

**Land adjacent to Hardwick Road
Little Harrowden
Northamptonshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Seagrave Developments

CA Project: 661140
CA Report: 18334
Event UID: ENN109131

June 2018



Land adjacent to Hardwick Road
 Little Harrowden
 Northamptonshire

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	14/6/2018	MD	JN	Internal review	QA	SRJ
B	22/08/2018			External Review	County Archaeologist Comments	SRJ

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land adjacent to Hardwick Road
Location:	Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire
NGR:	486802 271130
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25 to 26 June 2018
Planning Reference:	Borough Council of Wellingborough WP/17/00665/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:	LAHR 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2018 at land adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken to inform an outline application for the residential development of the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches.

Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location within an area of extensive cropmarks identified through aerial photography. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record records numerous prehistoric, Roman, medieval and modern sites within the immediate vicinity of the site.

The evaluation identified two broadly north/south orientated ditches. Worked flint and several pieces of animal bone were recovered from the fill of the southernmost ditch. This is likely to represent an agricultural drainage and/or boundary feature.

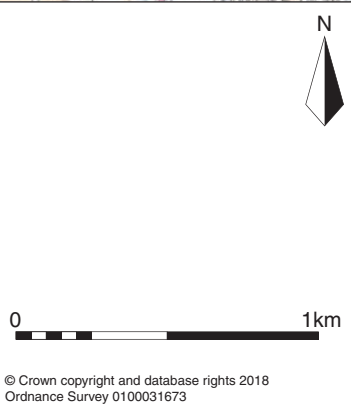
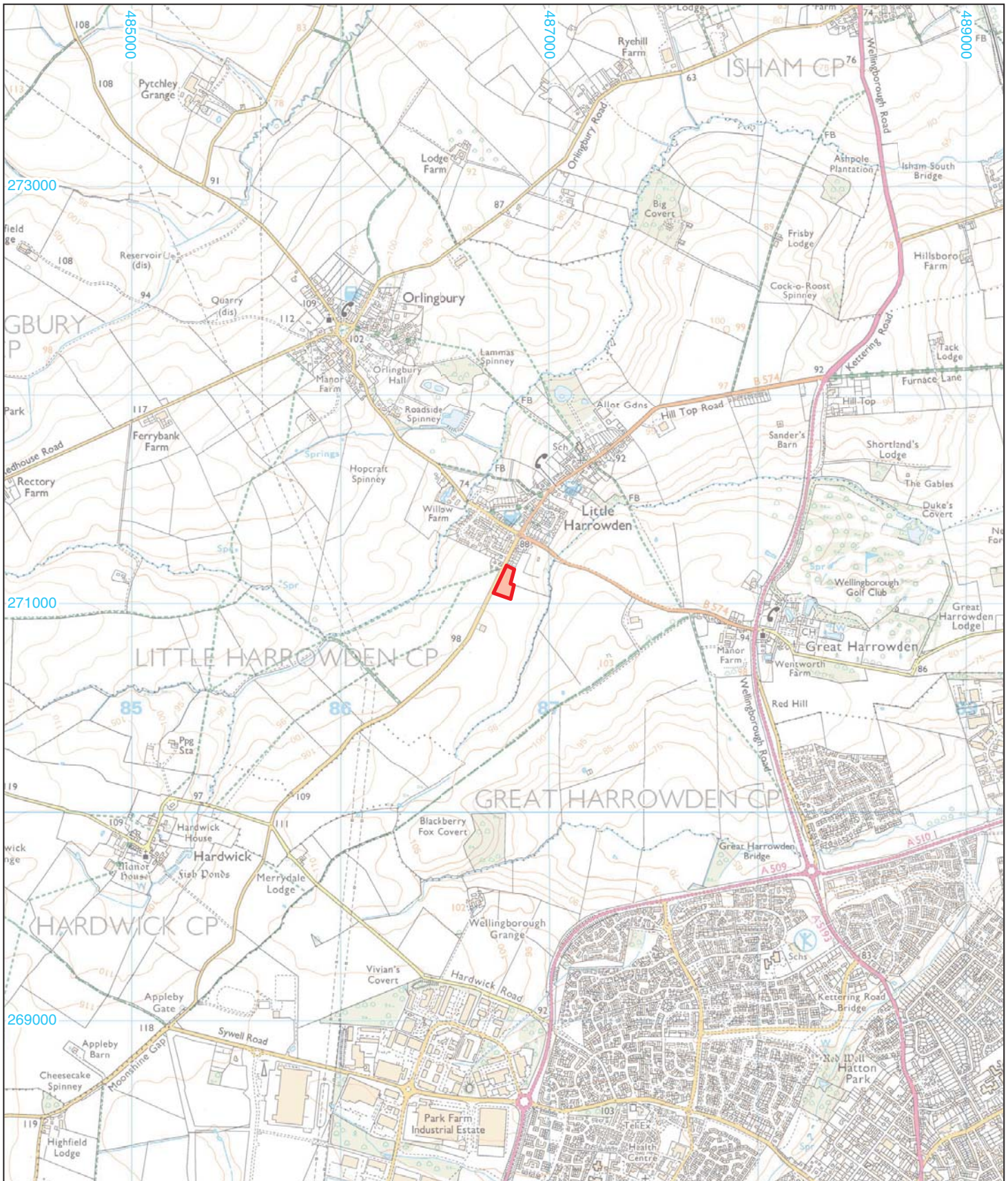


