripping prior to archaeological evaluation

Ⓐ ↕ Ⓐ Section location

Geophysical Survey results
by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd
2017

- Potential archaeology
- Ridge and furrow



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features and
 geophysical survey results**

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A14



Pre-excavation photograph of south of the site



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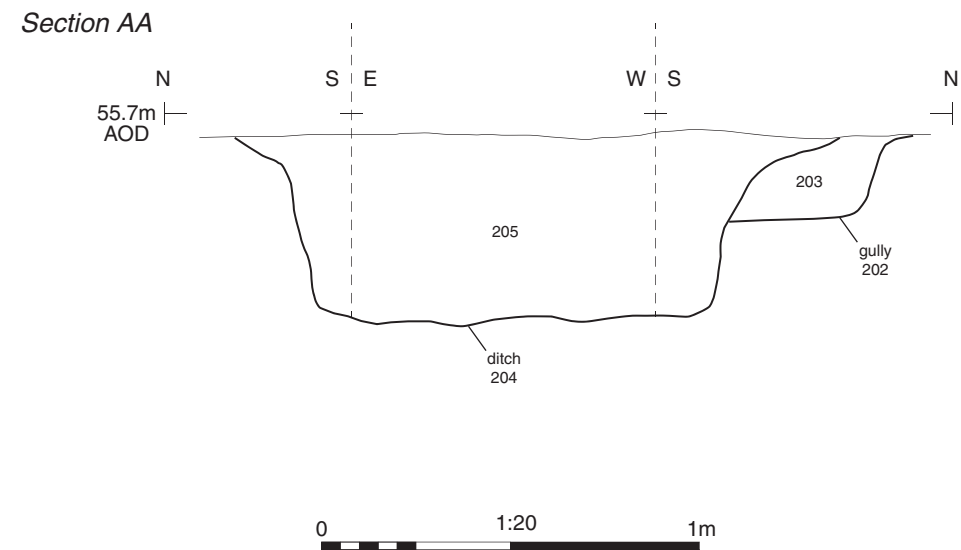
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE@A4	NA	3



Gully 202 and ditch 204, looking north-west (1m scale)



Terminus 206 and gullies 208 and 211, looking north-east (1m scale)

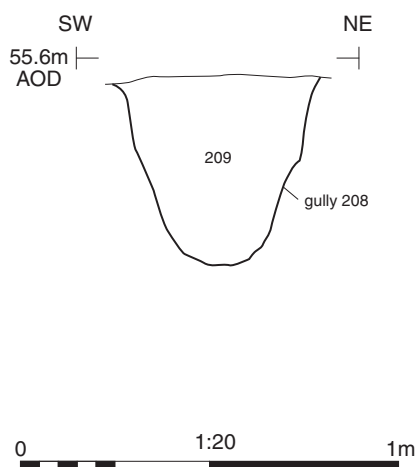

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2, section and photographs

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Section BB



Pit/ditch terminus 206, looking south-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY MLC SCALE@A4 1:20

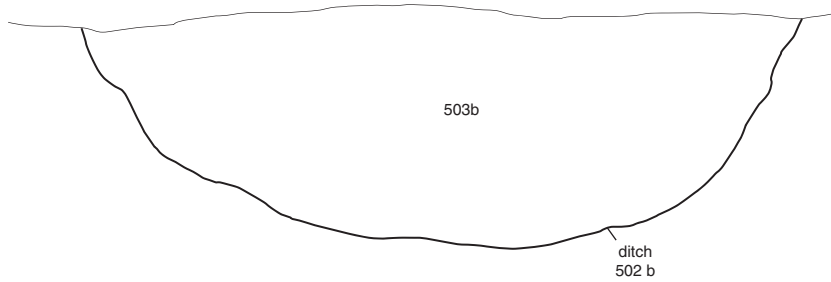
FIGURE NO.

