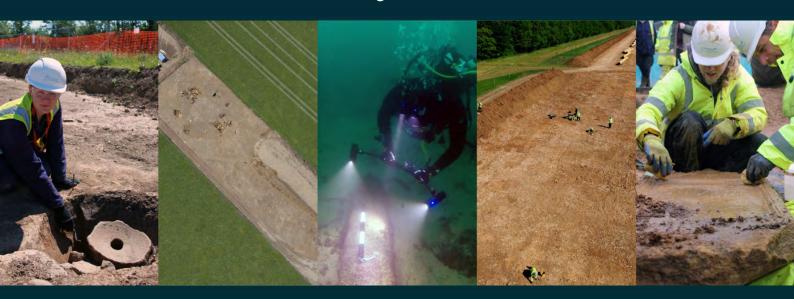




# Land to the south of James Road Irchester Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for Atkins Global

on behalf of Trustees of the F G Saxby No 4 Settlement Trust

> CA Project: MK0003 CA Report: MK0003\_1

> > April 2019



# Land to the south of James Road Irchester Northamptonshire

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#### **SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** Land to the south of James Road

**Location:** Irchester, Northamptonshire

**NGR**: 492700 265230

Type: Evaluation

**Date:** 11-19 March 2019

**Location of Archive:** To be held at CA's office in Milton Keynes until a suitable repository

becomes available

Site Code: FRI19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 on land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire, on behalf of Atkins Global acting for the Trustees of the F G Saxby No 4 Settlement Trust. Seventeen trenches were excavated across the approximately 3.9ha evaluation area, which comprises a single agricultural field situated on the southern fringe of Irchester. The trenches had been located to target anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey.

In the southwest corner of the site, parts of an Iron Age enclosure appear to extend into the evaluation area; the ditch lines produced very little, heavily abraded artefactual material. The fieldwork also revealed evidence for Romano-British field systems in the form of a number of boundary ditches and a possible associated trackway, which produced small assemblages of heavily abraded pottery and animal bone. A total of four large, relatively shallow quarry pits were also encountered. The overall poor levels of preservation of the finds assemblages, as well as the mostly inconclusive results of environmental soil sampling suggest that the site formed part of a predominantly agricultural landscape.

The remains of two medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow agricultural systems were also recorded within the site. In the northern half of the evaluation area, a roughly east / west aligned system was relatively poorly preserved, but a number of remnant furrows of the north / south aligned system in the southern half of the site were observed within the trenches.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire (centred at NGR: 492700 265230; Fig. 1) at the request of Atkins Global acting on behalf of the Trustees of the F G Saxby No 4 Settlement Trust. The evaluation was undertaken to supplement a forthcoming planning application for residential development of 75 houses and associated infrastructure to be submitted to Wellingborough Borough Council (WBC). A previous Desk-Based Assessment (Headland 2018) and programme of geophysical survey (AOC 2018) had previously identified the archaeological potential of the area.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for the archaeological evaluation of land at Farndish Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire* (NCC 2018), produced by the County Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council (CAANCC) in their role as the archaeological advisors to WBC, which defined the evaluation as the first phase of archaeological investigation required for the site. A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2019) and approved by the CAANCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by the CAANCC, including a site visit on 14 March.

#### The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 3.9ha, and comprises a single agricultural field on the southern fringe of Irchester, and is bounded to the north by a residential estate, to the west by Farndish Road, and to the east and south by further agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 83m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), on relatively flat ground.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the Blisworth Limestone Formation, formed approximately 166 to 168 million years ago in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019). No superficial deposits are recorded for the area.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail as part of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Headland 2018), and a programme of

geophysical survey has been carried out within the site (AOC 2018). The following text is summarised from these documents.

## Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2 The site occupies part of a large area of possible prehistoric or Roman activity (MNN5163) recorded in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) which stretches for approximately 975m along the southern edge of Irchester. This area has been identified due to the number of cropmarks in the area and is recorded in the NHER as "a number of indeterminate enclosures and linear features, including a possible trackway and ring ditch over an extensive area. Only a very small number of finds have been recorded in this area". A linear cropmark (MNN1969) which is also partly within the site has been identified as a possible prehistoric trackway in the NHER and is probably the trackway mentioned within the description of MNN5163.
- Approximately 400m to the south-east of the site a number of fieldwalking, metal detecting and archaeological observations took place in the 1990s around an area of cropmarks of a possible Roman settlement (MNN5152), probable Romano-British trackways and enclosures (MNN119780, MNN119781, MNN22764 & MNN22763). The results of these surveys include the identification of a probable Romano-British building from a surface scatter of building stone and finds of Romano-British pottery, over 70 Roman coins, as well as Romano-British weights, bracelet fragments, a nail cleaner, brooches and lead waste (MNN34931).
- 2.4 Further areas of cropmarks of possible prehistoric / Romano-British features such as MNN27645 and MNN166095 are located to the south-west of the site. The large number of cropmarks in the area reflects the arable nature of much of this landscape and may suggest a superficial geology of till, both of which are favourable to the appearance and recording of cropmark features.
- 2.5 A large number of prehistoric to Roman find-spots have been recorded within the NHER and through the Portable Antiquity Scheme in the area. Such finds are largely unstratified though many have been recorded during field- walking or metal-detecting surveys targeted in areas of cropmarks. The earliest finds, located to the south and east of the site, include lithic implements and a polished stone axehead (MNN25965, MNN34823, MNN34911 & MNN146454) dated to the Neolithic to Bronze Age. Numerous finds of Romano-British date have been found in areas to

the east, north-west and south-east of the site, including Roman coins (MNN22794, MNN161107, MNN34929, MNN15433, MNN154313, MNN161104) and Romano-British brooches (MNN20670, MNN146198 & MNN147431).

The Roman town of Irchester itself is located 1.4km to the north-west of the site. The area is designated as a Scheduled Monument (L1003892) and contains the well-preserved (subsurface) remains of a small Roman town and its suburbs which was occupied between the 1st and 5th centuries AD, the preceding Iron Age settlement, and the medieval hamlet of Chester on the Water which was abandoned by the early 18th century. The Historic England list entry records that Irchester's significant position in relation to communication networks seems the most likely reason for its development as an urban centre, on the confluence of the River Nene and Ise and at the crossing of two possible roads. It is also believed that as "one of the largest of small towns locally (c.18ha) Irchester probably acted as local market, administrative focus and religious centre" (Taylor 2000, 6) to a rural hinterland of smaller settlements and villa estates.

## Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 2.7 No assets of Anglo-Saxon or Medieval date are recorded in the NHER within the site itself, and there is little evidence of Saxon occupation in the wider area. An excavation in advance of a housing development at Manor Field (ENN10852) in 1967, to the north of the site, recorded Saxon remains overlaid by features associated with the medieval manor. There are also three find-spots with possible Saxon finds (MNN103449, MNN145326 & MNN150167) which were chance finds or recorded during metal-detecting.
- 2.8 Irchester appears in two entries in the Domesday Book, suggesting the settlement was made up of two manors. The larger manor comprised four households, two ploughlands, 10 acres of meadow and one mill under the Countess Gytha of Hereford in 1066 which had passed to William Peverel by 1086. The second manor comprised one household, a half ploughland and 3.5 acres of meadow under Siward in 1066 which had passed to Count Robert of Mortain by 1086. While there were two manors at Irchester by 1066, this was a very small agricultural settlement with a total taxable value of 2.4 geld.
- 2.9 In addition to the medieval manorial remains recorded at Manor field (ENN10852) other recorded assets of medieval date within the area, all located to the north of the

site, include two small medieval ditches/ pits (MNN23897 & MNN170039) and a gully (MNN169776) which have been recorded during archaeological interventions. In the area around Station Road in the north-east of the area, the earthwork remains of medieval closes (MNN22783) as well as cropmarks of remains of the possible medieval village (MNN27636) and a possible medieval close (MNN22781) have been identified.

2.10 There are also a number of medieval find-spots recorded by the NHER and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, largely as a result of metal-detecting or field-walking. These include coins (MNN116288 & MNN154534), strap fittings (MNN145087, MNN145093, MNN145094 & MNN146199) and pottery (MNN22782).

#### Post-medieval and modern

- Within the site the NHER holds two records (MNN120137 & MNN135379) for a cropmark feature that is described as a modern quarry tramway. The feature is clearly defined on aerial photographs (NCC photo No. 9265/016 18.07.86) and Google Earth. However, there is no evidence of a quarry or associated tramway in this location on historic maps between 1773 and 1952 and it seems likely that this is rather part of the Grafham to Hannington water main pipeline which runs along the south edge of Irchester.
- 2.12 The Irchester Enclosure Map of 1769 1773 shows the site enclosed and owned by John March; Irchester is recorded as being enclosed in 1773. The 1823 Plan of the Estate in the Parishes of Irchester depicts the site as an enclosed field named Horse Green; by this date the field has a similar shape to present, although the northern part of the 1823 field has subsequently been developed for housing.
- 2.13 The town of Irchester continued to grow throughout the post-medieval period and into the modern period. Irchester's growth was based around the quarrying of iron stone, shoe factories and the impact of the railway. However, the Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 to 1952 (Plates 2 6) show no changes within the site; it remained a field throughout this period.

#### Undated

2.14 Within the site the NHER records three cropmark sites of unknown date, comprising pits (MNN120153), a probable ditch (MNN120154) and an undated trackway (MNN120143) which is also recorded as a probable prehistoric communications

route (MNN1969). It is probable that these undated cropmark sites all form part of the larger NHER grouping of 'site of possible prehistoric or Roman activity' (MNN5163) which covers most of the site.

## Geophysical survey

- 2.15 A gradiometer survey carried out within the site (AOC 2018) identified a number of trends which could be archaeological in origin. A possible enclosure, former field system and an area of activity have been identified within the NHER designated area of Roman activity surrounding the town of Irchester. Some of the trends correlate with features observed on Google Earth imagery; however, as nothing in the survey area has been specifically identified in the NHER, the anomalies cannot be definitively classed as being archaeological in origin.
- 2.16 Areas of enhanced magnetism have also been identified which may or may not be related to the areas of possible archaeology. A zone of magnetism identified in the southeast portion of the site could relate to geological or natural variations in the ground.
- 2.17 Ploughing trends have also been identified and those in the south-east of the dataset may relate to a medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing regime; showing the area has been historically farmed.
- 2.18 A large possible modern service runs across the centre of the dataset which may relate to the building on the western edge of the survey area.