1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Seagrave Developments at land adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire (centred at NGR: 486802 271130; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform an outline planning application (ref: no. WP/17/00665/OUT) to the Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW; the local planning authority) for residential development of up to 18 dwellings.
- 1.2 The scope of the archaeological work, which comprised the excavation of four trial trenches, was defined during discussions between CA and Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA; the archaeological advisor to BCW).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Liz Mordue, including a site visit on the 25 June 2018.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site is approximately 0.9ha in area, situated to the immediate south-west of the village of Little Harrowden and approximately 2km north-west of Wellingborough. The site comprises parts of two fields, the northernmost of which is currently under pasture, with the southernmost utilised for arable farming. The site is bounded to the north-west by properties and associated rear gardens fronting on to Hardwick Road, to the east and south by farmland, currently utilised as pasture and arable respectively and to the west by Hardwick Road, with fields beyond. The site lies at approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north, rising gently to 93m aOD in the south.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Northampton Sand Formation, ooidal ironstone, of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2018). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded within the site. Silty sand ironstone brash was encountered during the evaluation, sealed by a layer of natural clay within Trench 3.




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Hardwick Road,
 Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire
FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	661140	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/07/2018	
APPROVED BY	SRJ	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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Plate 1: site, looking north

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 All of the Heritage Environmental Record (HER) data held by the Northamptonshire HER was requested for a 1km area, centred on the site (Event UID: ENN109131). The data was synthesised, with those historic environment records considered most pertinent to this evaluation discussed below. HER record numbers are included in parenthesis.

2.2 No designated Heritage assets are recorded within the site.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

2.3 A ring ditch visible as a cropmark on aerial photography is recorded approximately 200m south-west of the site (3639/0/1-MNN23384). This may represent a prehistoric round barrow of likely Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

2.4 Also within the same field, approximately 650m to south-west, two possible prehistoric roundhouses have been identified through historic aerial photographs (3821/0/018-MNN119026 & 3821/0/19-MNN119027), apparently separated by a c. 450m long section of ditch (3822/0/1-MNN119025), with further cropmarks of probable prehistoric pits located to the west of these (3821/0/16-MNN119024).

