Cotswold Archaeology

Grafton Underwood Solar Farm
Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Pegasus Group

on behalf of
Elgin Energy

Site Code – GRU 20
Event Number - ENN109787

CA Project: MK0184
CA Report: MK0184_1

February 2020

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD SOLAR FARM
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: MK0184
CA Report: MK0184_1

Document Control Grid						
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A	13/02/2020	DP	AW	Internal review	Quality Assurance	SRJ
B	14/02/2020	DP/AW	CM	External review	Consultant comment	SRJ

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

List of Plates

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Grafton Underwood Solar Farm
Location:	Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire
NGR:	492347 281441
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	13 to 22 January 2020
Planning Reference:	Northamptonshire County Council Ref: KET/2019/0369
Location of Archive:	To be retained at CA offices until a suitable depository is available
Event number:	ENN109787
Site Code:	GRU20

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2020 on land at Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Northamptonshire County Council for a proposed solar farm within the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of fifty-six trenches.

The results of the evaluation correlate broadly with the findings of the previous geophysical survey of the site, which identified anomalies indicative of settlement activity, in the form of enclosures, concentrated towards the south-western limits of the site. Further anomalies were indicated by the geophysical survey in the north-eastern portion of the site; however, corresponding features were not identified during the evaluation. Further linear anomalies representing former ploughing regimes were also identified intermittently across the southern part of the site.

The evaluation identified archaeological remains, concentrated in the south-western part of the site, comprising four Iron Age ditches and one ditch of early Roman date. With further isolated activity in the form of two undated ditches identified in the central and eastern parts of the site respectively.

Modern features, most likely associated with the sites' former use as an airfield were also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire (centred at NGR: 492347 281441; Fig. 1). The fieldwork was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Elgin Energy.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Northamptonshire County Council (NCC; the local planning authority) for a proposed solar farm within the site (planning ref KET/2019/0369).

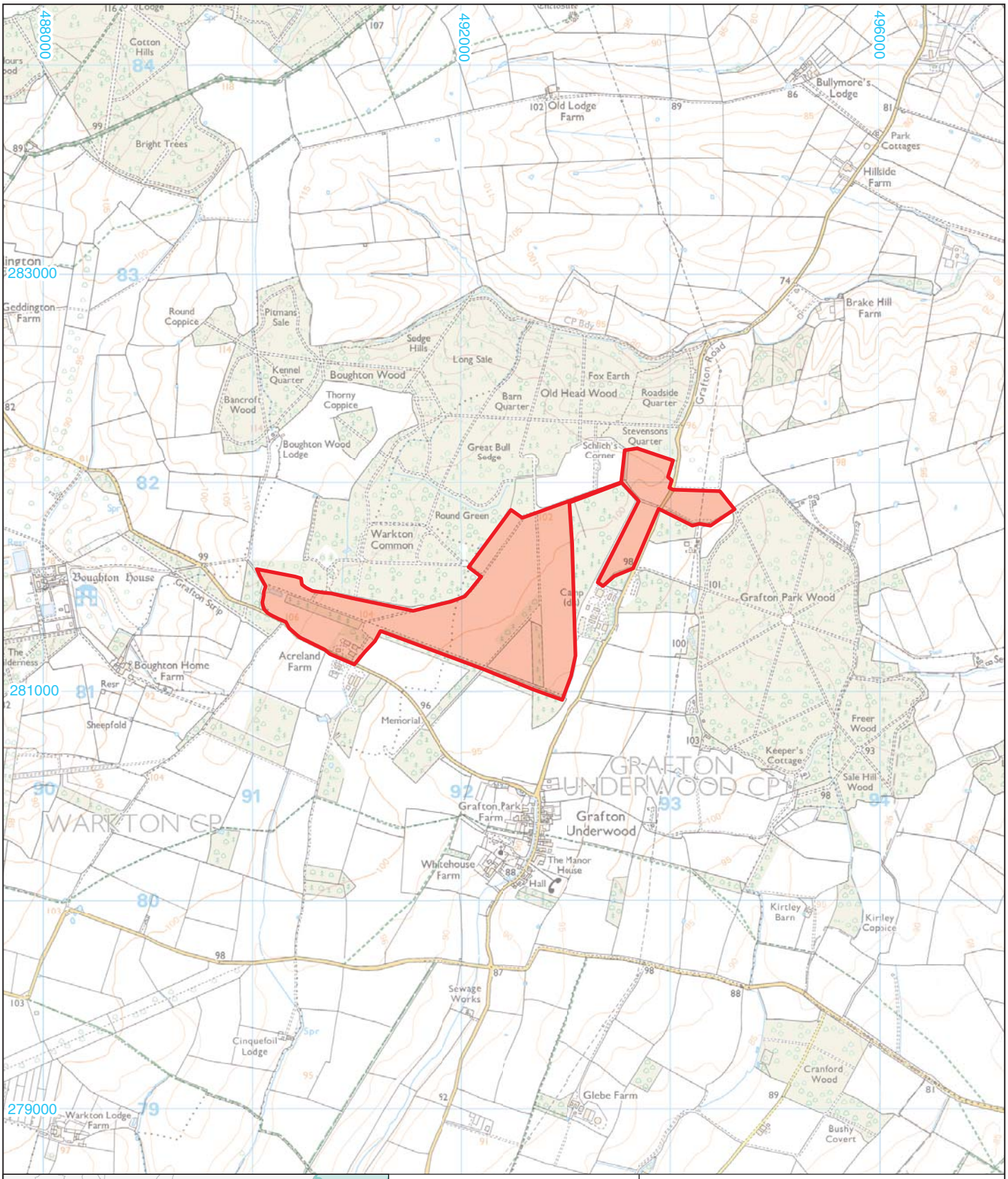
1.3 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 56 trial trenches, was detailed within the *Brief for the Archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Grafton Underwood Airfield, Northamptonshire* (NCC 2019) prepared by Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA).

1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Brief* (NCC 2019) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Liz Mordue. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Liz Mordue, including a site visit on 13 January 2020.

The site

1.5 The proposed development area is approximately 68.83ha, and comprises land associated with the former RAF Grafton Airfield (Plate 1). It is located approximately 0.5km to the north of Grafton Underwood, situated on a low ridge of land. It is bounded to the north by Warkton Common and Old Head Wood, to the east by Grafton Road and Grafton Park Wood, to the south by Geddington Road and Acreland Farm and to the west by Warkton Common and agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 111m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-western corner, sloping gently downwards to c. 95m aOD in the south-east.

1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone, with Wellingborough Formation limestone and interbedded mudstone in the west, and Blissworth Formation limestone in the east. These are overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member Diamicton (BGS 2019).



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PROJECT TITLE

Grafton Underwood, Northampton

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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Plate 1 Site, looking north-west

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been detailed within a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Pegasus Group (2019). The following section is summarised from this source and geophysical data from SUMO and Magnitude Surveys.

Prehistoric, Romano-British (pre-AD 410)

2.2 There were no prehistoric or Romano-British heritage assets recorded either within the site or its immediate environs. A find spot of residual Romano-British pottery was recorded in the HER at Brigstock Park, *c*. 1km north of the site.