5

Section CC

N
55.4m
AOD

S



0 1:20 1m



Trench 5b including ditch 502b and gully 506b, looking north (1m scales)



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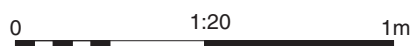
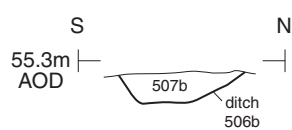
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5b, section and photograph

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Section DD



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FIGURE TITLE

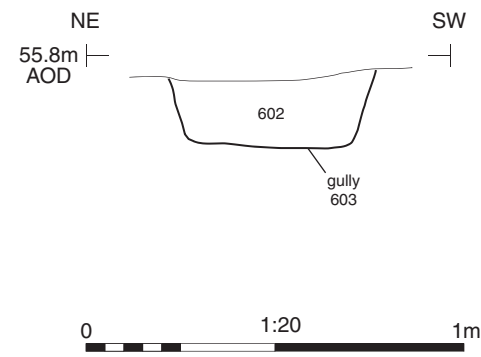
Ditch 506b: section

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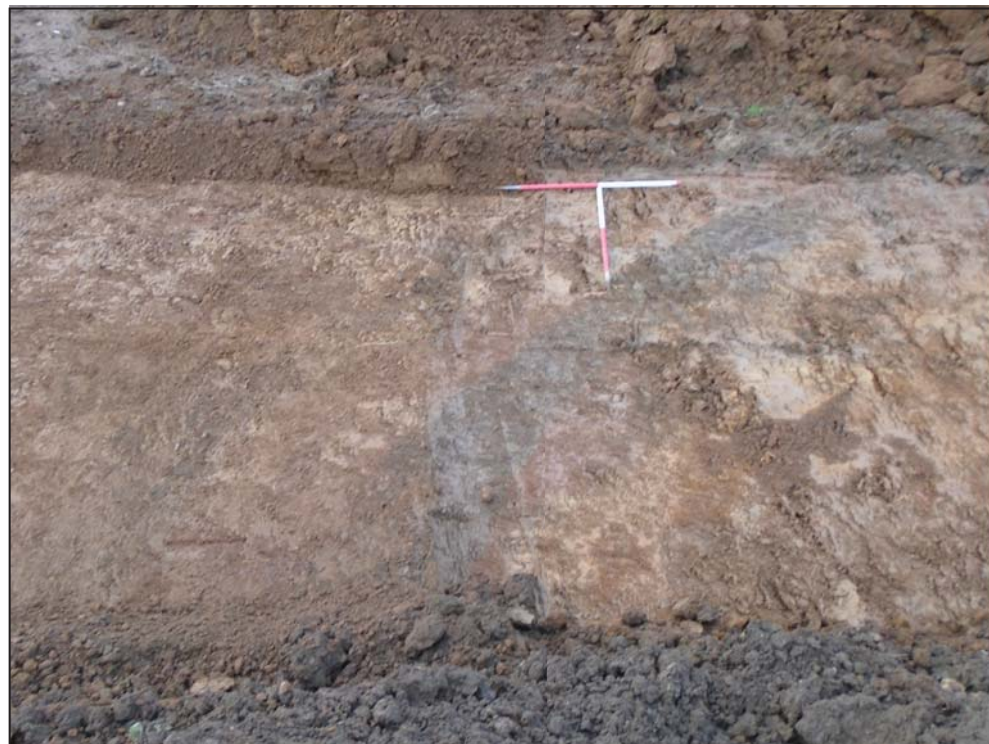
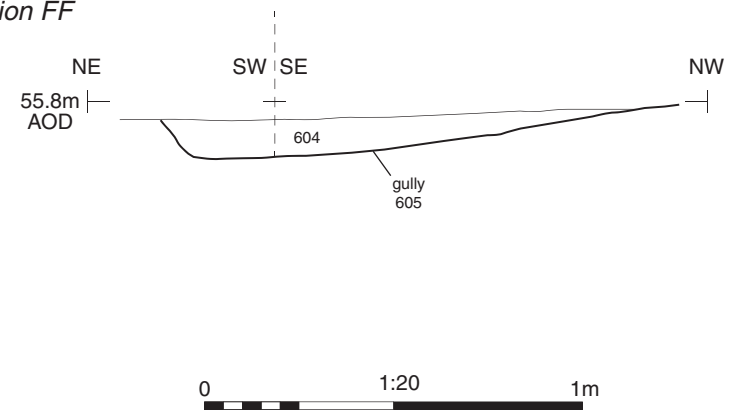
FIGURE NO.