- 2.5 Slightly further to the west, c. 800m south-west of the site are a series of curvilinear enclosures (3821/0/1-MNN119011, 3821/0/6-MNN119016), square enclosures (3821/0/5-MNN119022, 3821/0/4-MNN119021, 3821/0/3-MNN119020) possible roundhouses (3821/0/11-MNN119012, 3821/0/12-MNN119015, 3821/0/10-MNN119013), pits (3821/0/15-MNN119019) and ditches (3821/0/2-MNN119014, 3821/0/14-MNN119018, 3821/0/13-MNN119017), all identified through aerial photography.
- 2.6 Further cropmarks, representing extensive prehistoric settlement, are recorded to the south-east of the site (e.g. 3635/0/33-MNN119070, 3635/0/35-MNN119068, 3635/0/32, MNN119071), to the north-east (e.g. 3630/0/6-MNN119034, 3630/0/1-MNN119031, 3630/0/3- MNN1190330 and to the north-west (3640/0/2-MNN119000, 3640/0/7-MNN119002, 3640/0/8-MNN119003).

Roman (AD 43 to 410)

- 2.7 A possible Romano-British building is recorded approximately 800m south-west of the site (3821/0/17-MNN27882). Fieldwalking revealed an extensive area of building stone, including roof tiles and tufa, and a very wide range of Romano-British coarse ware pot sherds.
- 2.8 Further findspots of Roman pottery, predominantly grey sandy ware, are recorded approximately 1km east of the site (3753/0/0).

Medieval to modern (1066 to present)

- 2.9 The Domesday Book (1086) records the village of Little Harrowden as '*The other Hardegone*' and was included in the lands of the Bishop of Coutances (3629). The name Little Harrowden, or Harrowden Parva, was in use by 1227.
- 2.10 Located approximately 150m to the east of the site a plough headland measuring in excess of 1500m in length is recorded (5136/0/10-MNN166366). Further evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture is recorded across much of the surrounding landscape (e.g. 5136/0/9 and 5136/0/7).

Undated

- 2.11 The Northamptonshire HER records further undated monuments and linear cropmarks (3637/0/1 - MNN119028, 3822, 3754, 3754/0/4, 3754/0/1 and 3822/0/1) located within the same field as ring ditch 3639/0/1. This includes an undated

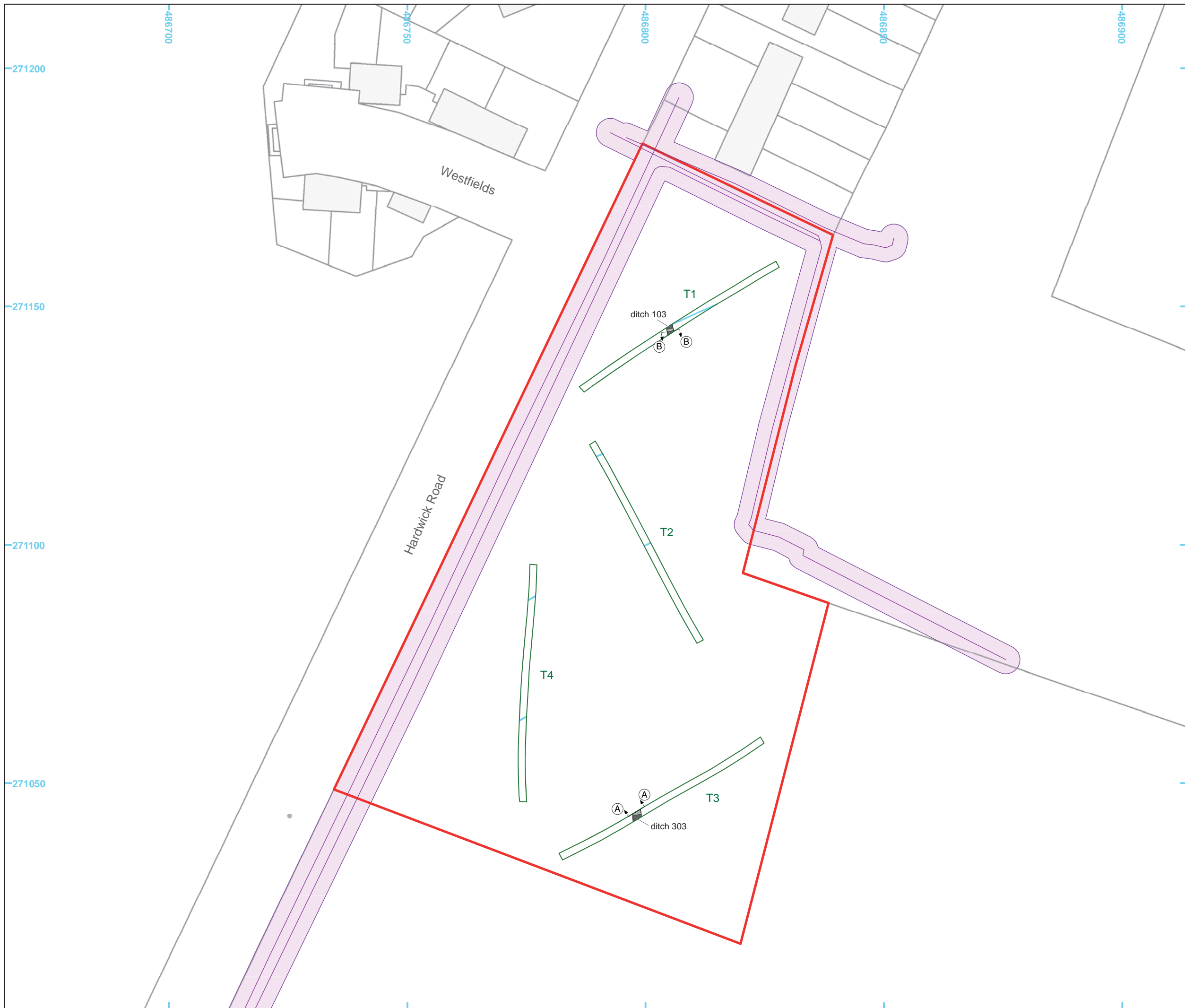
enclosure (3637/0/2 - MNN119029). Further extensive undated cropmarks are also located to the west and east of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are 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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. This information will enable BCW 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 fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches, each measuring 50m long by 1.6m wide (Trenches 1 to 4), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The 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*.
- 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*.
- 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*; a single deposit was identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Field drain
- Section location
- Service buffer