2.3 The geophysical survey identified sub-rectangular and linear anomalies, which although undated are often interpreted as being indicative of the partial remains of prehistoric or Roman enclosures and associated features.

Early medieval (AD410-1066)

2.4 The name Grafton derives from the Old English ‘grāf-tūn’, which translates broadly as ‘the settlement within the grove’. As such the area is likely to have remained wooded until the piecemeal assarting of the trees within what would become

Rockingham Forest during the early medieval period. The evaluation identified the presence of undated tree throws in the western and central part of the site.

Medieval (AD 1066-1539) & post-medieval (AD 1540-1801)

2.5 During the medieval period, Grafton was located within the Hundred of Navisland. Two manors are recorded at Grafton in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. The larger of these manors had a presumptive population of *c*. 90 people, under a Danish overlord. The manorial holding included meadow, a league of woodland and a large expanse of arable, broadly equivalent in extent to that of the historic parish. In the years immediately subsequent to AD 1066, the area was included within Rockingham Forest, one of the numerous hunting forests established by the incumbent Norman royalty.

2.6 Geophysical survey revealed anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow agriculture.

2.7 The site remained rural in nature throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, primarily utilised for agricultural use throughout this period. During the later period, it also came to form part of a wider landscape of rides / avenues associated with the now-Registered park.

Modern (1800-present)

2.8 The site remained in agricultural use until the establishment of RAF Grafton Underwood in 1941. Originally a satellite airfield for RAF Polebrook, the base opened in 1941 and was first used by the RAF Bomber Command No. 1653 Heavy Conversion Unit. In 1942, the airfield was assigned to the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) Eighth Air Force, becoming designated USAAF Station 106. The first USAAF Eighth Air Force tenant was the 15th Bombardment Squadron, which arrived on 12 May 1942.

2.9 After the end of WWII, Grafton Underwood was used for vehicle storage. A decade later, the airfield became surplus to requirements and it was closed in February 1959. The airfield was then returned to agricultural use, with large areas of managed woodland established.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

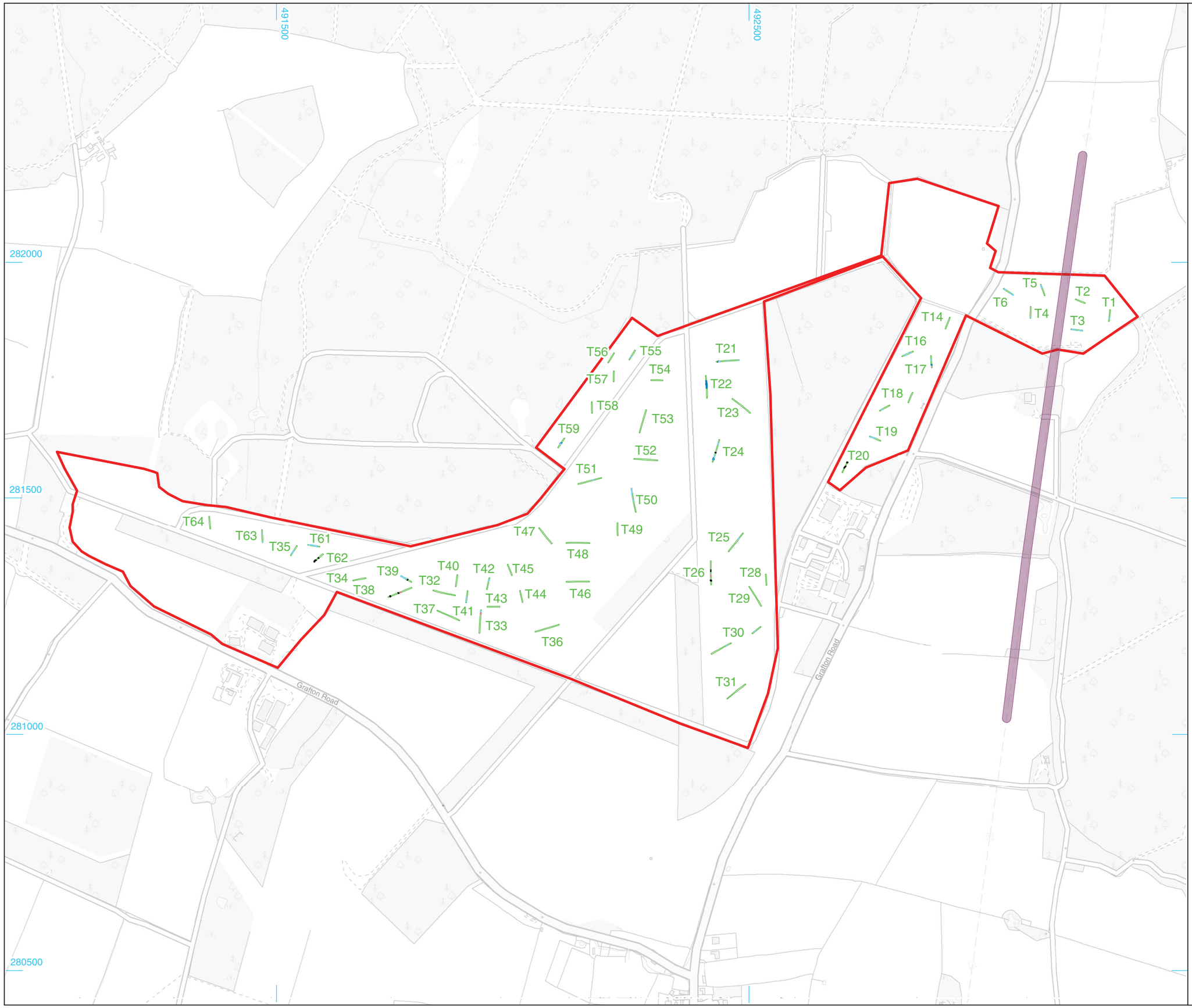
3.1 The general objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation was designed and carried out to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable NCC 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* (MHCLG 2019).

3.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- Determine the accuracy of the geophysical results within the area to indicate presence/absence of archaeological activity and to test blank areas;
- To establish what effect the construction of the airfield may have had on any potentially surviving archaeology;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 56 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). This consisted of 33 trenches measuring 25m in length and 1.8m in width; with the remaining 23 trenches measuring 50m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches 7 to 13 could not be excavated due to water-logged ground. Trenches 60, 65, 66, and 32 to 35 were originally located within environmental stewardship areas. Trenches 32 to 35 were relocated, but Trenches 60, 65 and 66 remained unexcavated with the approval of Liz Mordue. The location of Trenches 16 and 17 was slightly revised from the position shown in the WSI due to presence of buried services. 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*.