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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, quality and significance. In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the CAANCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the proposed development upon them, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and

any aspect of the development proposals. This process is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2018).

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seventeen trenches, with sixteen trenches measuring 40m long and 1.8m wide, and one trench measuring 10m long and 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on Figure 2. 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 and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. When available, CA will make arrangements with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of Northamptonshire, although the issue is being actively addressed in the construction of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre at Chester Farm, Northamptonshire. In the meantime the requirements of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive Standards (NCC 2014) will be followed. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will also be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. **RESULTS (FIGS 2-13)**

- 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 The natural substrate was encountered across the site at depths between 0.2m and 0.3m, and comprised light brownish yellow and mid reddish brown silty sand, with occasional gravel and stone inclusions. This was overlain in trenches 1, 3, 9 and 14 by subsoil or colluvial deposits with thicknesses between 0.15m and 0.30m, consisting of mid yellowish and reddish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions. All trenches were sealed by topsoil of mid/dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions, measuring between 0.20m and 0.30m thick. No features or deposits of any kind were encountered in trench 2.
- Two systems of ridge and furrow cultivation were recorded within the site on alignments indicated by the geophysical survey (see Fig. 2). The single furrow recorded in the northern portion of the site was investigated in trench 3 (furrow 303) followed an east / west orientation and measured 1.28m wide and 0.07m deep, with gently sloping concave sides and an uneven base. In the southern portion of the site evidence of a second, north / south aligned, ridge and furrow system was encountered in trenches 10-15 and 17, with trenches 10, 12, 13, 14, and 17 containing exclusively furrows. A representative sample of the furrows encountered was investigated in trenches 11, 13, 14 and 17 (furrows 1302; 1403, 1405, 1407; and 1702 respectively) to confirm cut shapes and dimensions of the features; the furrows were found to vary in width between 4.0m (furrow 1403) and 1.8m (furrow 1304), with depths ranging between 0.10m (furrow 1304) and 0.25m (furrow 1702).

# Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

Trench 1 contained a north / south aligned ditch (103) which was identified by the geophysical survey. The feature measured 2.23m wide and 0.17m deep, with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base; the single fill 104 comprised mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions and contained glass, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone fragments dating to the post-medieval period. A soil sample (sample no. 7; see below) was taken from this deposit. The geophysical survey appears to show the line of the ditch continuing

further south towards trench 3 before turning west to form a possible rectangular enclosure; however the feature was not observed in trench 3.

A smaller, east / west aligned, ditch (105) was investigated near the northwestern end of the trench. The feature, measuring 0.54m wide and 0.07m deep, with concave sides and a flat base, was seen to terminate within the trench. The ditch cut contained a single fill 106 of mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions; a single pottery fragment of Roman date was also recovered. No corresponding trend or anomaly was identified by the geophysical survey, likely due to the relatively small size of the feature.

# Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)

Trench 4 contained a large quarry pit 402, measuring 6.0m wide and 0.84m deep, with steeply sloping, slightly irregular sides and a flat base. This aligns with a large discreet geophysical anomaly. The feature contained two fills; the basal fill 403 comprised mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent small stones and measured 0.31m thick. Fill 403 was sealed by upper fill 404, measuring 0.59m thick and comprising mid yellowish brown silty and with some small stones. The upper fill also contained a single fragment of Romano-British pottery as well as animal bone fragments; a soil sample was recovered from this fill (sample no. 3; see below).

#### Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.7 Trench 5 contained a single east / west aligned ditch 502 which followed the line of a weak linear trend identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch measured 3.44m wide and 0.90m deep, with convex sides; due to safety considerations the base of the feature remains unexcavated. The excavated portion of the ditch contained three fills; the lowest fill 503 comprised mid reddish brown clayey silt with frequent stone inclusions measuring 0.20m thick, its shape in section suggests the deposit may be representative of a deliberate tipping/ soil dump event. This was covered by fill 504, which consisted of mid orangey brown silty sand with very frequent stone inclusions, measuring 0.64m thick. Fill 504 in turn was sealed by deposit 505, measuring 0.30m thick and comprising mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions. This upper fill (505) was the only deposit containing finds, in the form of a small number of Romano-British pottery fragments.

# Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.8 Furrow 602 was investigated near the centre of the trench, running on an east / west alignment. The feature measured 2.47m wide and 0.24m deep, with concave sides and a flat base, and was filled by two deposits. Fill 603, measuring a maximum of 0.18m thick, comprised mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions, while the upper fill 604, with a maximum thickness of 0.24m, consisted of mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions and included small animal bone fragments as well as metal finds in the form of one iron nail and an unidentified object.
- A large quarry pit 605, similar to the one encountered in trench 4 (see above), was also investigated within the trench. The feature measured approximately 12m wide and 0.76m deep, with steep, slightly irregular sides and a flat base. A lower fill 606, comprised of mid orangey brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions and measuring 0.35m thick, was sealed by upper fill 607, which consisted of mid yellowish brown sandy silt with some stone inclusions and measured 0.44m thick. Two fragments of Romano-British pottery and one iron nail were recovered from fill 607.
- 5.10 A north / south aligned ditch (608) near the southern end of the trench remained unexcavated; the feature was recorded in plan with a width of 1.25m. The fill 609, as visible in plan, comprised mid yellowish brown sandy silt with some stone inclusions.

# Trench 7 (Figs 2, 7 & 8)

- 5.11 Near the centre of trench 7, north / south aligned ditch 702 correlates with an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch, with straight, moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measured 2.8m wide and 0.34m deep, was filled by a single deposit 703 of mid reddish brown silty sandy with occasional stone inclusions.
- Just to the east of ditch 702, possible quarry pit 704 was located in alignment with a discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. Similar to other quarry pits encountered within the site (in trenches 4 and 6, see above) the feature measured 5.58m wide and 0.81m deep, with slightly irregular steep sides and a concave base. A basal fill 705, measuring 0.35m thick and comprising mid yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent stone and some charcoal inclusions which contained some animal bone fragments, was covered by a secondary deposit 706 of mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions, measuring 0.29m thick and containing

two Romano-British pottery fragments; a sample was taken from this deposit (sample no. 4; see below). Fill 706 in turn was sealed by a final deposit 707 of mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions, measuring 0.25m thick and containing two metal fragments (one iron nail and an unidentified object).

5.13 Near the westernmost end of the trench a small natural feature (708) was investigated. The feature appeared within the trench with a width if 0.70m and depth of 0.18m, with slightly convex sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit 709 of dark brownish red sandy silt with occasional large stone inclusions. Some flecks of charcoal and burnt clay were also observed.

# Trench 8 (Fig 2)

- 5.14 A quarry pit (802) was investigated in trench 8, similar to the ones encountered in trenches 4, 6, and 7 (see above). The feature, matching a large discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, measured 5.50m long and more than 2.1m wide, with a depth of 0.58m, gently sloping sides and a flat base. A single fill 803 comprised mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone and chalk inclusions, and produced bone and four iron nails.
- 5.15 To the east of quarry pit 802, two small parallel ditches (804 and 806) cross the trench on a northwest / southeast alignment. Both features were recorded in plan and investigated further to the south where they cross trench 9 (see below). Ditch 804 measured 0.55m wide, with ditch 806 measuring 0.45m wide. The fills of both features (805 and 807 respectively) were observed in plan to comprise mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions.

## Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 9)

- 5.16 Trench 9 contained two undated small parallel ditches running on a northeast / southwest alignment, representing the continuation of ditches 804 and 806 from trench 8 (see above). The southern ditch (903) measured 1.25m wide and 0.24m deep, with straight sides and a slightly concave base. A single fill 904 comprised mid greyish brown sandy silt with some stone inclusions.
- 5.17 Immediately to the north, the cut of ditch 905 measured 1.15m wide and 0.40m deep, with steep straight sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single deposit (906) of mid greyish brown sandy silt with some stone inclusions.

## Trench 11 (Figs 2, 10 & 11)

- 5.18 Trench 11 contained a total of four features matching a number of linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Ditch 1102, crossing the trench near its western end on a northwest / southeast alignment, measured 2.08m wide and 0.54m deep, with a straight, steeply sloping southwestern side and a stepped northeastern side, and a concave base. It is possible, given the asymmetrical cut shape, that the original ditch line has been partially truncated by the remains of a furrow. The feature was filled by a single deposit 1103 of mid reddish brown sandy silt with some stone and charcoal inclusions, which produced several fragments of Romano-British pottery. A soil sample was taken from the fill (sample no. 5; see below).
- 5.19 Approximately 8m to the east of ditch 1102, a second smaller ditch 1104 crosses the trench on the same northwest / southeast orientation. Ditch 1104 measured 0.78m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderately steep straight sides and a concave base forming a u-shaped cut. The feature contained a single fill (1105) comprising mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions; no finds were recovered.
- 5.20 The easternmost two features (1106 and 1108), crossing the trench on a north / south alignment, match other furrows recorded in this portion of the site, measuring 1.93m and 1.20m wide respectively; furrow 1106 was 0.18m deep with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base, while furrow 1108 remains unexcavated.

#### Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 12)

- 5.21 Trench 15 contained four intercutting features (furrow 1502; ditches 1504 and 1507; and gully 1509), all running on a roughly northwest / southeast alignment. The cluster of features corresponds to a strong linear trend identified by the geophysical survey, which appears to indicate a possible enclose boundary in this area.
- 5.22 Furrow 1502, measuring 4.04m in width and 0.30m in depth, with gently sloping concave sides and a slightly irregular base, was filled by a single deposit (1503) of mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions. Within the base of the furrow, the truncated remains of gully 1509 were investigated, measuring 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep with concave sides and a concave base. A single fill (1510) of mid orangey brown sandy silt contained no finds.