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Hardwick Road,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> EE	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 661140	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 09/07/2018	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SRJ	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. There is currently no depository accepting archives from archaeological sites in this region of Northamptonshire; however, the archive will be deposited at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this facility opens. 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 2-4)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trenches 2 and 4.

5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified across the site. The geological substrate, which comprised of a silty sand ironstone brash, was revealed at an average depth of between 0.5m and 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl). Within Trench 4 this was overlain by a layer of natural clay c. 150mm thick. Overlying this, or directly overlying the natural within Trenches 1 to 3, was subsoil measuring between 0.25m and 0.4m thick. This was in turn sealed by topsoil averaging 0.38m thick. All of the encountered features cut the natural geological substrate.

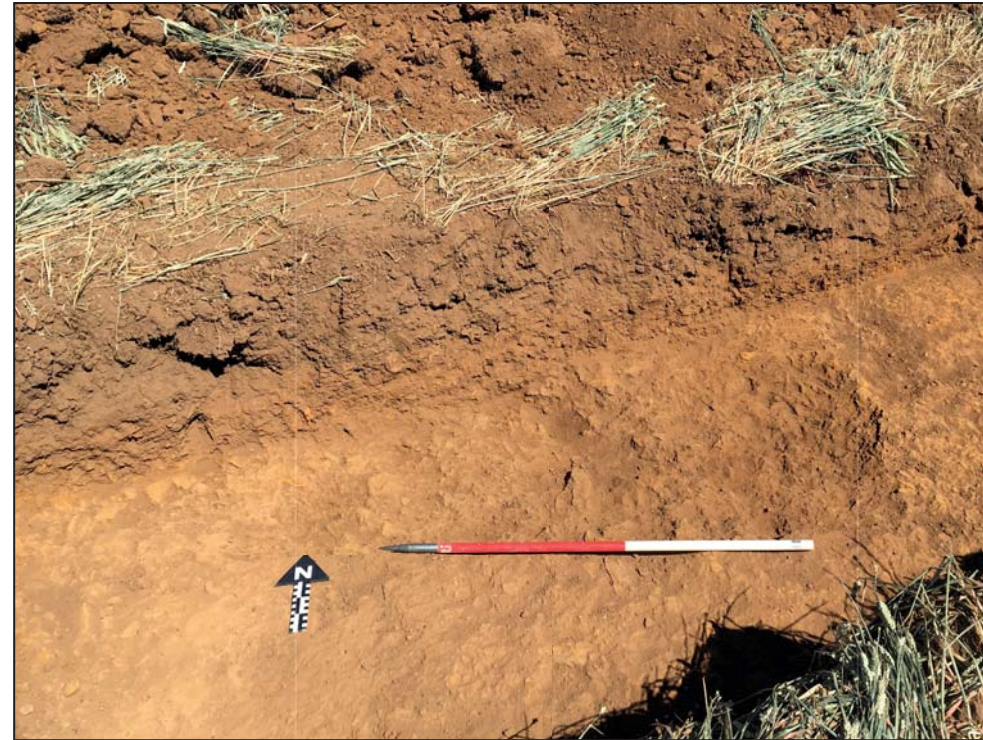
Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