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Grafton Underwood, Northampton

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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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* and four samples were taken and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

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, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, 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 2-6)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within each of the evaluation trenches. The natural geological substrate, which comprised mid to light yellow-brown silty clay with abundant chalk and flint fragments, was encountered at an average depth of 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by an intermittent subsoil comprising mid red brown silty clay with occasional, small chalk and flint fragments with an average thickness of 0.2m. No subsoil was identified within Trenches 1 to 6, 24, 36, 38 to 39, 41 to 49, and 62. The absence of subsoil within these trenches is presumably associated with site re-modelling during the construction and demobilisation of the airfield. Mid grey brown clay topsoil

measuring 0.25m thick overlay the subsoil or directly overlay the natural where the subsoil was not present.

5.3 Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 20, 21, 24, 26, 38, 39, and 62. Undated furrows were recorded in Trenches 29 and 35, with natural features recorded in Trenches 15, 26, and 38. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 1-6, 8-12, 14-19, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 37, 30-59, 61 and 63. Trenches 7 to 13, 60, 65 and 66 remained unexcavated.

Trenches 4, 5 & 6 (Fig. 2)

5.4 The linear and rectilinear geophysical anomalies targeted by Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were not identified.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2 and Plates 2 & 3)

5.5 Located at the north-eastern end of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 2003 (Plate 2). It measured 1.11m wide and 0.32m deep, with a broadly V-shaped profile. No finds were recovered from its single mid grey brown silty clay fill (2004).

Plate 2 Ditch 2003, looking east (1m scale)

5.6 Located approximately 4.5m to the south of ditch 2003 was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 2005 (Plate 3). It measured 1.1m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderately steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Fragments of modern CBM were identified within its single yellow grey clay silt fill (2006).

Plate 3 Ditch 2005, looking north-east (1m scale)

Trench 21 (Fig. 2)

5.7 North-east/south-west orientated feature 2103 was identified at the western end of the trench. It measured 0.48m wide by 0.16m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A clay 'horseshoe-shaped' land drain had been inserted into the single brown grey silty clay fill (2104) of this feature.

5.8 Although feature 2103 was not located with an area which had been subject to geophysical survey, it follows the same north-east/south-west orientation as the furrows depicted elsewhere within the site on the geophysical survey.

Trench 24 (Fig. 2 and Plates 4 & 5)

5.9 Located towards the southern end of the trench, sub-oval pit 2402 was partially revealed emanating from the western baulk of the trench (Plate 4). It measured 1.5m in length, in excess of 0.7m wide (visible extent), and 0.27m deep. It contained a succession of 3 fills; the lowest fill (2403) comprised burnt clay and charcoal measuring 0.1m thick and contained a modern iron nail. This was overlain by fill

2404, comprising of burnt clay. It measured 0.16m thick and contained a modern nail. This was in turn sealed by fill 2405, comprising of sand and gravels.

Plate 4 Pit 2402, looking north-west (0.2m and 0.3m scales)

5.10 Located to the immediate south of pit 2402 was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 2406 (Plate 5). It measured 1.34m wide by 0.4m deep, with moderately sloping sides and an irregular stepped base. The earliest fill (2408), comprised light yellow brown silty clay, representing redeposited natural from the collapse of the ditch sides shortly after it was dug. This was overlain by fill 2407, which comprised dark brown grey silty clay, which contained fragments of burnt material similar to that found in pit 2402, with which it is probably contemporary. No finds were recovered from the respective fills (2408 and 2407) of this ditch.

Plate 5 Ditch 2406, looking south-east (1m scale)

Trench 26 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.11 Located towards the southern end of the trench was broadly north-west/south-east orientated curvilinear ditch 2603 (Fig. 3; section AA). It measured 0.82m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderately steeply sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single brown grey silty clay fill (2604), which was derived from natural silting. An environmental sample (Sample 6) taken from fill 2604 contained no charred plant remains and only a very small number of charcoal fragments.

Trench 38 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.12 North-west/south-east orientated ditch 3802, was identified towards the south-western end of the trench (Fig. 4; section BB). It measured 0.98m wide by 0.51m deep with moderately steeply sloping sides and a stepped base likely formed naturally through water erosion. Initial fill 3803 comprised brown orange silty clay, formed by natural silting. This was overlain by brownish grey silty clay fill 3804, which contained 75 fragments of late prehistoric pottery and 32 fragments of animal bone. An environmental sample (Sample 2) taken from the fill (3804) of this ditch contained a small number of charred cereal grains as well as a small quantity of charcoal fragments.

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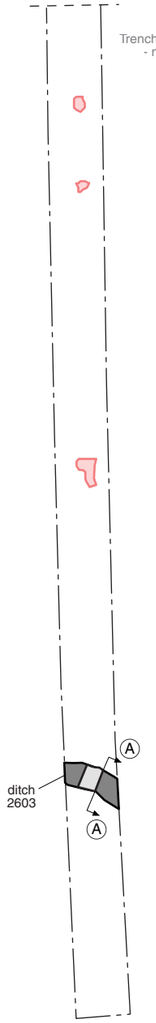
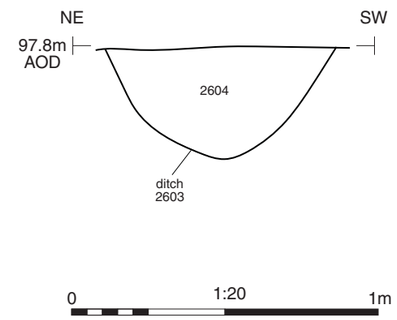
Trench 26



Section AA



Ditch 2603, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

Archaeological feature
(excavated / unexcavated)

Evaluation trench

Tree-bole

Location of section

0 1:200 10m

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Grafton Underwood, Northampton

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 26; plan, section and photograph