- 5.23 Furrow 1502 also truncates the northeast edge of ditch 1504, which measured at least 0.1.6m wide and over 0.70m deep but was not fully excavated due to safety concerns. The steep-sided cut contained a lower fill 1505, measuring at least 0.42m thick, of mid reddish brown clayey silt with frequent stone inclusions which produced a small assemblage of Iron Age pottery fragments; this was sealed by an upper fill 1506 measuring 0.30m thick comprising mid reddish brown clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions. The upper fill produced no finds, but was heavily truncated by furrow 1502.
- 5.24 The southwest side of ditch 1504 was observed to partially truncate the westernmost of the ditches (1507). The remaining ditch measured 2.02m wide and 0.36m deep, with one surviving concave side and a flat base. The feature was filled by a single deposit 1508 of mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions; no finds were recovered.

## Trench 16 (Figs 2 & 13)

- 5.25 Two ditches were investigated in trench 16, following a roughly east / west orientation matching that of two linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Ditch 1602, the smaller and southernmost of the two, measured 0.77m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a concave base forming a u-shaped cut similar to that of ditch 1104 (see above). The ditch was filled by a single deposit 1603 of mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions; several two small fragments of Iron Age pottery were recovered.
- 5.26 The larger ditch (1604) measured 4.5m wide and more than 1.28m deep, with steep sides; the base of the feature was not excavated due to safety concerns. A lower fill 1606 of mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions produced articulated human skeletal remains (partial skeleton SK1607) but no other finds. This was sealed by an upper deposit 1605 comprising mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone inclusions which contained animal bone fragments. A soil sample was recovered from this fill (sample no. 1; see below).

#### 6. THE FINDS

6.1 The artefactual material was recorded from 15 deposits, the fills of ditches and pits (Appendix B). The material was all hand-recovered.

## **Pottery** by Pete Banks

- 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 x40 hand lens 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 where appropriate with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 2010). A concordance with Northamptonshire types series has also been provided where possible (Perrin 2006).
- 6.3 The assemblage comprises 23 sherds (93g) of pottery recorded from eight deposits. All of the pottery was recovered from the fills of ditches and pits. The condition of the assemblage is poor; the majority of fractures and surfaces are abraded. The mean sherd weight is low for a largely Roman assemblage (4g).

# Late Prehistoric

A total of eleven sherds (15g) of handmade, late prehistoric pottery, made in shell-tempered fabric SH, are recorded from ditch fills 1505 and 1603. All are plain body sherds in a highly fragmented condition, making it extremely difficult to date them more closely than to the Iron Age.

# Roman

A total of twelve sherds (78g) of pottery can be dated to the Roman period. Nine plain body sherds (54g) of shell-tempered pottery (UNS SH) are recorded from four deposits. One small sherd (1g) of sandy buff ware (UNS BUF) is recorded from ditch fill 505. One plain body sherd (5g) of colour coated ware (UNS CC) is recorded from pit fill 404. One sherd (18g) of a hard fired sandy oxidised ware (UNS OX) is recorded from ditch fill 106. The sherd is an unusual shape and wheel thrown. The fragment resembles the ring foot of a pot base, though purposely made not to be attached on a pot. It could have functioned as a circular stand or may have had other non-functional uses. It has not been possible to find any comparisons for this sherd.

## Ceramic Building Material by Pete Banks

6.6 One fragment (4g) of ceramic building material is recorded from ditch fill 104. Based on the fabric and firing it is likely that the fragment dates from the late medieval or post-medieval period. It is not possible to determine to the form of the fragment.

## **Glass** by Pete Banks

6.7 One fragment (4g) of transparent bottle glass is recorded from ditch fill 104. The fragment most likely dates to the post-medieval period, however, it is heavily encrusted.

## **Metalwork** by Pete Banks

6.8 Nine fragments (97g) of iron are recorded from four deposits. Seven nails are recorded from ditch fill 604, and pit fills 607, 707 and 803. A flat stripe of iron in an irregular shape is also recorded from ditch fill 604. Due to the heavily corroded nature of the fragment it is not possible to discern its function. A sub-rectangular stripe of iron is recorded from pit fill 803; due to its heavily corroded condition, it has not been possible to determine its function and date.

#### 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

## Animal Bone by Sharon Clough

7.1 Animal bone amounting to 46 fragments (240g) was recovered from deposits 104, 604 and 1605 the fills of ditches 103, 602 and 1604 and deposits 704 and 802 the fills of possible quarry pits 705 and 803. Artefactual material dating to the post-medieval period was also recovered (See Table 3, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary and not well preserved, displaying severe surface erosion rendering much of the assemblage unidentifiable beyond the level of sheep-sized mammal. However, it was possible to identify the remains of horse (*Equus callabus*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*).

## Post-medieval

7.2 Two fragments (1g) were recovered from deposit 104, the fill of ditch 103. Horse was the only species present, identified from a single molar tooth.

## Undated

7.3 The remaining 45 fragments (98g) were recovered from deposits 604, 704, 803 and 1605 which remain undated. The presence of dog was confirmed by the recovery of the fragmented remains of a mandible, ribs and vertebrae from deposit 705 which, from their size and condition, are likely to originate from a single individual. Of note among the undated material are eight partial ribs (24g), from deposit 705, that are

potentially human in origin. However, it was not possible to make an identification with any confidence due to the poor state of preservation.

## **Human remains** by Sharon Clough

- 7.4 A single inhumation was recovered from the lower fill of a ditch. The bone recovered comprised mainly the lower half and cranial fragments of a single adult individual. The right pelvis and upper right portion of the femur were left in situ. The remains were possibly of an adult male individual, but the more diagnostic areas for sex estimation were mostly absent. There were no age indicators available to suggest anything more than fully adult. There were no pathological lesions observed.
- 7.5 The skeletal remains comprised most of the left femur and the right femur from below the femoral head. The left and right tibiae, the right nearly complete, the left missing the lower half. The left and right fibulae, again the right nearly complete the left missing the proximal and distal parts. The right calcaneus was present. From the arm were the left distal ulna joint surface and left fifth metacarpal and a mid-hand phalanx. Small fragments of the pelvis and sacrum were present, as were two rib fragments. Cranial fragments were from the left parietal and temporal including the upper half of the auditory meatus and petrous portion.
- 7.6 The bone surface condition was grade 2, good, and the fragmentation was medium, due mostly to recent breaks although some were historic.
- 7.7 The skeletal areas which are diagnostic for sex estimation were mostly absent. However, the mastoid process on the left temporal was large and the posterior zygomatic area was prominent, both male traits. The femoral head dimension was 43mm which places it mid-range between male and female, but the distal femur width was 77, firmly male. So a tentative estimation of male is suggested.
- 7.8 All the ends of bones where observable were fully fused, there was no joint disease observed and some muscle attachment sites were medium. Age estimation was therefore not possible, but it was clearly adult.
- 7.9 The calcaneus had a double facet, which is a commonly observed non-metric trait and there was not a squatting facet on the distal tibia. Metrical information was limited to platymeric indices (flattening of the femur and tibia). The femur was 70

which is platymeric or flattened, this is commonly seen in archaeological populations. The tibia exhibited similar flattening with a calculation of 60.

- 7.10 No pathological lesions were observed, no joint degeneration and enthesophyte formation was mostly at a medium level, or some areas low. The limited skeletal elements available for observation have impacted on the type of lesions which would have been available.
- 7.11 From the remains recovered, and those left in the ground, this was probably an articulated skeleton laid supine either slightly flexed or extended at the bottom of the ditch running west-east. The position of the pelvis and leg and the recovery of mostly lower limb and some left side cranial fragments would indicate that the superior half may remain in the ground, but the left side of the cranium was clipped, which may indicate that the skull lay on the right side. Burial in ditches is a fairly common phenomenon in the Iron Age. There was a burial in a ditch, site 4, on the Great Barford Bypass, 10km to the south east, (Timby et al. 2007) which was dated to the late Iron Age.

#### **Environmental evidence** by Emma Aitken

- 7.12 A series of five environmental samples (100 litres of soil) were processed from five trenches, trenches 1, 4, 7, 11 and 16, 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 deposits. The samples were process by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).
- 7.13 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 4, 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, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008) and will be discussed within the main text of this report.

#### Trench 1

7.14 Fill 104 (sample 7) of ditch 103 contained no charred cereal remains and only very low quantities of charred seeds which included vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).

The preservation level of the vetch/wild pea seed was relatively poor. Moderately low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were also recorded. Terrestrial snail shells were recorded from within fill 104 in large quantities and included the open county species *Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella itala*, *Vertigo* sp. and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. The shells of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* were also recorded from within the deposit.

#### Trench 4

7.15 Fill 404 (sample 3) of pit 402 contained no charred cereal or plant remains. Moderately low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recorded. High quantities of terrestrial snail shells belonging to the open country species *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius* were identified from within the assemblage. The burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* was also present within the mollusc assemblage.

#### Trench 7

7.16 Fill 706 (sample 4) of ditch 704 contained a single charred indeterminate cereal grain which showed signs of vitrification. No other charred plant remains were recovered from within the deposit and only low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recorded. Terrestrial snail shells were recorded from within fill 104 in large quantities and included the open county species *Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella itala*, and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. The shells of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* were also recorded from within the deposit.

#### Trench 11

7.17 Fill 1103 (sample 5) of ditch 1102 contained no charred cereal grains and only very low quantities of oraches (*Atriplex* sp.) seeds. Low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were also recorded from within fill 1103. Terrestrial snail shells were recorded from within fill 104 in large quantities and included the open county species *Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella itala*, *Vertigo* sp. and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius* alongside a possible *Ena/Merdigera* type shell. The shells of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* were also recorded from within the deposit.

#### Trench 16

7.18 Fill 1605 (sample 1) of ditch 1604 contained no charred cereal grains and only a small number of oraches seeds. Low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were also recorded from within fill 1605. Terrestrial snail shells were recorded from within fill 104 in large quantities and included the open county species *Pupilla muscorum*, *Helicella italia*, *Vertigo* sp. and *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. The shells of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* were also recorded from within the deposit.