5.3 Located towards the south-western end of Trench 3 was broadly north/south orientated ditch 303 (Fig 3). It measured 1.6m wide by 0.14m deep with uneven sides and base. Two worked flints, comprising a flake and a plano-convex knife, as well as a partial cattle molar was recovered from the light grey brown silty sand fill, 304. The knife, consistent with forms known from Late Neolithic to Early Bronze contexts, has a degree of edge damage which suggests it may be redeposited within this context. A sample (Sample 1) taken from this context revealed minimal charcoal fragments, as well modern seeds and roots.



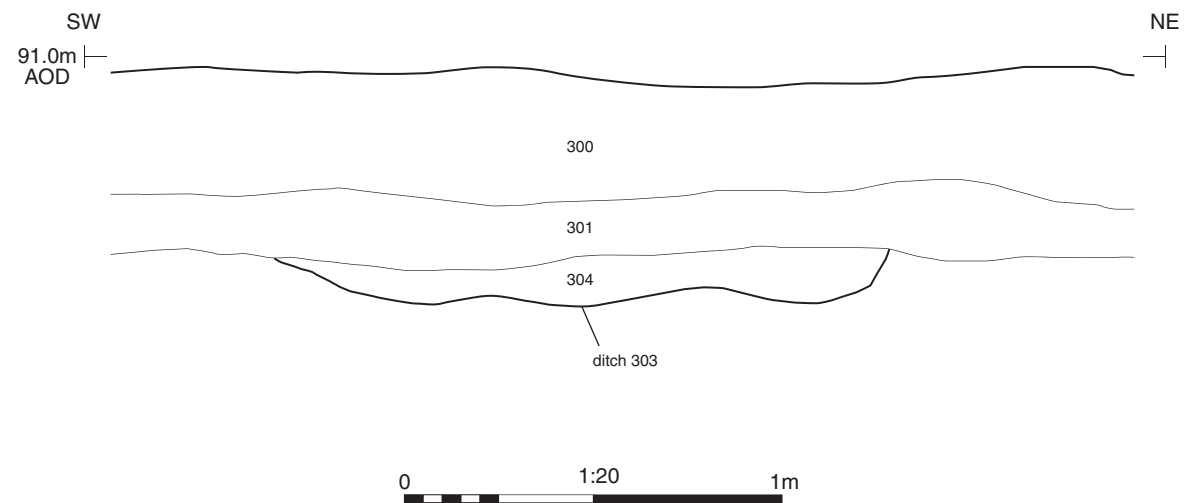


Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scales)



Ditch 303, looking north (1m scale)