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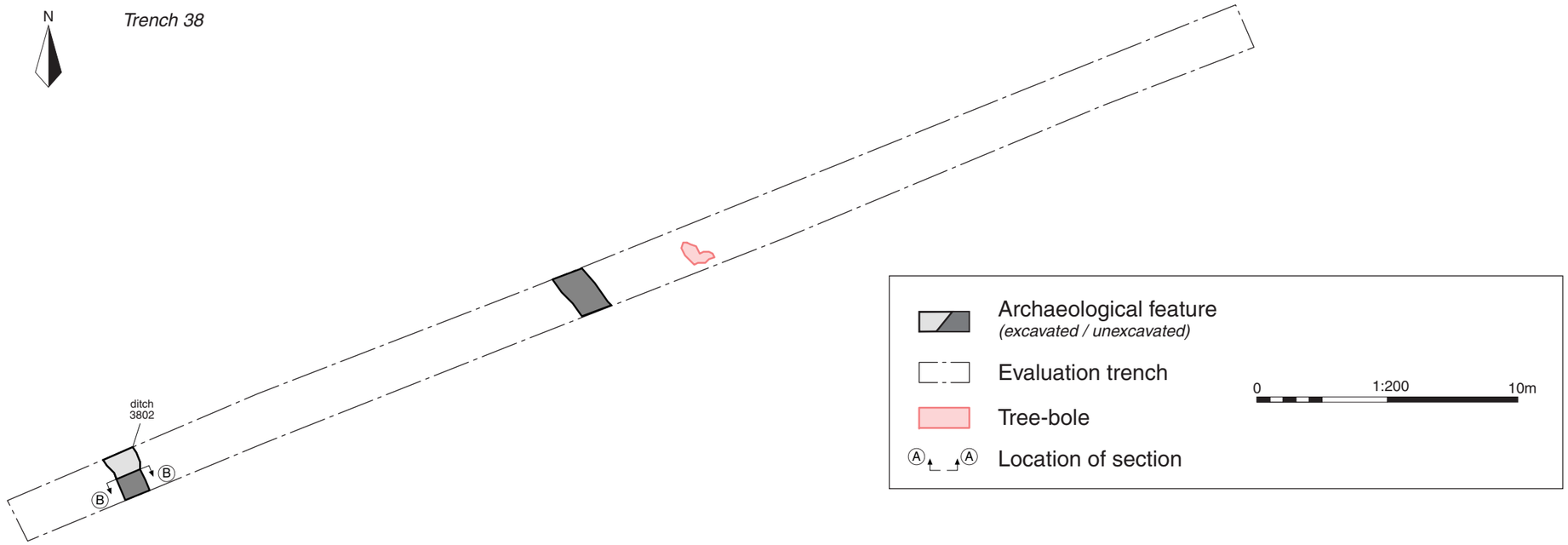
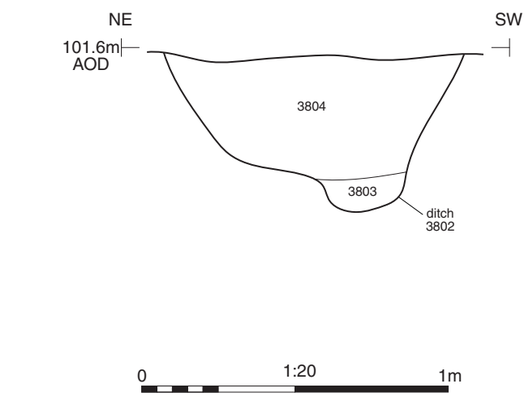


Section BB



Ditch 3802, looking south-east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 38; plan, section and photograph

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5.13 A further possible linear feature, located centrally within the trench was investigated, however, it could not be confirmed as an archaeological feature.

5.14 Ditch 3802 broadly corresponds with a sub-circular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 39 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.15 Located towards the centre of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 3902 (Fig. 5; section CC). It measured 1.55m wide with steep straight sides and was excavated to a depth of 0.75m without the base being encountered. A total of five sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and 36 fragments of animal bone were recovered from its mid grey brown silty clay fill (3903). An environmental sample (Sample 7), taken from fill 3903, did not contain any charred plant remains and only a small number of charcoal fragments.

Trench 62 (Figs 2, 6 & 7)

5.16 Located at the centre of the trench was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 6202 (Fig. 6; section CC). It measured 0.48m wide and 0.7m deep, with a shallow curved profile. A total of eight sherds of late prehistoric pottery were recovered from its single brown grey silt clay fill (6203), which was derived from natural silting.

5.17 Located approximately 4m to the south-west of ditch 6203, and on a similar broadly north-west/south-east orientation was ditch 6204 (Fig.6; section DD). It measured 0.38m wide by 0.11m deep with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. A total of four sherds of late prehistoric pottery was recovered from its single brown grey silty clay fill (6205).

5.18 Emanating from the south-western baulk of Trench 62 was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 6206 (Fig. 7; section EE). It measured 1.1m wide and 0.46m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave, slightly tapered base. Its initial fill (6207), was derived from natural silting and contained six sherds of late prehistoric pottery, one fragment of worked bone, 14 fragments of animal bone and one fragment of fired clay. A very small number of charred cereal grains along with small quantities of charcoal fragments were recovered from an environmental sample (Sample 1) taken from the fill 6207 of this ditch. This was in turn overlain by brown grey silty clay fill 6208, which contained ten sherds of late prehistoric pottery, three sherds of Late

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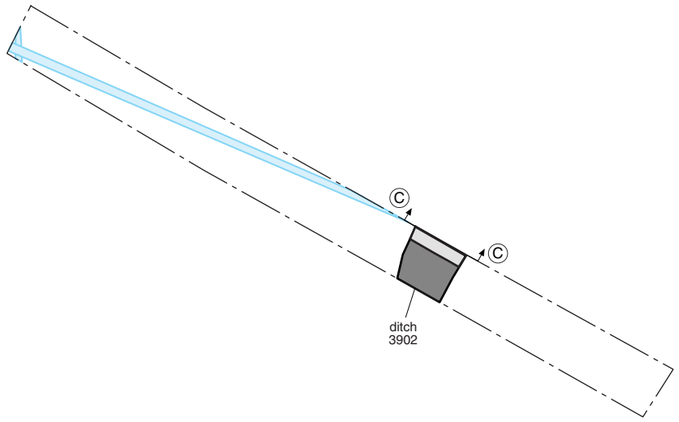
Trench 39



Archaeological feature
(excavated / unexcavated)

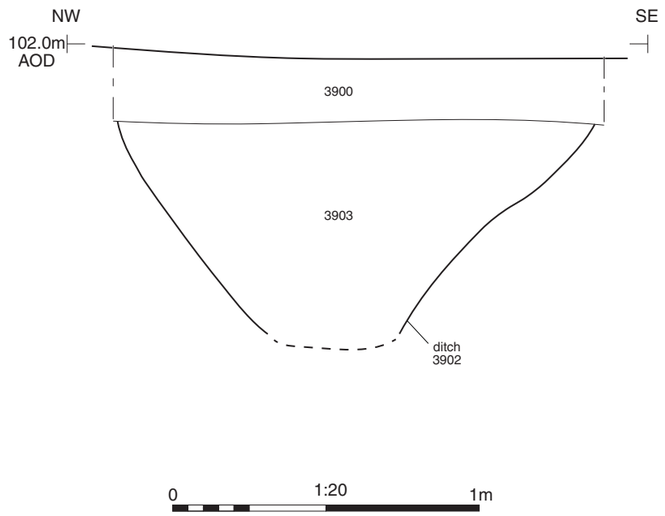
Evaluation trench

Field drain

A A Location of section

0 1:200 10m

Section CC



Ditch 3902, looking north (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 39; plan, section and photograph