7

Section EE



Section FF



Ring gullies 603 and 605, looking south-west (1m scales)



Ring gully 603, looking south-east (1m scale)

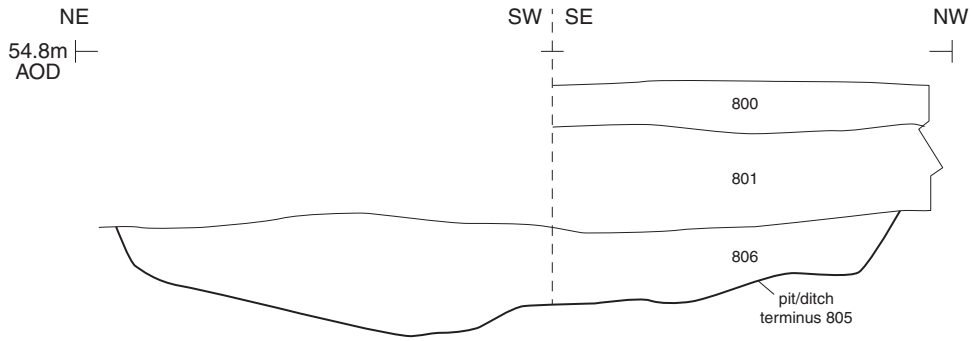

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6, sections and photographs

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Section GG



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FIGURE TITLE

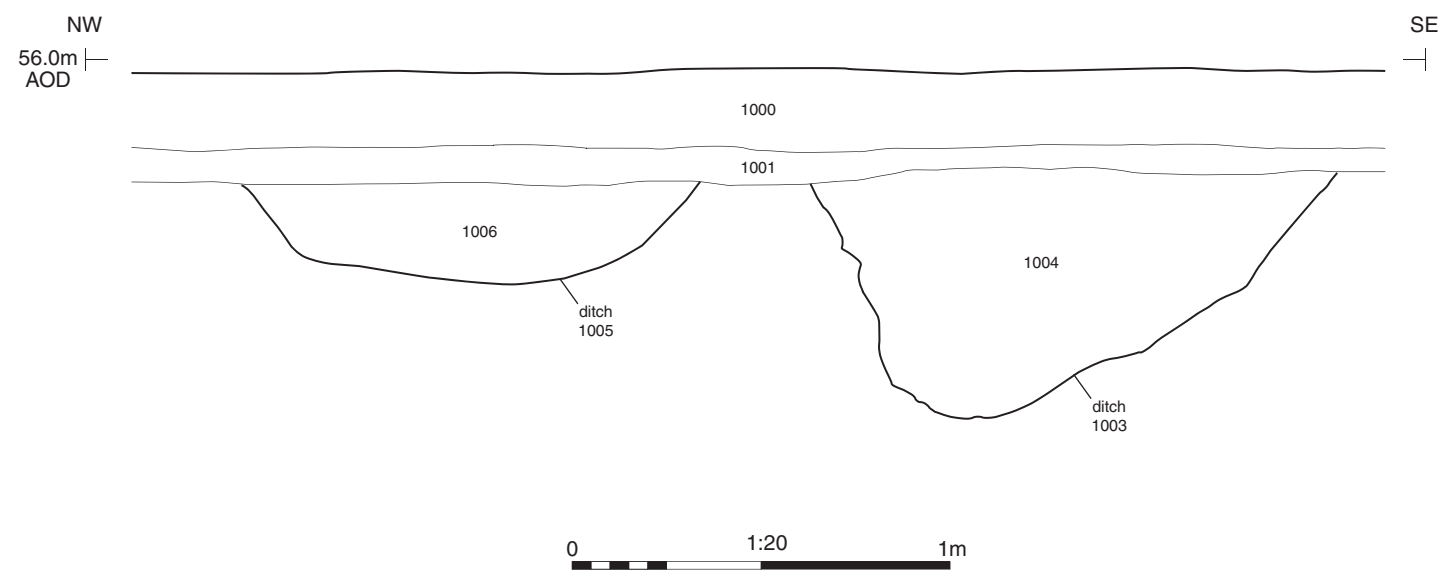
Pit/ditch terminus 805: section

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FIGURE NO.

9

Section HH



Ditch 1003, looking north-east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 10, sections and photographs

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Ditch 1203, looking south-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 1203: photograph

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FIGURE NO.

11



Pit 405 and ditch 407, looking north-east (1m scale)



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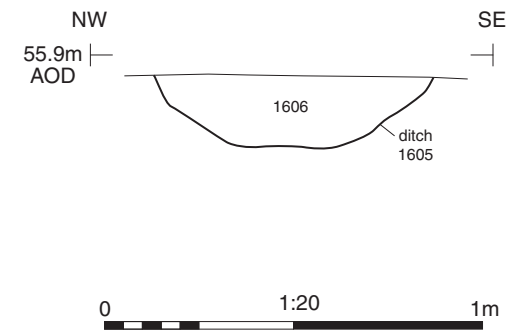
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4, photograph

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Section II



Pit 1603, looking north-west (1m scale)



Pit 1607, looking north-west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 16: section and photographs

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