Section AA



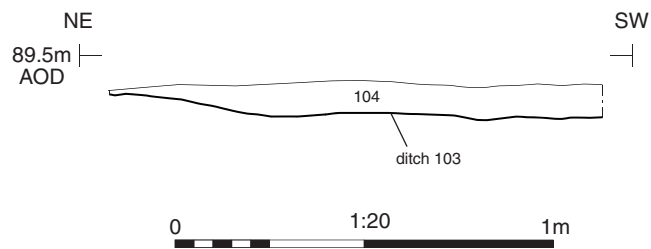

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3, section and photographs

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Section BB



Ditch 103, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Hardwick Road,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1, section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	SRJ	SCALE@A4	1:20	4

Undated

- 5.4 Located at the centre of Trench 1 was north/south oriented ditch 103 (Fig 4). It measured 1.3m wide by 0.1m deep with a shallow sloping eastern side and a gently undulating base. No finds were recovered from the single mid brown silt fill 104.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from one ditch fill. The recovered material dates to the Early prehistoric period. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.

Lithics

- 6.2 Fill 304 of ditch 303 produced two worked flints – a flake and a plano-convex knife. The knife is a finely-made example, which has been invasively pressure-flaked over the whole of the convex (dorsal) surface. It measures 46 x 23 x 7mm. A moderate degree of edge damage is visible on the ventral surface, so the knife may not be stratified within this ditch fill. This tool type was in use from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods (Saville 2008, 733) and is often recovered in association with Collared Urns (Field 1985, 127).

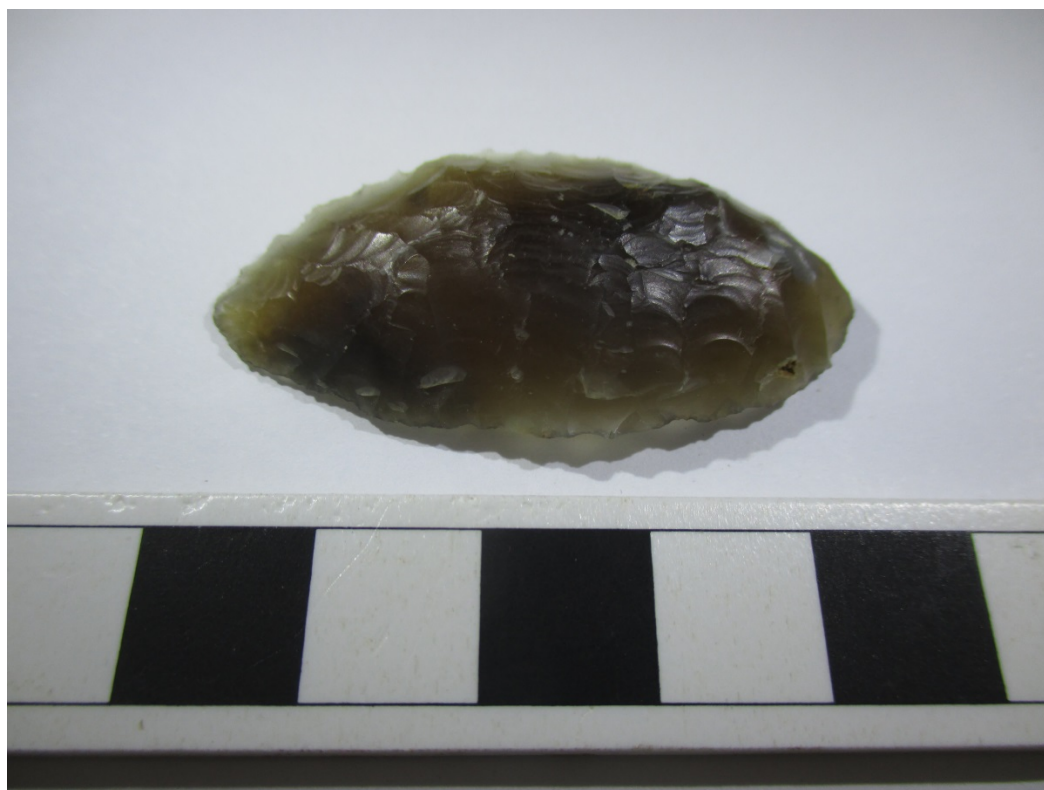


Plate 2: plano-convex knife (dorsal surface), recovered from ditch 303 (cm scale)