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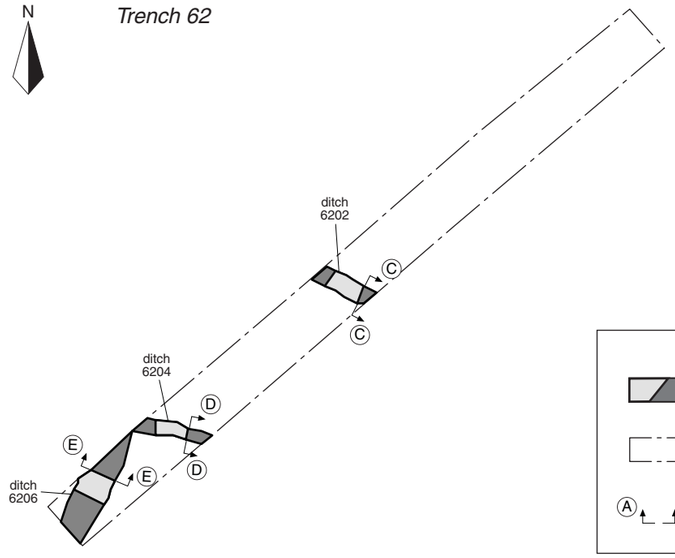
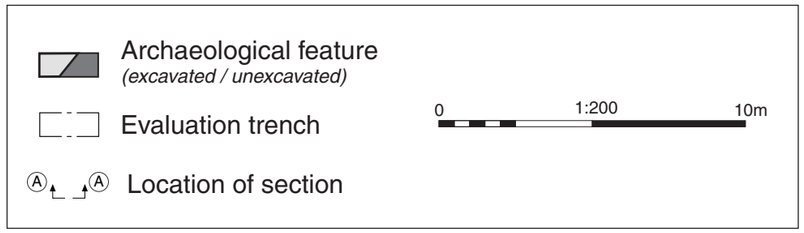
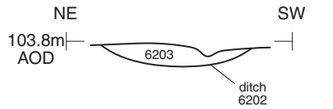


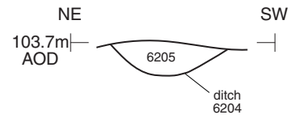


Section CC



Ditch 6202, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

Section DD



Ditch 6204, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 62; plan, sections and photographs

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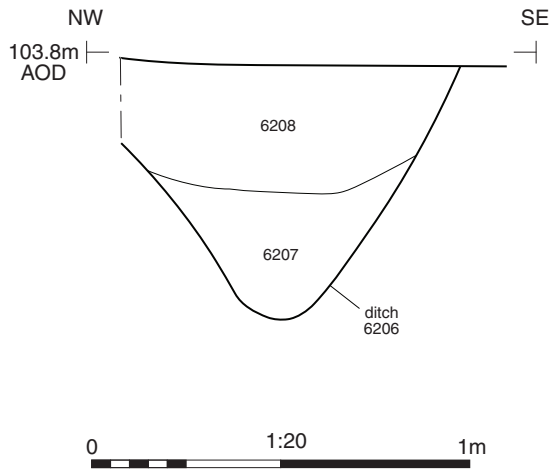
Section CC



Ditch 6206, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 62; section and photograph

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Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery, three fragments of fired clay and eight fragments of animal bone.

5.19 Ditches 6202, 6204 and 6206 broadly correspond with anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and interpreted as forming elements of prehistoric or Roman enclosures.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 The artefactual material is recorded from eight deposits; the fills of pits and ditches (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from samples.

Pottery

6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016) and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 2010).

6.3 The assemblage comprises 113 sherds weighing 724g. The majority is in poor condition, with most sherd surfaces and fractures exhibiting signs of heavy abrasion. Sherd size is small, and the mean sherd weight is moderately low for a largely late prehistoric assemblage at 6.4g.

Late Prehistoric

6.4 There are a total of 109 sherds (544g) of handmade late prehistoric pottery from the site. All but three sherds are made in a medium coarse shell-tempered fabric (SH1). An ovoid jar with a simple upright rim (SH1) is recorded from ditch fill 3903. Similar examples found at the nearby site of Weekley have been dated to the ‘pre-Belgic’ Late Iron Age (Jackson and Dix 1988, 75, fig.30, no.25). Another vessel, possibly a bowl, with a simple upright rim (SH1) is recorded from ditch fill 6208. Similar vessels are recorded from Weekley and also ascribed as ‘pre-Belgic’ Late Iron Age (Jackson and Dix 1988, 75, fig.30, no.22). Such forms are, however, part of a longer-lived tradition from the area, spanning the Middle or Late Iron Age (Knight 2002) where

refinement of dating is typically dependent on the presence of fineware vessel forms. Consequently, broader dating in the *c*. 4th/3rd and 1st centuries BC range is favoured here. A near complete vessel (SH1) is recorded in a highly fragmented state from ditch fill 3804. The rim is missing and it is not possible to date the vessel closely, however, given the predominance of shell-tempered fabrics during the Iron Age from nearby sites at Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1988, 73) and Brigstock (Jackson 1983, 22) it is likely that these are of a similar date. The remaining three sherds (9g), made in a sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions, are undiagnostic, but are likely to be of a similar date.

Late Iron Age/Roman

6.5 Three sherds (153g) of shelly grog-tempered pottery (UNS SHGR) are recorded from ditch fill 6208. A large storage jar with an out-curved rim made in this fabric is likely to date to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. A single sherd (27g) of grog-tempered (UNS GR) pottery is recorded as unstratified.

Fired Clay

6.6 Four featureless fragments (19g) of fired clay made in coarse sandy fabrics, some with calcareous inclusions, are recorded from ditch 6206.

Metalwork

6.7 Two iron nails (19g) are recorded from pit 2402. One is heavily encrusted and corroded; the other is in relatively good condition with little corrosion. They appear to be machine made and are most likely of modern date.

Worked Bone

6.8 The tip of a worked bone needle or pin (1g) is recorded from Sample 1 taken from ditch fill 6207. The fragment is cylindrical and tapers to a point. Its surface has been worked smooth.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

7.1 Animal bone amounting to 90 fragments (308g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from the fills of ditch features 3802, 3902 and 6206. Artefactual material dating broadly from Late Prehistoric to the Late Iron Age/Early

Roman period was also recovered from these features (See Table 3, Appendix C). The material displayed a poor to moderate level of preservation and was highly fragmented; a combination of factors that has rendered 88% of the assemblage unidentifiable. However, it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle (Bos taurus) and sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus). Red deer (Cervus elaphus) was also identified from a piece of antler recovered from ditch fill 6208. This species is to be expected in this period, but a single fragment cannot provide any inference other than species identification.

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

7.2 Four environmental samples (79 litres of soil) were processed from four ditches in four different trenches across the evaluation. This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on site. It was also hoped that the environmental results might aid in the dating of the features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

7.3 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

7.4 The flots varied in size from medium to large with high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised of poor levels of preservation. Where possible species identification took place, however due to the poor preservation levels this was not always possible. Much of the charcoal was poorly preserved and impregnated with iron which also inhibits wood species identification.

7.5 The dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the spot-dating of the finds (Banks, P., finds report).

Late Prehistoric

Trench 38

7.6 Fill 3804 (Sample 2) of ditch 3802 contained a small number of charred indeterminate cereal grains alongside a small number of hulled wheat (emmer or

spelt (Triticum dicoccum/spelta)) grains. A very small number of charred plant remains were recorded including seeds of water-pepper (Persicaria sp.) and oat/brome grass (Avena/Bromus sp.). A small quantity of charcoal fragments was noted in the assemblage alongside a low number of aquatic snail shells including those of the species Anisus leucostoma, which is a species that favours seasonal flooding and desiccation.