## Summary

7.19 All of these small assemblages may be representative of dispersed material and provide no firm evidence for any specific activity taking place such as domestic or industrial activities in the vicinity of these trenches. The environmental remains provide no indication of the date of the deposits discussed. The large mollusc assemblages appear to be generally indicative of a well- established open landscape, with possible areas of longer unkempt grass.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The results of the evaluation broadly confirm those of the preceding geophysical survey, identifying the locations of a possible Iron Age enclosure or boundary line, as well as evidence for land division and several large quarry pits of likely Romano-British date. Later, medieval and/or post-medieval, activity within the site was observed in the form of two ridge and furrow cultivation systems and a single ditch line near the northeast corner of the site.
- 8.2 Despite a number of features across the site producing fragments of pottery and animal bone, the overall state of preservation of the finds assemblage is poor, with ceramic sherds in particular proving too fragmentary and abraded to aid in providing clear dating beyond broad periods. Similarly, the environmental samples recovered were unable to provide specific evidence for any type of activity or dates of the features; the mollusc assemblages indicate merely the presence of an established open landscape including some areas of longer grass.

# Iron Age

8.3 A small assemblage of Iron Age pottery fragments was recovered from the fills of ditch features in trenches 15 and 16 which coincided with a strong slightly curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. Particularly in trench 15 there appears to be some evidence for longer-term maintenance of the northwest / southeast aligned portion of this ditch line, in the form of possible recuts overlapping with earlier iterations. It is possible that the geophysical anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and encountered in the trial trenches may represent the corner of a large Iron Age enclosure or boundary ditch located slightly further to the south, outside the current site boundary.

#### Romano-British

- 8.4 Evidence for Romano-British activity within the site is somewhat more abundant, focusing in particular on the northern and western parts of the site. As suggested by the presence of large discrete anomalies on the geophysical survey results, a total of four large but relatively shallow limestone quarry pits were encountered in trenches 4, 6, 7 and 8. Small quantities of, mostly ceramic, finds suggest a broad Romano-British date but provide no clear evidence for any industrial activity within the immediate area.
- 8.5 A number of the ditches encountered across the site also produced small quantities of Romano-British pottery, although similar to the finds recovered from the quarry pits these were badly abraded and fragmentary. Nevertheless this does suggest at least some small level of activity within the site, mostly likely relating to agricultural land use and land divisions or possibly trackways between the large quarry pits and/or linking them to the wider surrounding area.
- 8.6 It is anticipated that further archaeological investigation of the remains identified has the potential to contribute to a number of research themes identified by Cooper (2006) and Knight, Vyner and Allen (2012), including questions relating to changing land use and agricultural practices, as well as rural industrial activity. The evaluation revealed the existence of possible stock enclosures, fields/ paddocks and associated trackways, as well as some quarrying activity. The results of any future excavations have the potential to contribute towards an improved understanding of the development of fields and field systems in the area in the Iron Age, Iron Age Roman transition, and Roman periods, including the nature of the activities practiced

over time (e.g. agricultural and/ or stock rearing, as well as low-level industrial activity) and the chronology of this development.

#### Medieval and Post-medieval

- 8.7 Two separate medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation systems were encountered within the site, in keeping with the linear trends identified by the geophysical survey which were attributed to ploughing. In the northern half of the site the ridge and furrow system runs on an east / west alignment, although the preservation of remnant furrows appears poorer on the whole than in the southern half of the site, with only one shallow furrow base surviving (in trench 3). By contrast, the north / south and northwest / southeast aligned ridge and furrow system in the southern half of the site appears slightly better preserved in the ground with a number of remnant furrows recorded in trenches 12-15 and 17.
- 8.8 Post-medieval glass and CBM fragments were recovered from a north / south aligned ditch near the northeast corner of the site in trench 1. The feature aligns with a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey which appears to form a rectangular enclosure; it is possibly representative of more recent changing land division and land use within the site.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by Adrian Arenas, Breana McCulloch, Luke Bateson, Molly Agnew-Henshaw and Eduardo Cabrera. The report was written by Anna Moosbauer. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks, Sharon Clough and Emma Aitken. 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 Adrian Scruby.

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# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench no.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	mid brownish grey, clayey silt, friable, occasional stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.2
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	mid reddish brown, clayey silt, friable, occasional stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.3
1	102	Layer		Natural	mid brownish yellow, silty clay, compact, frequent stone		>2.10	N/A
1	103	Cut		Ditch	linear, N / S orientation, concave sides, gentle slope, flattish base	near, N / S >1.0 vientation, concave sides, lentle slope,		0.17
1	104	Fill	103	Single fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone, rare charcoal flecks	>1.0	2.23	0.17
1	105	Cut		Ditch	linear, rounded end, E / W orientation, concave sides, gentle slope, flattish base	>1.0	0.54	0.07
1	106	Fill	105	Single fill	mid yellowish brown, clayey silt, compact, occasional stone	>1.0	0.54	0.07
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.26
2	201	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.12
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, silty clay, friable, occasional stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.3
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	mid orangey brown, silty clay, moderately compact, occasional stone	mid orangey >40.0 brown, silty clay, moderately compact,		0.3
3	302	Layer		Natural	mid reddish brown / light yellowish orangey silty clay, compact, frequent stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.30
3	303	Cut		Furrow	linear, E / W orientation, concave sides, gentle slope,	>1.0	1.28	0.07

					uneven base			
3	304	Fill	303	Single fill	mid greyish brown, silty clay, friable, frequent rooting, occasional stone	>1.0	1.28	0.07
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.23
4	401	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	N/A
4	402	Cut		Pit	possible quarry pit, straight sides, steep slope, flat base	>1.0	>2.6	0.84
4	403	Fill	402	Lower fill	mid yellowish brown, silty sand, compact, very frequent lime stone, patches of clay	>1.0	>2.6	0.31
4	404	Fill	402	Upper fill	mid yellowish brown, silty sand, friable, moderate small stone	>1.0	>1.60	0.59
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, silty clay, friable, frequent stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.26
5	501	Layer		Natural	light yellowish brown, silty sand, mod. compact, frequent stone	>40.0	>2.10	N/A
5	502	Cut		Ditch	linear, NE / SW orientation, convex sides, moderate slope, not bottomed	>1.0	3.44	0.9
5	503	Fill	502	Basal fill	mid reddish brown, clayey silt, compact, frequent stone	>1.0	>1	>0.20
5	504	Fill	502	Middle fill	mid orangey brown, sandy silt, loose, frequent stone	>1.0	2.64	>0.64
5	505	Fill	502	Upper fill	mid orangey brown, silty sand, loose, occasional stone	>1.0	3.36	0.3
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.28
6	601	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.17

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6	602	Cut		Furrow	linear, W / E orientation,	>1.0	2.47	0.24
					concave sides, moderate slope, flat base			
6	603	Fill	602	Lower fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, frequent stone, occasional chalk	>1.0	1.2	0.18
6	604	Fill	602	Upper fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone / chalk	>1.0	2.05	0.24
6	605	Cut		Pit	possible quarry pit, unclear shape in plan, straight sides, moderate slope, flat base	>2.15	>1.0	0.76
6	606	Fill	605	Lower fill	mid orangey brown, sandy silt, friable, very frequent stone	>1.43	>1.0	0.35
6	607	Fill	605	Upper fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>2.15	>1.0	0.44
6	608	Cut		Ditch	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>3.2	1.25	N/A
6	609	Fill	608	Upper fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>3.2	1.25	N/A
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional small stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.3
7	701	Layer		Natural	light yellowish brown, silty sand, friable, very frequent stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.10
7	702	Cut		Ditch	linear, N / S orientation, straight sides, moderate slope, flattish base	>1.0	2.8	0.34
7	703	Fill	702	Single fill	mid reddish brown, silty sand, friable, occasional stone	>1.0	2.8	0.34
7	704	Cut		Large ditch / Pit	linear in plan, N / S orientation, possible quarry pit, slightly irregular sides, moderate slope, concave base	>0.60	5.58	0.81
7	705	Fill	704	Lower fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt with clay patches, friable, frequent stone, occasional charcoal flecks	>0.60	4.8	0.35

7	706	Fill	704	Middle fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone	>0.60	3.7	0.29
7	707	Fill	704	Upper fill	mid reddish brown, silty sand, friable, occasional stone	>0.60	5.58	0.25
7	708	Cut		Natural feature	irregular, NW / SE orientation, slightly convex sides, moderate slope, concave base	>2.10	>0.70	0.18
7	709	Fill	708	Single fill	dark brownish red / reddish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone / charcoal flecks	>2.10	>0.70	0.18
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, clayey silt, friable, occasional stone, rooting	>40.0	>2.10	0.27
8	801	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, friable, frequent chalk, occasional gravel	>40.0	>2.10	>0.05
8	802	Cut		Pit	sub-oval, straight sides, gentle / moderate slope, flat base	>5.50	>1.0	0.58
8	803	Fill	802	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, frequent stone, chalk	>5.50	>1.0	0.58
8	804	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, unexcavated	>2.5	0.55	N/A
8	805	Fill	804	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>2.5	0.55	N/A
8	806	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, unexcavated	>2.5	0.45	N/A
8	807	Fill	806	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>2.5	0.45	N/A
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.3
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.15
9	902	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	N/A
9	903	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / Se orientation, straight sides,	>1.0	1.25	0.24

					gentle slope, shallow concave base			
9	904	Fill	903	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>1.0	1.25	0.24
9	905	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, straight sides, steep slope, concave base	>1.0	1.15	0.4
9	906	Fill	905	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone	>1.0	1.15	0.4
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.28
10	1001	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.05
10	1002	Cut		Bioturbation	sub-circular in plan, shallow ambiguous sides, flat base	>1.0	>1.5	0.19
10	1003	Fill	1002	Single fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy clay, friable, moderate chalk flecks and stone	>1.0	>1.5	0.19
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.3
11	1101	Layer		Natural	light yellowish brown, silty sand, friable, very frequent chalky stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.10
11	1102	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, straight sides, moderate slope, concave base	>1.0	2.08	0.54
11	1103	Fill	1102	Single fill	mid reddish brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate stone, occasional charcoal flecks	>1.0	2.08	0.54
11	1104	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, straight sides, moderate slope, concave base	>1.0	0.78	0.3
11	1105	Fill	1104	Single fill	mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, occasional chalky stone	>1.0	0.78	0.3
11	1106	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, concave sides,	>1.0	1.93	0.18

					gentle slope, flattish base			
11	1107	Fill	1106	Single fill	mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>1.0	1.93	0.18
11	1108	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>2.10	1.2	N/A
11	1109	Fill	1108	Single fill	light yellowish brown, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>2.10	1.2	N/A
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	eyish >40.0 silty clay, moderate		0.24
12	1201	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.11
12	1202	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>2.10	1.95	N/A
12	1203	Fill	1202	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>2.10	1.95	N/A
12	1204	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>2.10	1.1	N/A
12	1205	Fill	1204	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>2.10	1.1	N/A
12	1206	Cut		Bioturbation	irregular in plan, sides and base	1.65	1.45	0.24
12	1207	Fill	1206	Single fill	mid reddish brown, clayey silt, soft, infrequent small stone	1.65	1.45	0.24
12	1208	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>2.10	1.1	N/A
12	1209	Fill	1208	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>2.10	1.1	N/A
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.24
13	1301	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	>0.06
13	1302	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, unexcavated	>2.10	2.2	N/A
13	1303	Fill	1302	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, soft, some small stone	>2.10	2.2	N/A