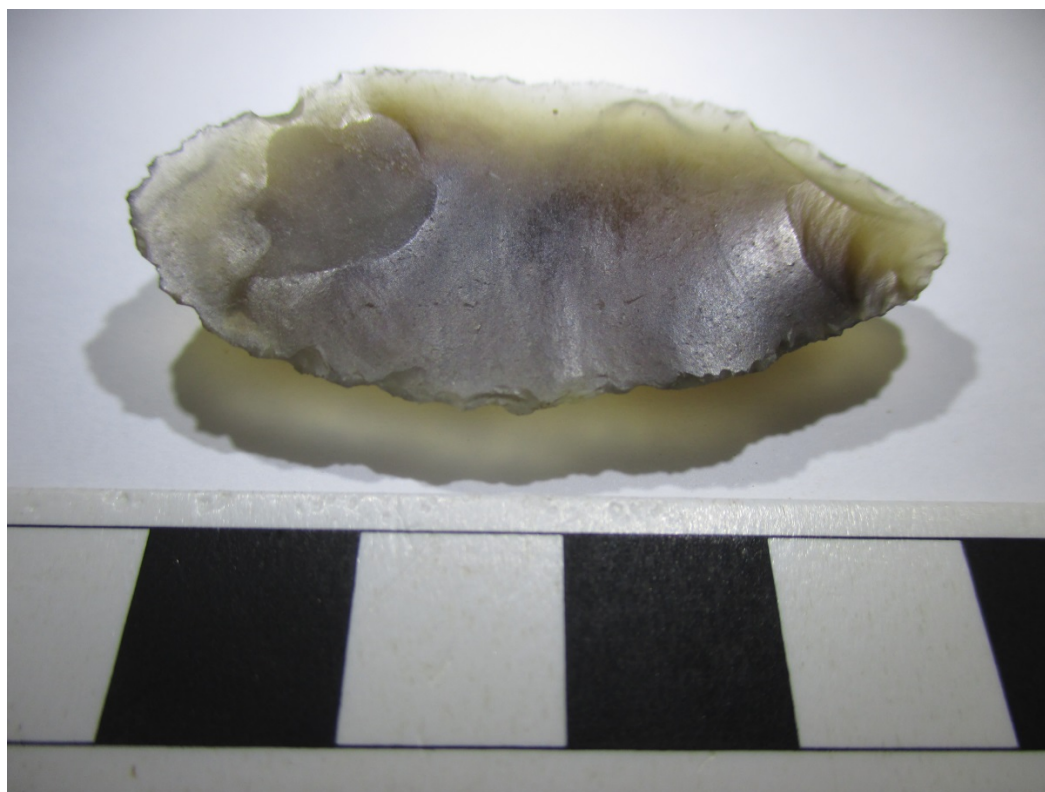


Plate 3: plano-convex knife, recovered from ditch 303 (cm scale)

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single fragment of animal bone (2g) was recovered from deposit 304, the fill of ditch 303. Artefacts from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were also recovered from this deposit. The bone was poorly preserved but identifiable as a partial cattle molar (*Bos taurus*).

Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 7.2 A single sample (twenty litres of soil) was taken from within Trench 3 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental evidence might provide an indication of the date of the deposit. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Trench 3

- 7.3 The primary fill (304, Sample 1) within undated ditch 303 contained minimal quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. The poorly preserved charcoal

assemblage showed evidence of vitrification. Within the sample there were several indeterminable grains, a single bedstraw seed (*Galium sp.*) and a single orache seed (*c.f. Atriplex*). The sample contained a high number of modern seeds and roots.

- 7.4 The environmental remains provide no indication of the date of this deposit and no firm evidence for any specific activity taking place on site.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location within an area of extensive cropmarks identified through aerial photography. The Northamptonshire HER records prehistoric, Roman, medieval and modern sites within the immediate vicinity of the site. The evaluation was undertaken across the site to determine if the archaeological remains associated with these cropmarks extend into the development area.