7.7 The charred assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed domestic waste material.

Trench 39

7.8 Sample 7 of ditch 3902 contained no charred plant remains and only a small number of charcoal fragments. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were noted in Sample 7 and include those of the open country species Vallonia sp. and Pupilla muscorum, the intermediate species Trochulus hispidus and Cepaea sp., and the shade-loving species Carychium tridentatum. A very small number of the aquatic snail shell species Bithynia sp. were also noted in Sample 7. The charred assemblage is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed material, while the mollusc assemblage may be indicative of an open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity of or within the ditch. The presence of Bithynia within the assemblage suggests that there may have occasionally been standing/flowing water within this ditch.

Trench 62

7.9 Fill 6207 (Sample 1) of ditch 6206 contained a very small number of charred indeterminate cereal grains and hulled wheat glume fragments. No other charred plant remains were noted. Small quantities of charcoal fragments, which showed signs of being heavily iron impregnated, were recorded in the assemblage. Small numbers of terrestrial snail shells including those of the open country species Vallonia sp. and Pupilla muscorum, the intermediate species Trochulus hispidus and the shade loving species Aegopinella sp. and Carychium tridentatum were recorded in Sample 1. Moderately large quantities of aquatic snail shells were also noted and included those of the species Anisus leucostoma and Bithynia sp. alongside these, shells of Succinea/Oxyloma sp., marsh species, were identified.

7.10 The charred assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material. The mollusc assemblage may be indicative of an open landscape with

some damp grassland in the vicinity of the ditch. It is also possible that there may have occasionally been flowing/standing water within the ditch.

Undated

Trench 26

7.11 Sample 6 of ditch 2603 contained no charred plant remains and only a very small number of charcoal fragments. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were noted and identified as the open country species Vallonia sp. and Pupilla muscorum, the intermediate species Trochulus hispidus and Cochlicopa sp., and the shade-loving species Aegopinella sp., Carychium tridentatum and Oxychilus cellarius. The charred material from Sample 6 is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed material. The mollusc assemblage suggests an open landscape with areas of longer grass in the vicinity of or within the ditch but there is no indication of any occasional water within or around it.

Summary

7.12 There is no environmental evidence to aid in the dating of the undated ditch, and the small amount of cereal remains recorded in ditches 3802 and 6206 would be compatible with a late prehistoric date.

7.13 Due to the variety of snail shells and the presence of some aquatic species, there is an indication that these ditches were in a well- established open landscape, with an indication of some seasonal flooding/ desiccation and damper grass in some areas of the site, in particular in the vicinity of Trench 62.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation identified archaeological remains predominantly concentrated in the south-western part of the site, with a small number of isolated ditches located within the central and eastern parts of the site. Although a number of these features remain undated the majority can be attributed to the late Iron Age, Early Roman or modern periods.

8.2 The results of the evaluation broadly correlated with the preceding geophysical survey, which identified a number of anomalies representing potential archaeological

features, which comprised rectilinear, sub-circular and linear anomalies, indicative of enclosures and agricultural ditches/furrows.

Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British (400BC to AD200)

8.3 The evidence from the evaluation and the geophysical survey suggests that the south-western area of the site was a focus of activity from as early as the Middle Iron Age, possibly continuing into the Early Roman period. Within this area the geophysical survey depicted at least two ditched enclosures with possible field systems or further enclosures radiating from the westernmost enclosure.

8.4 The westernmost enclosure was targeted by Trenches 61 and 62. It measured approximately 26m long by 18m wide, with possibly two further contiguous enclosures partially revealed by the geophysical survey. Although the presence of the central enclosure was not confirmed by the trenching (Trench 61), the southern enclosure was identified within Trench 62 (6202, 6204, 6206).

8.5 Located approximately 175m to the east was a further enclosure targeted by Trench 38, however, only the easternmost side of the enclosure was conclusively identified. The enclosure was trapezoidal in plan and measured approximately 20m by 18m at its widest and longest points, enclosing an area of approximately 200m^2.

8.6 The evaluation confirmed the presence of at least one ditched enclosure, which contained pottery dating from the Middle Iron Age to the Early Romano-British period. Further ditches, possibly relating to a series of three contiguous enclosures and or associated field systems were identified within Trench 62. A further late prehistoric ditch was also identified within Trench 39, indicating that contemporary activity extended as far as this ditch.

8.7 The enclosures were without internal features or divisions, as such it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusion as to their function. The pottery evidence suggests activity during the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age or Early Roman period at the site. Of the 113 pottery sherds over 70 are likely to be from a single vessel giving the impression that the assemblage is larger than it is. Taking this distortion into account the assemblage is relatively small and it is not possible to draw any further meaningful conclusions.

8.8 Similarly the animal bone evidence does not immediately lead to firm conclusions regarding the sites use. Each were commonly exploited domestic animals and their presence is to be expected in assemblages of this period. The identified animal material was mainly meat-poor skeletal elements such as loose teeth or fragments of the lower limbs, none of which displayed any cut marks or impact damage to suggest an origin in butchery waste.

8.9 Ther palaeoenvironmental samples examined provided no insight into any specific settlement activities, either domestic or industrial, taking place in the immediate vicinity of these ditches, although there is a small indication of some crop activity in the wider area.

8.10 Drawing together the findings from the finds, animal bone and palaeoenvironmental evidence, it is safe to conclude that if settlement activity is taking place within the site, it was likely to relate to low-status rural settlement exploiting locally available produce and markets.

8.11 There are no recorded late prehistoric or Romano-British sites recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, there are parallels with the Late Iron Age to Roman site located *c*. 6km to the east at Weekley, Northamptonshire. Although the Grafton Underwood site is on a smaller scale than the excavations at Weekly, a similar set of contiguous enclosures to those excavated at Weekley have been tentatively identified at Grafton Underwood. In addition, similar pottery finds are recorded at the two sites.

Modern (1800 to present)

8.12 Ditch 2406 and pit 2402 located within Trench 24, as well as ditch 2005, located with Trench 20 contained modern material. Evidence of modern landscaping and truncation was evident within Trenches 1 to 6, 24, 36, 38 to 39, 41 to 49, and 62. This may relate to the construction, use and decommissioning of the site as an RAF and USAAF airfield between 1941 and 1959.