13	1304	Cut		Eurrow	linear, N / S	>2.10	10	0.1
13	1304	Cut		Furrow	orientation, concave sides and	<b>~</b> 2.10	1.8	0.1
					base			
13	1305	Fill	1304	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, soft, some small stone	>2.10	1.8	0.1
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.28
14	1401	Layer		Colluvium	mid reddish brown, sandy silt, soft, infrequent stone	>40.0	>2.10	?
14	1042	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	?
14	1403	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, concave sides and base	>2.1	4	0.24
14	1404	Fill	1403	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, some small stone	mid brownish >2.1 grey, sandy silt,		0.24
14	1405	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, concave sides and base	linear, N / S >2.1 orientation, concave sides and		0.18
14	1406	Fill	1405	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, some small stone	>2.1	3.4	0.18
14	1407	Cut		Furrow	linear, N / S orientation, concave sides and base	>2.1	2.7	0.15
14	1408	Fill	1407	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, some small stone	>2.1	2.7	0.15
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, clayey silt, friable, occasional stone, rooting	>40.0	>2.10	0.22
15	1501	Layer		Natural	at N end: light brownish yellow, silty sand, frequent stones; at S end: mid reddish brown, silty sand, occasional gravel lenses	>40.0	>2.10	>0.12
15	1502	Cut		Furrow	linear, NW / SE orientation, concave sides and flattish base	>2.1	4.04	0.3
15	1503	Fill	1502	Single fill	mid greyish brown, clayey silt, firm, occasional small stones	>2.1	4.04	0.3

15	1504	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, concave sides, base unexcavated	>2.1	>1.6	>0.70
15	1505	Fill	1504	Lower fill	mid reddish brown, clayey silt, compact, frequent stone	>2.1	1.67	>0.42
15	1506	Fill	1504	Upper fill	mid reddish brown, clayey silt, firm, occasional small stone	>2.1	1.96	0.3
15	1507	Cut		Ditch	linear, NW / SE orientation, concave sides and base	>2.1	>2.02	0.36
15	1508	Fill	1507	Single fill	mid orangey brown, silty sand, firm, occasional small stone	>2.1	>2.02	0.36
15	1509	Cut		Gully	linear, NW / SE orientation, concave sides and base	>2.1	0.6	0.14
15	1510	Fill	1509	Single fill	mid orangey brown, sandy silt, firm, occasional small stone	>2.1	0.6	0.14
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	dark greyish brown, clayey silt, friable, occasional stone, rooting	>40.0	>2.10	0.28
16	1601	Layer		Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, friable, frequent chalk, occasional gravel	>40.0	>2.10	>0.05
16	1602	Cut		Ditch	linear, E / W orientation, concave sides and base	>2.10	0.77	0.28
16	1603	Fill	1602	Single fill	mid orangey brown, silty sand, soft, frequent stone	>2.10	0.77	0.28
16	1604	Cut		Ditch	linear, E / W orientation, straight sides, base unexcavated	>2.10	4.5	>1.18
16	1605	Fill	1604	Upper fill	mid reddish brown, sandy silt, friable, frequent small stone	>2.10	4.5	0.54
16	1606	Fill	1604	Lower fill	mid greyish brown, silty sand, friable, very frequent gravel	>2.10	4.5	>0.64
16	SK1607	Skeleton	1606	Human remains	partial skeleton (pelvis, parts of legs) recovered during machine sondage excavation of fill 1606	N/A	N/A	N/A

17	1700	Layer	Topsoil	dark greyish brown, silty clay, friable, moderate lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	0.28
17	1701	Layer	Natural	light brownish yellow, sandy silt, loose, very frequent lime stone	>40.0	>2.10	N/A
17	1702	Cut	Furrow	linear, NE / SW orientation	>2.10	2.9	0.25
17	1703	Fill	Single fill	mid brownish grey, sandy silt, some small stone	>2.10	2.9	0.25

# **APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

**Table 1:** Finds concordance.

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	CBM		fsc	1	5	POST-MED
	Glass	Transparent bottle glass		1	4	
106	Roman Pottery	Sandy oxidised ware	UNS OX	1	18	RB
404	Roman Pottery	Colour coated ware	UNS CC	1	5	RB
505	Roman Pottery	Sandy buff ware	UNS BUF	1	1	RB
	Roman Pottery	Shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	1	2	
604	Iron	Nail x 1, Object x 1		2	31	
607	Roman Pottery	Shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	2	15	RB
	Iron	Nail		1	5	
706	Roman Pottery	Shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	2	19	RB
707	Iron	Nail x 1, Object x 1		2	48	
803	Iron	Nails x 4		4	13	
1103	Roman Pottery	Shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	4	18	RB
1505	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	9	14	IA
1603	Late Prehistoric Pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	2	1	IA

Table 2: Pottery fabric descriptions.

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Northants Types Series*	Count	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric Pottery	Common-very common moderately sorted coarse shell ≤2mm	SH		11	15
Roman Pottery	Sandy Buff ware	UNS BUF	D	1	1
	Colour coated ware	UNS CC		1	5
	Sandy oxidised ware	UNS OX	D	1	18
	Shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	В	9	54
Grand Total				23	93

<sup>\*</sup> Northants Type codes (Perrin 2006)

# APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

Cut	Fill	EQ	Canid	LM	ММ	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
				Post-medie	val			<u> </u>
103	104	1	1				2	142
				Undated				
602	604				7		7	17
704	705		23			8	31	70
802	803				2		2	6
1604	1605				4		4	5
Subtota	l l							
Total		1	23	1	13	8	46	
Weight		47	46	95	28	24	240	

EQ = horse; Canid = dog; Ind = indeterminate

**Table 4:** Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

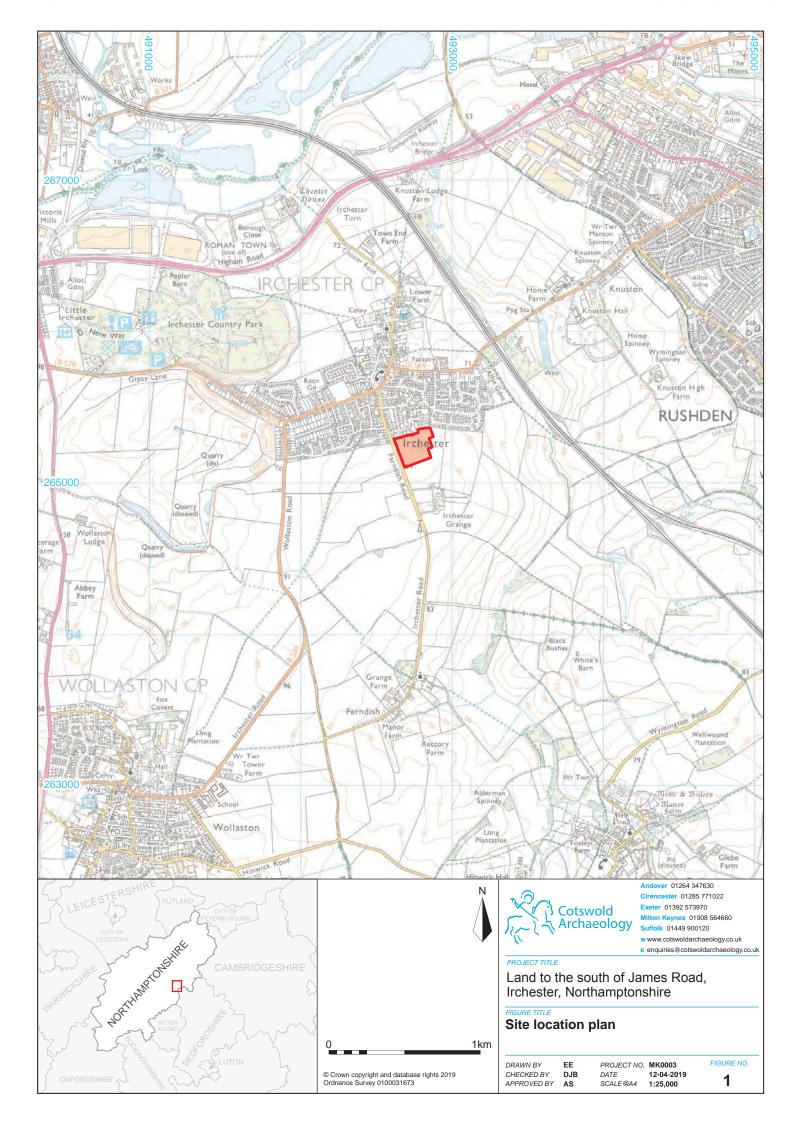
			Vol	Flot size	Roots			Cereal	Charred		Charcoal	
Feature	Context	Sample	(L)	(ml)	%	Grain	Chaff	Notes	Other	Notes for Table	> 4/2mm	Other
				, ,								moll-
												t****,
										Vicia/Lathyrus		ind wst**,
Ditch 103	104	7	20	50	15	-	-	-	*	sp.	**/**	brnt bn*
										•		moll-
												t*****,
												ind
Pit 402	404	3	20	15	10	_	_	_	_	_	*/**	wst*, brnt bn*
111402	707		20	10	10			_	_		,	moll-
												t****,
												ind
												wst*,
								indet				brnt bn*,
Ditch 704	706	4	20	20	5	*	_	grain	_	_	*/*	sab*
2.00								g. c				moll-
												t****,
												brnt
Ditch	4400	_	20	20	40				*	A tuin la a m	*/*	bn*,
1102	1103	5	20	30	10	-	-	-	,	Atriplex sp.	*/*	sab* moll-
												t*****,
												sab*,
												ind
Ditch												wst*,
1604	1605	1	20	35	10	-	-	-	*	Atriplex sp.	*/*	brnt bn*