- 8.2 The evaluation has recorded evidence for archaeological features within the site, comprising two linear ditches. The southernmost ditch contained two worked flints, comprising a flake and a plano-convex knife, as well as fragments of animal bone. The knife is of a type which was in use from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods.

Prehistoric (pre -AD43)

- 8.3 Ditch 303, located within the southern part of the site (Trench 3), may form the continuation of enclosures and ditches identified as cropmarks in the fields surrounding the site, however, these could not be conclusively shown to extend into the current site.
- 8.4 The north/south orientation of the ditches does not fit with the general alignment of the surrounding field systems depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping, which predominantly relate to Parliamentary Enclosures of the post-medieval period, suggesting that these features pre-date this period.

Undated

- 8.5 No dating evidence was recovered from the fill of ditch 103. The alignment of ditch 303 is broadly similar to ditch 103, suggesting the potential for these features to be contemporary; as such it would likely have a similar function.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Julian Newman, assisted by Molly Day. The report was written by Molly Day. The finds, animal bone and palaeoenvironmental reports were written by Jacky Sommerville, Andy Clarke and Emma Aitkin respectively. 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 Stuart Joyce.



10. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 27 June 2018
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites: Technical Manual No. 2
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- Saville, A. 2008 'The flint and chert artefacts' 648–743. In Mercer, R. and Healy, F. *Hambledon Hill, Dorset, England: Excavation and Survey of a Neolithic Monument Complex and its Surrounding Landscape. Volume 1*. English Heritage Archaeological Reports

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt			0.2
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt			0.3
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mottled mid orange brown to mid-brown silty sandy ironstone brash			>0.5
1	103	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch. No clear edges, irregular base. NW-SE	>1.6	1.3	0.1
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silt. Loose	>1.6	1.3	0.1



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty sand. Loosely compact			0.4
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty sand. Compact. Frequent ironstone brash inclusions			0.4
2	202	Layer		Natural	West end of trench: Mid orangey brown silty sandy sandstone brash East end of trench: Mid brown orange silty sandy ironstone brash			>0.8



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking south-east (1m scales)

3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty sand. Loosely compact			0.35	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty sand. Compact. Frequent ironstone brash inclusions			0.25	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand sandstone brash			>0.6	
3	303	Cut		Cut of ditch	Shallow concave gentle sloping sides with a gently undulating with natural brash. N-S	>1.7	1.6	0.14	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Light grey brown silty sand with moderately frequent ironstone brash inclusions	>1.7	1.9	0.08	



Plate 6: Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scales)

4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty sand. Loosely compact			0.45	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty sand. Compact. Occasional small ironstone brash inclusions			0.1	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Band of blue grey silty clay (100-150mm thick) sealing mid brown orange silty sand with ironstone brash inclusions			>0.55	



Plate 7: Trench 4, looking south-west

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1

Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Flint	Flake, plano-convex knife	2	27	LNEO-EBA

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP), weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	Total	Weight (g)
303	304	1	1	2
Total		1	1	
Weight		2	2	

Bos = cattle

Table 3: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal	Other
Trench 3 - Ditch											
303	304	1	20	40	90	+	-	+	Indeterminable grain (+), <i>Galium sp</i> (+), c.f. <i>Atriplex sp.</i> (+)	++++	-

Key

+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 4–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = >100 items

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2018 at land adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken to inform an outline application for the residential development of the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches.</p> <p>Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location within an area of extensive cropmarks identified through aerial photography. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record records numerous prehistoric, Roman, medieval and modern sites within the immediate vicinity of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation identified two broadly north/south orientated ditches. Worked flint and several pieces of animal bone were recovered from the fill of the southernmost ditch. This is likely to represent an agricultural drainage and/or boundary feature.</p>	
Project dates	25-26 June 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 486802 271130	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce	
Project Supervisor	Julian Newman	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Animal Bone, Flint
Paper		Context sheets, Permatrace, Registers
Digital		GPS Survey, Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land Adjacent to Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18334		

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