Undated

8.13 Ditches 2003 and 2603 did not contain any dateable material and it is not possible to currently attribute them to any of the identified periods of activity.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniele Pirisino, assisted by Luke Bateson, Molly Agnew-Henshaw, Abigail Breen, Mark Davies, Callum Ruse and Eduardo Cabrera. The report was written by Daniele Pirisino and Andrew Whelan. The specialist reports were written by Peter Banks (finds), Andrew Clarke (Animal Bone) and Emma Aitken (Palaeoenvironmental). The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. 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.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.4	
2	201	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown loamy silt with stones.	>25	>1.8	0.43	
4	401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8	0.5	
5	501	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.4	
6	601	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
7					Not Excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
8					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
9					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
10					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
11					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
12					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
13					Not excavated due to waterlogged ground conditions.				
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.1	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with stones.	>25	>1.8		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.25	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.25	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with stones.	>25	>1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam occasional small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.4	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with sand.	>25	>1.8		
16	1603	Layer		Airbase building rubble	Dark brown grey sandy rubble.		>1.8	0.4	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.13	
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	

18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
18	1802	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown and mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent chalk stones.	>25	>1.8		
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
19	1902	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.1	
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>25	>1.8		
20	2003	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear V, shaped ditch E-W orientated with steep sides to concave base.	>1.8	1.11	0.32	
20	2004	Fill	2003	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with charcoal and stones.	>1.8	1.11	0.32	
20	2005	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated with sharp curved sides to shallow concave base.	>1.8	1.1	0.35	
20	2006	Fill	2005	Fill of ditch	Light yellow grey clay silt with stones, charcoal and chalk.	>1.8	1.1	0.35	
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam occasional stones.	>48	>1.8	0.2	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>48	>1.8	0.14	
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with frequent stones.	>48	>1.8		
21	2103	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated, with steep straight sides to flat base.	>1.8	0.48	0.16	
21	2104	Fill	2103	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty clay with occasional stones.	>1.8	0.48	0.16	
21	2105	Cut		Cut of land-drain	Linear land-drain NE-SW orientated with steep straight sides to narrow flat base.	>1.8	0.44	0.12	
21	2106	Fill	2105	Fill of land-drain	Light brown grey silty clay with stones.	>1.8	0.44	0.12	
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam occasional stones.	>47	>1.8	0.26	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>47	>1.8	0.18	
22	2202	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with frequent stones.	>47	>1.8		
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown loamy clay with occasional small stones.	>49	>1.8	0.27	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Disturbed 2302	>49	>1.8	0.09	
23	2302	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional small stones.	>49	>1.8		
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam occasional stones.	>49	>1.8	0.32	
24	2401	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional stones.	>49	>1.8		
24	2402	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit NE-SW orientated with steep concave sides to flat base.	1.5	0.7	0.27	
24	2403	Fill	2402	Bottom fill of pit	Mid red brown clay with frequent charcoal.	0.6	0.5	0.1	
24	2404	Fill	2402	Middle fill of pit	Mid orange red clay.	1	0.55	0.16	
24	2405	Fill	2402	Top fill of pit	Mid yellow brown gravelly sand.	1	0.55	0.2	
24	2406	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NW-SE orientated with steep curved sides to flat base.	>1.8	1.34	0.4	
24	2407	Fill	2406	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional stones	>1.8	1.24	0.4	
24	2408	Fill	2406	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown silty clay with	>1.8	0.1	0.28	

					charcoal and chalk.				
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.3	
25	2501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.1	
25	2502	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones.	>50	>1.8		
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.3	
26	2601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.2	
26	2602	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown and orange brown sandy clay with occasional chalk stones.	>50	>1.8		
26	2603	Cut		Cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch NW-SE orientated with steep rounded sides to concave base.	>1.8	0.82	0.35	
26	2604	Fill	2603	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty clay with occasional flint and clay.	>1.8	0.82	0.35	
26	2605	Cut		Cut of tree bole	Irregular shaped tree bole with steep irregular sides to irregular base.	0.96	0.86	0.17	
26	2606	Fill	2605	Fill of tree bole	Dark blackish grey silty clay with stones and charcoal.	0.96	0.86	0.17	
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.3	
27	2701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.15	
27	2702	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with stones.	>50	>1.8		
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
28	2801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
28	2802	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with stones.	>25	>1.8		
28	2803	Cut		Cut of gully	Linear gully NE-SW orientated with sharp curved sides to curved base.	>5	0.55	0.32	
28	2804	Fill	2803	Fill of gully	Mid brown grey silty clay with occasional stones.	>5	0.55	0.32	
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.3	
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow sandy clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
29	2902	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown and brown yellow sandy clay with frequent chalk stones.	>25	>1.8		
29	2903	Cut		Cut of furrow	Linear furrow NE-SW orientated with shallow curved sides to shallow concave base.	>1.8	1.05	0.15	
29	2904	Fill	2903	Fill of furrow	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with stones and chalk.	>1.8	1.05	0.15	
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.38	
30	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow sandy clay with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.22	
30	3002	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent chalk stones.	>50	>1.8		
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam.	>50	>1.8	0.24	
31	3101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow sandy clay.	>50	>1.8	0.32	
31	3102	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent chalk stones.	>50	>1.8		
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam with occasional stones.	>47	>1.8	0.22	
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with small stones.	>47	>1.8	0.08	
32	3202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown mottled silty clay with frequent stones.	>47	>1.8		
32	3203	Cut		Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow N-S orientated	>2	3.8		
32	3204	Fill	3203	Fill of furrow	Dark orange brown clay silt with frequent stones.	>2	3.8		

33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with occasional stones.	>49	>1.8	0.3	
33	3301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with small stones.	>49	>1.8	0.12	
33	3302	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown mottled silty clay with frequent stones.	>49	>1.8		
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with occasional stones.	>27	>1.8	0.24	
34	3401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with small stones.	>27	>1.8	0.13	
34	3402	Layer		Natural	Mid blue grey mottled clay with frequent stones.	>27	>1.8		
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with occasional stones.	>24	>1.8	0.26	
35	3501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay with small stones.	>24	>1.8	0.12	
35	3502	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown mottled silty clay with frequent stones.	>24	>1.8		
35	3503	Cut		Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow NW-SE orientated	>2	3.1		
35	3504	Fill	3503	Fill of furrow	Dark yellow brown clay silt with frequent stones.	>2	3.1		
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.24	
36	3601	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional small stones.	>50	>1.8		
37	3700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey clay loam with stones.	>50	>1.8	0.26	
37	3701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with occasional stones	>50	>1.8	0.14	
37	3702	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown silty clay with frequent stones and chalk.	>50	>1.8		
38	3800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with occasional stones.	>50	>1.8	0.41	
38	3801	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow orange silty clay with frequent chalk.	>50	>1.8		
38	3802	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NW-SE orientated with irregular sides to rounded base.	>1.9	0.98	0.51	
38	3803	Fill	3802	Fill of ditch	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal.	>1.9	0.29	0.11	
38	3804	Fill	3802	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey mottled with red brown, silty clay with occasional large stones and rare charcoal.	1.9	0.98	0.41	
39	3900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty loam with small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.31	
39	3900	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange silty clay.	>25	>1.8		
39	3902	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated straight steep side's unexcavated base.	>1.8	1.55	>0.75	
39	3903	Fill	3902	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent stones and occasional charcoal.	>1.8	1.55	>0.75	
40	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with stones.	>25	>1.8	0.29	
40	4001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>25	>1.8	0.38	
40	4002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>25	>1.8		
41	4100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.29	
41	4101	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>25	>1.8		
42	4200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.43	
42	4201	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>26	>1.8		
43	4300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>26	>1.8	0.28	
43	4301	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>26	>1.8		
44	4400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.28	