Key: \* = 1-4 items; \*\* = 4-20 items; \*\*\* = 21-49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50-99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, sab = small animal bone, brnt bn = burnt bone, ind wst=industrial waste

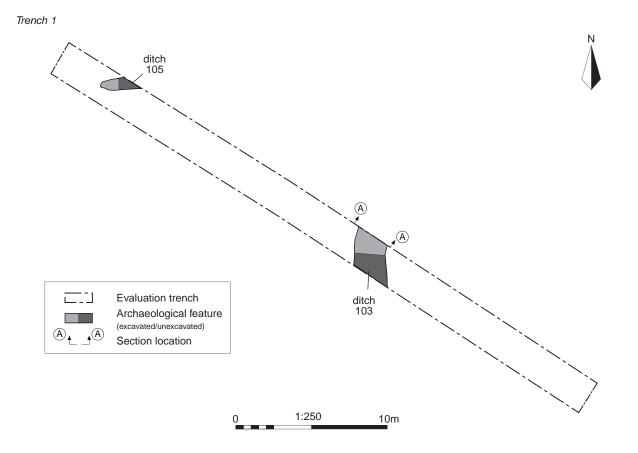
## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

on land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire, on behalf of A Global acting for the Trustees of the F G Saxby No 4 Settlement Trust. Set tenches were excavated across the approximately 3.9th availuation area, v. comprises a single agricultural field situated on the southern fringe of Irchester trenches had been located to target anomalies identified by a preceding geoph survey. In the southwest corner of the site, parts of an Iron Age enclosure appear to e into the evaluation area, the ditch lines produced very little, heavily abraded antified materials. The fieldwork also revealed evidence for Romano-Britide dysystems i form of a number of boundary ditches and a possible associated trackway, a produced small assemblages of heavily abraded pottery and animal bone. A to four large, relatively shallow quarry pits were also encountered riveralle poor of preservation of the finds assemblages, as well as the mostly inconclusive rest, environmental soil sampling suggest that the site formed part of a predomic agricultural landscage. The remains of two medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow agricultural sys were also recorded within the site. In the northern half of the evaluation area, or east / west aligned system was relatively poorly preserved, but a number of ren furrows of the north / south aligned system in the southern half of the site observed within the trenches.  Project dates  11-19 March 2019  Project type Field evaluation  Previous work Geophysical survey (AOC 2018)  Future work Unknown  PROJECT LOCATION  Site Location South of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire  Sudy area (M <sup>o</sup> /ha) 3.9ha Site co-ordinates  492700 265230  PROJECT CREATORS  Name of organisation Cotswold Archaeology Project Bief originator Northamptonshire County Council Project Design (WSI) originator Northamptonshire County Council Project Supervisor Ralph Brown MONUMENT TYPE Ridge&furrow, quarry pit, ditch IA/RB ceramics, animal bone, human remains Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)  Pro	Project Name	Land to the south of James Road, Irches	Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire						
Global acting for the Trustees of the F G Saxby No 4 Settlement Trust. Sever trenches were excavated across the approximately 3-9ha evaluation area, vocmprises a single agricultural field situated on the southing of Inchester trenches had been located to target anomalies identified by a preceding geoph survey.  In the southwest corner of the site, parts of an Iron Age enclosure appear to e into the evaluation area; the ditch lines produced very little, heavily abraded anteria. The fletdwork also revealed evidence for Romano-British field systems in form of a number of boundary ditches and a possible associated trackway, to produced small assemblages of heavily abraded pottery and animal bone. A to four large, relatively shallow quarry pits were also encountered. The overall poor of preservation of the finds assemblages, as well as the mostly inconclusive result environmental soil sampling suggest that the site formed part of a predomin agricultural landscape.  The remains of two medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow agricultural sy were also recorded within the site. In the northern half of the evaluation area, a role east / west aligned system was relatively poorly preserved, but a number of ren furrows of the north / south aligned system in the southern half of the site observed within the renches.  Project dates  11-19 March 2019  Project type  Field evaluation  Previous work  Geophysical survey (AOC 2018)  Unknown  PROJECT LOCATION  Site Location  South of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire  Study area (M²/ha)  3.9ha  Site co-ordinates  492700 265230  PROJECT CREATORS  Name of organisation  Cotswold Archaeology  Project Brief originator  Cotswold Archaeology  Rolph Brown  MONUMENT Type  Significant Finds  Intended final location of archive inches and provided proteins of a produce of the provided provid	Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 201							
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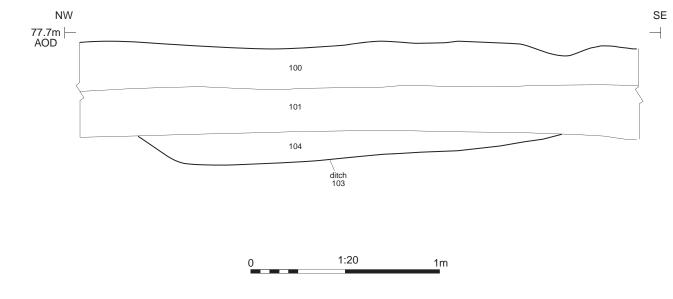






Trench 1, ditch 103, looking north-east (1m scale)







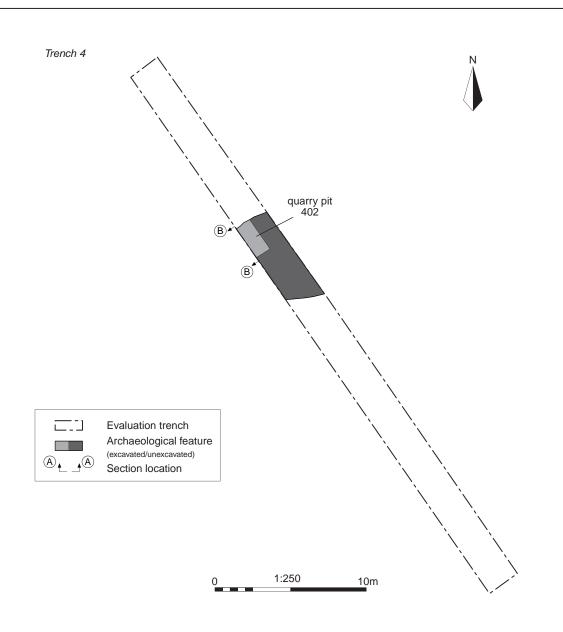
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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.u

Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

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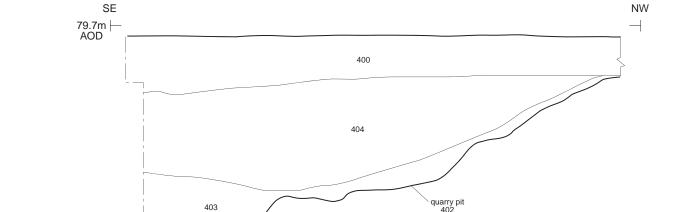
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Section BB



Trench 4, quarry pit 402, looking south-west (1m scale)