44	4401	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>25	>1.8		
45	4500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.31	
45	4501	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>25	>1.8		
46	4600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>50	>1.8	0.25	
46	4601	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional medium stones.	>50	>1.8		
47	4700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>50	>1.8	0.31	
47	4701	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional small stones.	>50	>1.8		
48	4800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>50	>1.8	0.28	
48	4801	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional small stones.	>50	>1.8		
49	4900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay with medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.38	
49	4901	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty clay with occasional small stones.	>25	>1.8		
50	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small stones.	>50	>1.8	0.41	
50	5001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8	0.1	
50	5002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8		
51	5100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small stones.	>50	>1.8	0.32	
51	5101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8	0.36	
51	5102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8		
52	5200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small stones.	>50	>1.8	0.21	
52	5201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8	0.28	
52	5202	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8		
53	5300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small stones.	>50	>1.8	0.19	
53	5301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8	0.35	
53	5302	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay.	>50	>1.8		
54	5400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.33	
54	5401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>25	>1.8	0.46	
54	5402	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
55	5500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with frequent small stones.	>24	>1.8	0.24	
55	5501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with medium stones.	>24	>1.8	0.25	
55	5502	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent chalk and medium stones.	>24	>1.8		
56	5600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with frequent small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.25	
56	5601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.15	
56	5602	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent small stones.	>25	>1.8		
57	5700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with frequent small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
57	5701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.1	
57	5702	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent small stones.	>25	>1.8		
58	5800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent medium stones.	>25	>1.8	0.33	
58	5801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>25	>1.8	0.38	
58	5802	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk.	>25	>1.8		
59	5900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty loam with	>25	>1.8	0.29	

					frequent medium stones.				
59	5901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay.	>25	>1.8	0.38	
59	5902	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk.	>25	>1.8		
59	5903	Cut		Cut of ditch	Modern linear ditch NE-SW orientated.	>2	0.75	0.23	
59	5904	Fill	5903	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty clay with stones and burnt wood.	>2	0.75	0.23	
60					Unexcavated due to location.				
61	6100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay with small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.28	
61	6101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.32	
61	6102	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silty clay with frequent chalk and stones.	>25	>1.8		
62	6200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay with small stones.	>25	>1.8	0.4	
62	6201	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown with grey mottling and frequent chalk and stones.	>25	>1.8		
62	6202	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NW-SE orientated gently curved sides to irregular base.	>1.8	0.48	0.7	
62	6203	Fill	6202	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty clay with rare stones and charcoal.	>1.8	0.48	0.7	
62	6204	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NW-SE orientated curved sides to irregular base.	>2.1	0.38	0.11	
62	6205	Fill	6204	Fill of ditch	Light brown greys silty clay with occasional stones and rare charcoal.	>2.1	0.38	0.11	
62	6206	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated steep straight sides to narrow curved base.	>3.5	1.12	0.46	
62	6207	Fill	6206	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty clay with occasional stones and rare charcoal.	>3.5	0.88	0.12	
62	6208	Fill	6206	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey silty clay with occasional stones and rare charcoal.	>3.5	1.12	0.36	
63	6300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.36	
63	6301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.24	
63	6302	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silty clay with frequent medium stones.	>25	>1.8		
64	6400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.4	
64	6401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty clay with occasional stones.	>25	>1.8	0.2	
64	6402	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silty clay with frequent medium stones.	>25	>1.8		
65					Unexcavated due to location.				
66					Unexcavated due to location.				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Sample No.	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
0	LIA/Roman Pottery		Grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	1	27	LIA-ERB
2403	Iron		Nail		1	10	MOD
2404	Iron		Nail		1	9	
3804	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	75	387	LATE PREH
	Late Prehistoric Pottery	2	Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	1	3	
3903	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	5	59	MIA-LIA
6203	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	8	13	LATE PREH
6205	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	4	4	LATE PREH
6207	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	3	20	LATE PREH
6207	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Sandy calcareous fabric	QC	3	9	LATE PREH
	Worked Bone	1	Bone needle point		1	1	
	Fired/burnt clay			cs	1	2	
6208	Late Prehistoric Pottery		Shell-tempered fabric	SH1	10	49	LIA-ERB
	LIA/Roman Pottery		Shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	3	153	
	Fired/burnt clay			csc	3	17	

Table 2: Fabric Descriptions

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric Pottery	Medium quartz sand fabric with calcareous inclusions ≤2mm	QC	3	9
	Medium shell inclusions ≤2mm	SH	106	535
LIA/Roman Pottery	Unsourced grog-tempered fabric	UNS GR	1	27
	Unsourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	3	153
Grand Total			**113**	**724**

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

Cut	**Fill**	**BOS**	**O/C**	**Cervus**	**LM**	**MM**	**BB SS**	**Total**	**Weight (g)**
3802	3804	1	1		2	2	26	32	41
3902	3903	3			9	13	11	36	222
6206	6207	1	3				10	14	15
6206	6208		1	1	1	5		8	30
Total		**5**	**5**	**1**	**12**	**20**	**47**	**90**	
Weight		**136**	**19**	**7**	**110**	**31**	**5**	**308**	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Cervus = red deer; MM = medium sized mammal; BB SS = unidentifiable burnt bone from bulk soil samples

Table 4: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Late Prehistoric													
Trench 38													
Ditch 3802	3804	2	20	20	40	90	**	-	indet grain; hulled wheat	*	*Persicaria; Avena/Bromus*	*/**	brnt bn*; sab*; moll-a*
Trench 39													
Ditch 3902	3903	7	20	20	35	90	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	moll-t****; moll-a*
Trench 62													
Ditch 6206	6207	1	20	20	75	90	*	*	indet grain; glume	-	-	**/**	moll-t**; moll-a****
Undated													
Trench 26													
Ditch 2603	2604	6	19	0	60	95	-	-	-	-	-	-/*	moll-t*****

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, moll-a = aquatic mollusc, sab = small animal bone, brnt bn = burnt bone

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Grafton Underwood Solar Farm, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2020 on land at Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Northamptonshire County Council for a proposed solar farm within the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of fifty-six trenches. The results of the evaluation correlate broadly with the findings of the previous geophysical survey of the site, which identified anomalies indicative of settlement activity, in the form of enclosures, concentrated towards the south-western limits of the site. Further anomalies were indicated by the geophysical survey in the north-eastern portion of the site; however, corresponding features were not identified during the evaluation. Further linear anomalies representing former ploughing regimes was also identified intermittently across the southern part of the site. The evaluation identified archaeological remains, concentrated in the south-western part of the site, comprising four Iron Age ditches and one ditch of early Roman date. With further isolated activity in the form of two undated ditches identified in the central and eastern parts of the site respectively. Modern features, most likely associated with the sites former use as an airfield were also recorded.	
Project dates	13 to 22 January 2020	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Pegasus Group 2019) Geophysical survey - SUMO and Magnitude Surveys.	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	68.83ha	
Site co-ordinates	492347 281441	
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	Daniele Pirisino	
MONUMENT TYPE	Prehistoric ditched enclosure	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Prehistoric and Roman pottery	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		ceramics, animal bone, Fe objects etc
Paper		Pro forma recording sheets, registers, WSI
Digital		Database, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 *Grafton Underwood Solar Farm, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **MK0184_1**		

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