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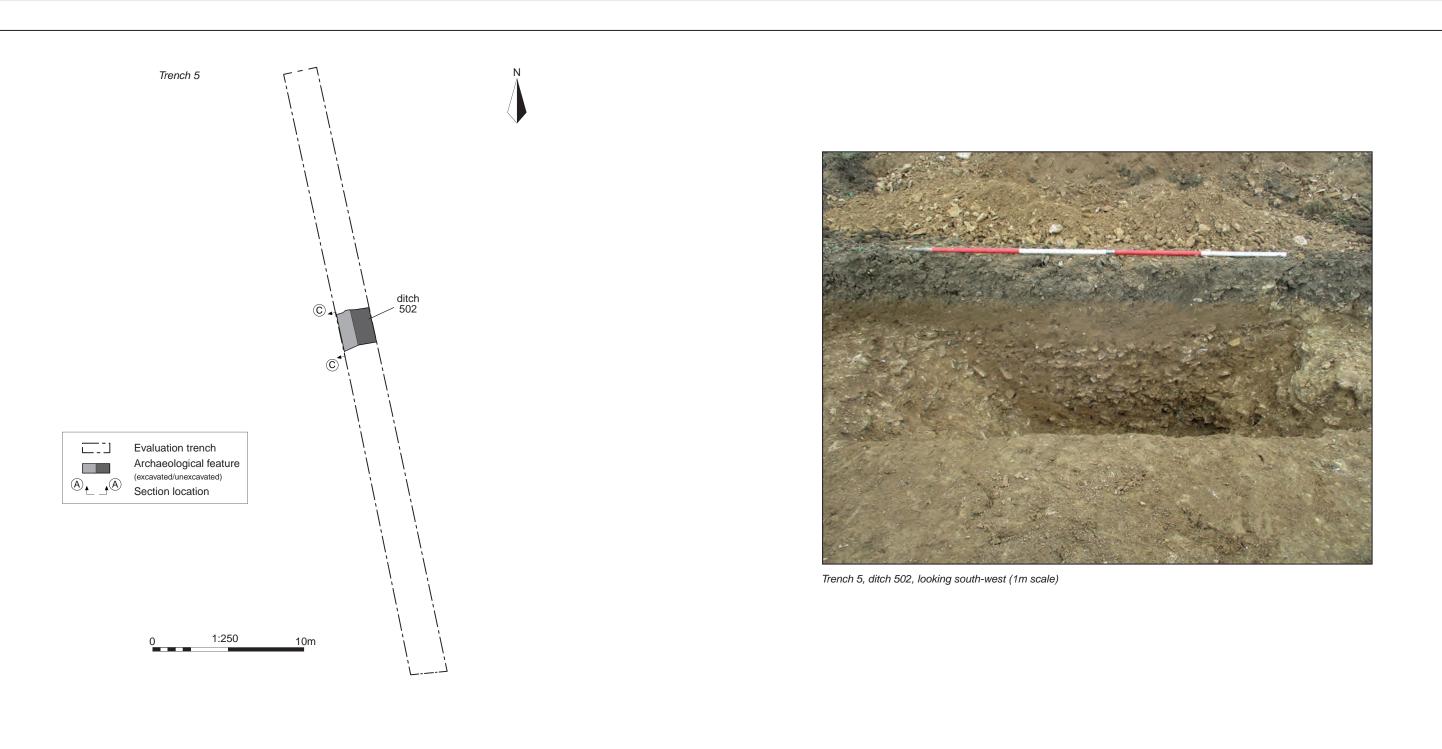
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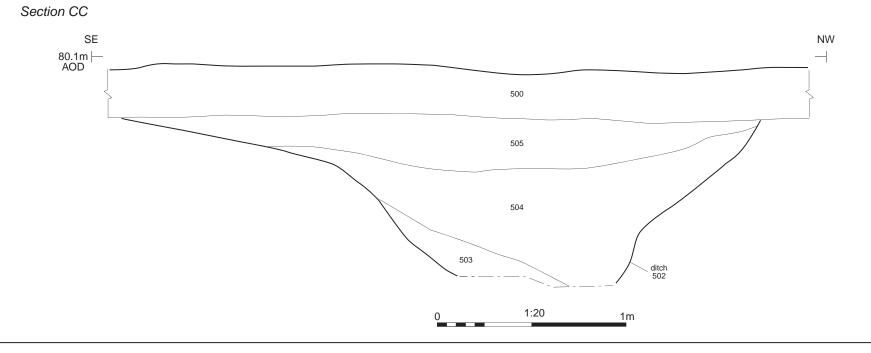
Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

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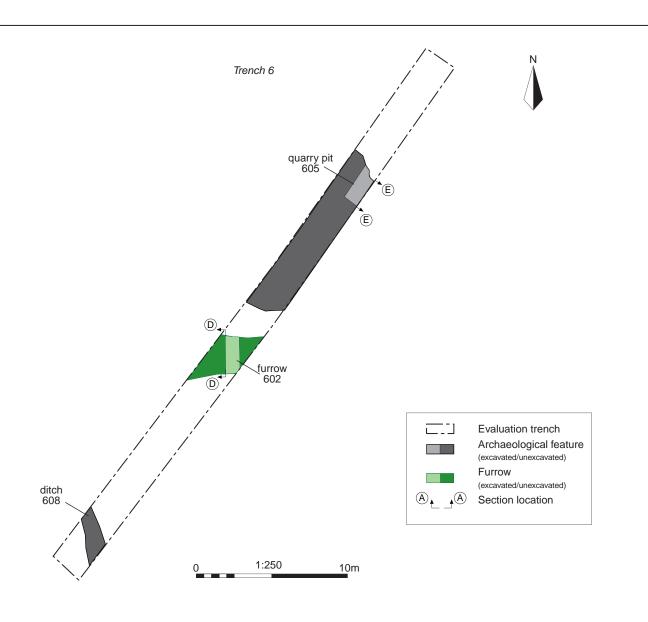
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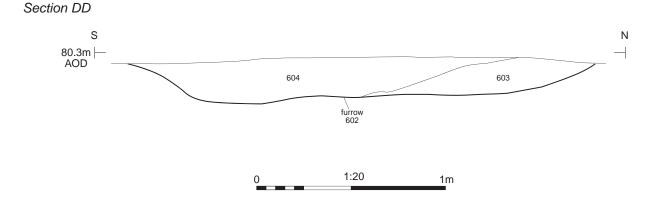
Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

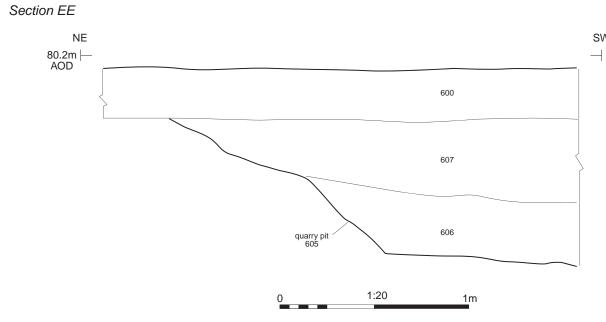
Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

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Trench 6, quarry pit 605, looking south-east (1m scale)



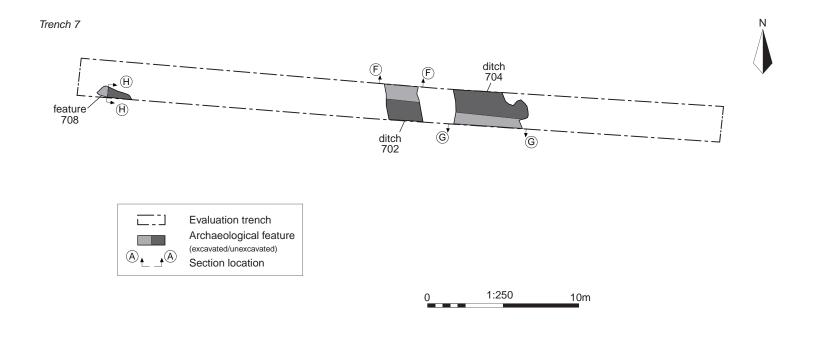
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Trench 6: plan, sections and photographs

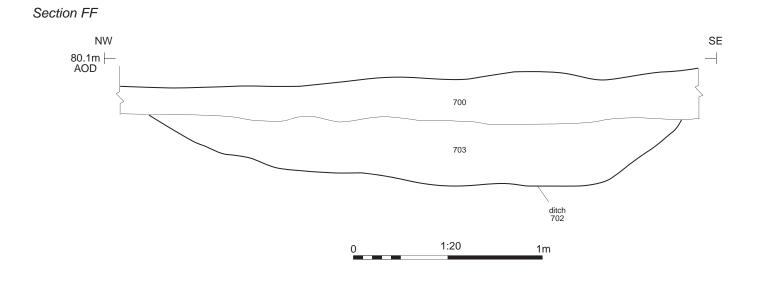
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Trench 7, ditch 702, looking north-east (1m scales)





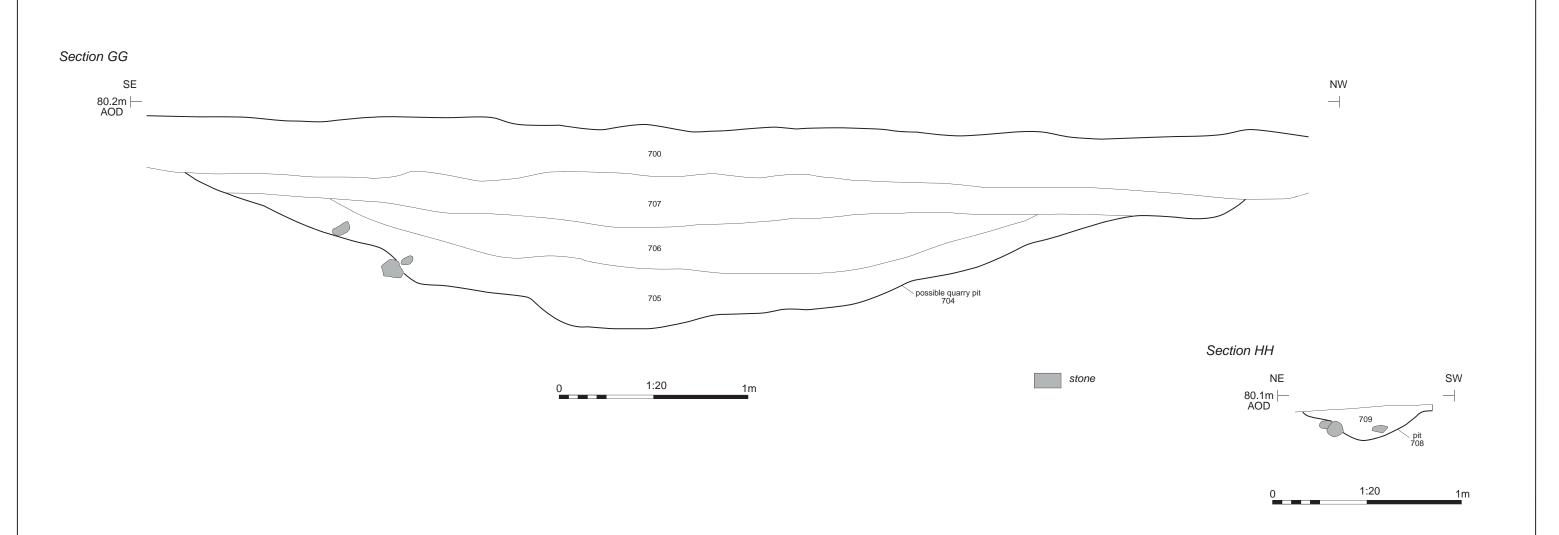
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Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

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Trench 7, possible quarry pit 704, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 7, feature 708, looking east (0.3m scales)



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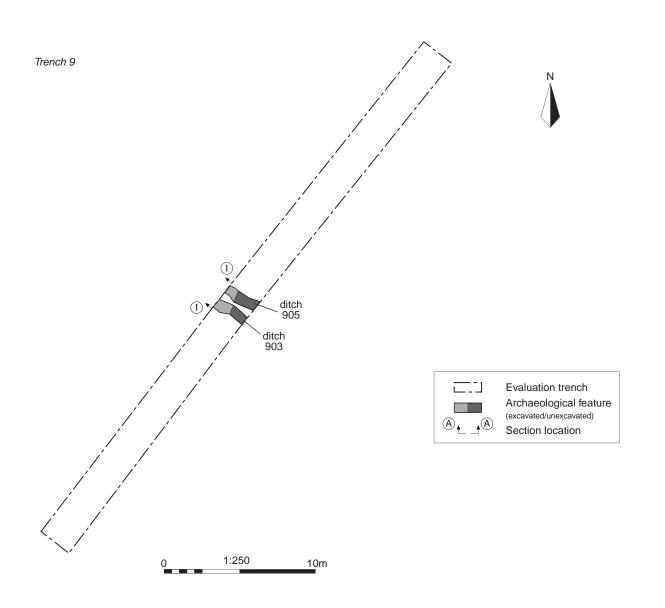
Trench 7: sections and photographs

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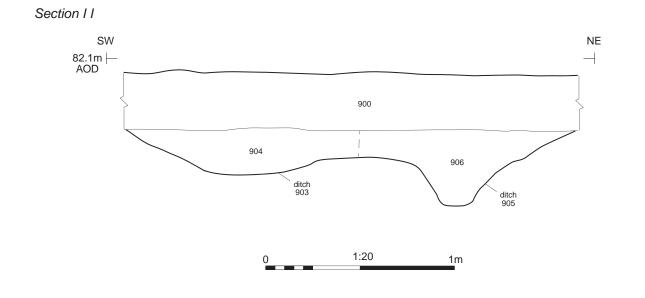
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Trench 9, ditches 903 and 905, looking north-west (1m scale)





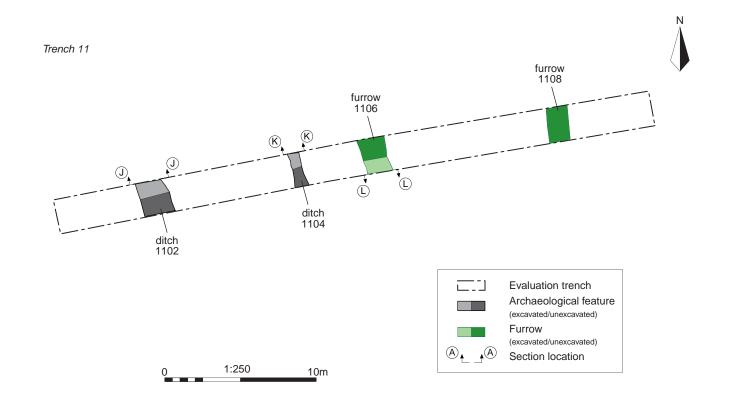
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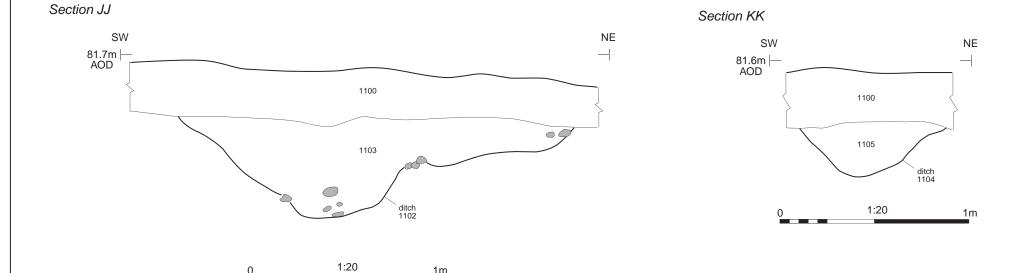
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Trench 9: plan, section and photograph

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Trench 11, ditch 1102, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 11, ditch 1104, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



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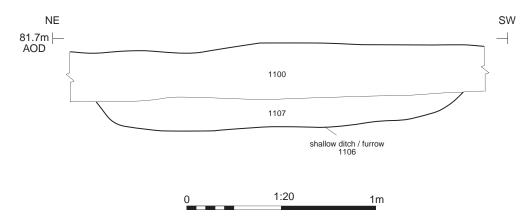
Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

Trench 11: plan, sections and photographs

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## Section LL





Trench 11, shallow ditch / furrow 1106, looking south-east (1m scale)



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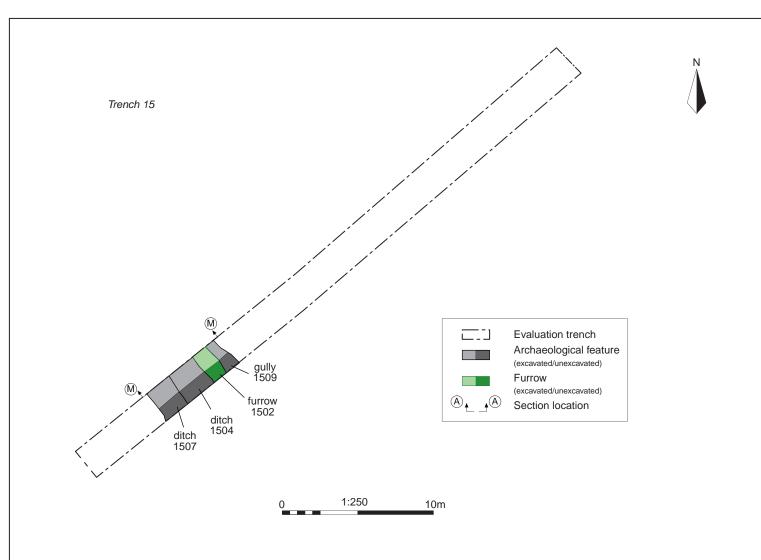
Irchester, Northamptonshire

# Trench 11: section and photograph

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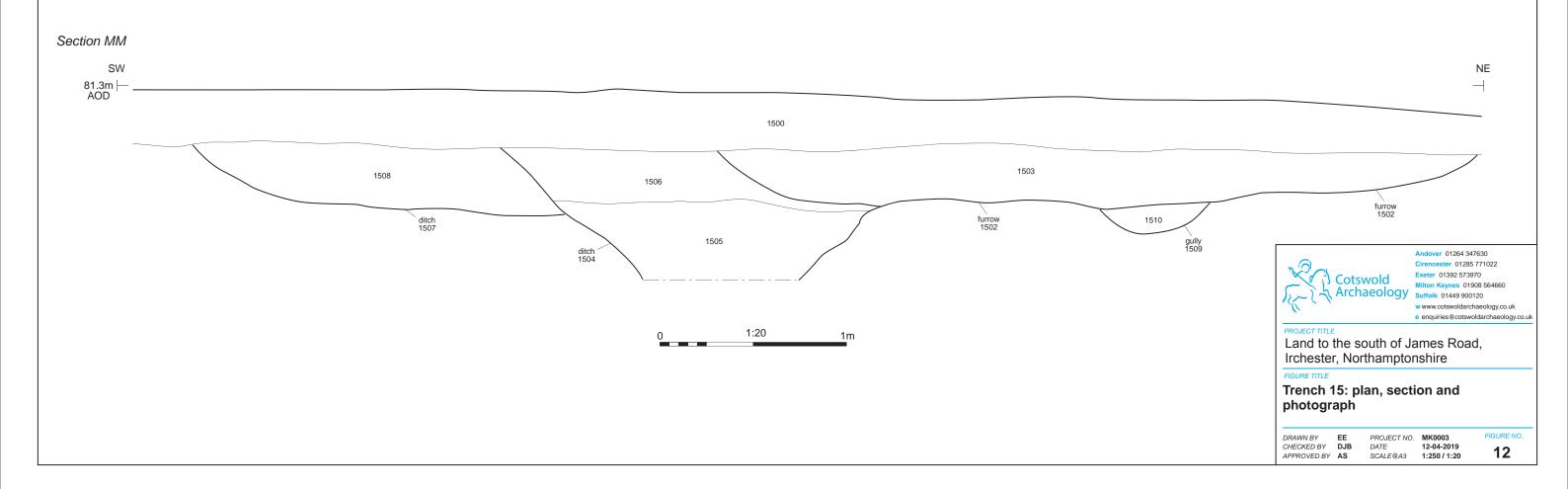
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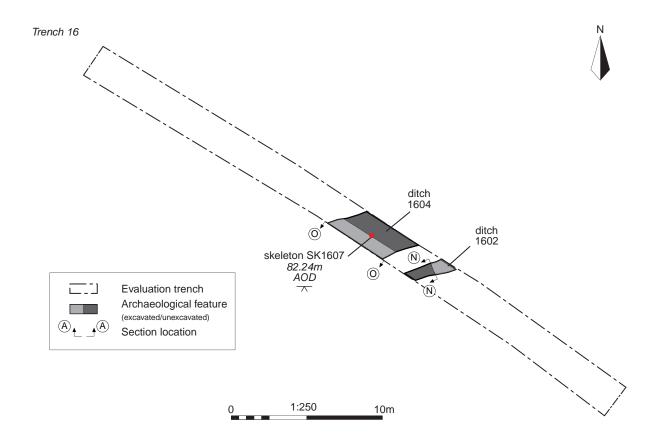
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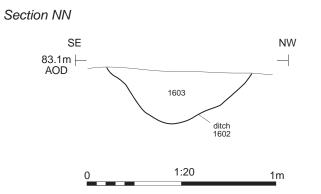
Trench 15, furrow 1502 and ditches 1504 / 1507 / 1509, looking north-west (1m scales)







Trench 16, ditch 1602, looking north-east (1m scale)





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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.u

Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

Trench 16: plan, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY EE
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APPROVED BY AS

PROJECT NO. MK0003 DATE 12-04-2019 SCALE@A3 1:250 / 1:20

# Section 00 SE NW 83.1m ├─ AOD 1600 1605 1606 1:20



Human remains SK1607, looking east (0.5m scale)



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Land to the south of James Road, Irchester, Northamptonshire

Trench 16: section and photograph

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