# LAND ADJ. TO THE WELL HOUSE, BANBURY LANE CULWORTH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Archive Report: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenches

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

For

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archaeology and enabling projects to keep moving forward.



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# **Non-Technical Summary**

In November 2015, Network Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Well House, Banbury Lane, Culworth, Northamptonshire (NGR 454374 246851).

A single trench was opened using a mechanical excavator whilst a second trench was opened by hand and a short section of the site perimeter baulk was cleaned and recorded.

The evaluation identified possible garden features, comprising a pair of walls, two rubble spreads and a drain, all dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century AD, in the northern half of the permitted development area.

Although no earlier cut features were identified, a single sherd of unabraded early to middle Saxon pottery indicated that human activity may have been taking place within the vicinity of the PDA perhaps as far back as the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The southern half of the permitted development area may once have been landscaped.

# 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken during development of land adjacent to The Well House in the village of Culworth, Northamptonshire (Figure 1).

# 1.2 Project Background

# **1.2.1** Permitted development and planning history

The permitted development is for a small detached, two storey cottage-style dwelling, with access from Banbury Lane and on-site parking.

A planning application (S/2013/0720/FUL), submitted to South Northamptonshire DC (SNDC), was approved subject to archaeological condition. The requirement of Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA) to discharge this condition was a process of archaeological observation, investigation and recording to be undertaken during construction. However, extensive groundwork and erection of the dwelling proceeded (Plates 1 and 2) without any conditions being determined and, as a consequence, a Stop Notice was issued by SNDC on 13th October 2015.

The NCCAA visited the site on 5th November 2015 and determined that archaeological evaluation was required in lieu of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, as the latter could no longer take place.

# 1.2.2 Location, description and natural environment

The permitted development area (PDA) occupies a sub-rectangular plot of former garden land of c0.016 ha, located on the north side of The Well House, Banbury Lane, Culworth in south Northamptonshire, OX17 2AX (454374 246851) (Figure 1, Plate 2).

The mapped solid geology within the PDS is Northampton Sand Formation - Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone (British Geological Survey, 2015). The mapped soils slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid and base-rich (Cranfield University, 2015).

# 1.3 Archaeological and historical Background

This section provides a brief overview of the known heritage assets more pertinent to the results of the evaluation identified within the vicinity of the PDA. Data has been collated from various

sources including Northamptonshire County Councils Historic Environment Record, Historic England, British Museum, Council for British Archaeology, Natural England and Northamptonshire County Council's website. A more detailed summary can be found in Appendix A.

The PDA is located on the southeast fringes of the current village within the boundaries of the late Saxon village (MNN280) and in the recently extended conservation area of Culworth (DNN12278)

There is a ringwork castle, known as Berry Hill (DNN2119), located approximately 140m to the north-northeast of the PDA that is thought to have been in use during the Anglo-Saxon / early medieval period.

The predominant heritage assets within 500m of the PDA are listed buildings, of which 49 were identified within 500m of the PDA. The majority of these buildings are Grade II listed, the only exception being St Marys Church (DNN998), located 100m to the northeast of the PDA which is Grade II\* listed. The nearest listed buildings are located approximately 50m to the north of the PDA, being Postway Cottage (DNN756), Mouse Corner (DNN971), St Peters House (DNN1084) and The Laurels (DNN966), all of which date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century except for The Laurels which is 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Further to the south of the PDA, possible medieval / post-medieval activity has been identified to the west of Banbury Road (MNN3382) whilst ridge and furrow ploughing (MNN132540) has been identified to the east of Banbury Road. A medieval field system was also identified by aerial photographs (MNN125586) approximately 350m to the west of the PDA.

# 1.4 Aims and objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to satisfy the new requirements of NCCAA and thereby address South Northamptonshire District Councils planning condition, set in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The **primary** purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information:

- to generate a reliable predictive model of the location, extent, date, character, date, condition and quality of any archaeological remains within the PDA;
- to ascertain their significance, and
- to determine the potential impact of development on any archaeological remains within the PDA.

The **GENERAL** aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be adversely affected by the proposed development;
- to determine the amount of truncation to buried deposits
- to determine the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon
- to assess the state of preservation of deposits within any negative features that may have been present
- to generally elucidate site formation processes
- to define the extent of any areas of made ground and previous ground disturbance which may have destroyed archaeological deposits;
- to engage in a programme of post-excavation archiving, synthesis and study, leading to publication and dissemination of results, and;
- to ensure the long-term survival of the information through deposition of a project archive.

The **SPECIFIC** aims of the evaluation were:

- to establish any evidence of Prehistoric activity ;
- to establish any evidence of Saxon activity;
- to establish any evidence of medieval occupation, commerce and industry

All archaeological work considered existing and developing national and regional research frameworks (Historic England, 1991, 1997; Cooper, 2006; Knight, Vyner & Allen, 2012).

## 1.5 Methods and Resources

A single 9m long trench (1) was mechanically excavated using a smooth-bladed bucket within the northern portion of the PDA. A 1.3m long trench (2) was hand-excavated immediately along the southern boundary of the PDA. The eastern baulk of the PDA, to the east of a newly constructed retaining wall, was cut back to allow a section to be cleaned and recorded.

The archaeological work took place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Network Archaeology, 2015), which had been approved by NCCAA.

# 1.6 **Resources**

The evaluation was carried out by up to two archaeologists over a 4 day period in November 2015. External monitoring was undertaken by Liz Mordue, the senior archaeologist for Northamptonshire County Council.

# 2 Results & Interpretation

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results and interpretation of the evaluation. Throughout this section cut features and deposits are referred to by unique context numbers. A convention has been adopted whereby cut features and structures are referenced in bold type, whilst deposits such as fills and layers are referenced in plain type.

Sections 2.2-2.4 cover the results of the evaluation and section 2.5 covers the finds. A summary table of contexts can be found in Appendix B and the matrices can be found in Appendix C.

At the time of the evaluation, recent building work had removed the topsoil and the majority of the subsoil from within the PDA and a layer of grey sandy gravel (122) had been laid down.

# 2.2 Trench 1

#### 2.2.1 Introduction

Trench 1, oriented east to west and located within the northern half of the PDA (Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3), was 9m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m.

The stratigraphy of this trench was 0.2m of soft mid orange-brown clayey silt subsoil (101) overlying natural clay geology (102). The overlying deposits had been removed by recent development work and modern hardcore overlay the truncated subsoil.

# 2.2.2 Summary of archaeological findings

A pair of possible walls (111 and 113), two rubble spreads (110 and 112), a possible drain (group **109**) and a possible posthole (**119**) were identified within this trench (Figure 3a).

# 2.2.3 Walls

The earliest stratified features identified during the evaluation were a pair of limestone walls (**111** and **113**), both located at the west end of the trench, sealed by rubble **spreads (110 and 112)** and truncated by a later drain (**109**) (Figure 3a). Both of these walls were constructed of randomly coursed limestone fragments bonded with bright white loose sandy mortar.

Wall **111** was oriented broadly west-northwest to east-southeast (0.48m visible length, 0.18m wide x 0.18m high) (Plate 6), whilst wall **113** was oriented northeast to southwest (0.53m long x 0.32m wide x 0.26m high) (Figure 3c and Plate 7). Excavation identified that wall **113** was within a 0.55m

wide construction cut (**117**) which had a steep side and a slightly concave base (Figure 3d, Plate 8). The soil fill around the stones was soft orange brown sandy clay and contained a single shard of  $18^{th}/19^{th}$  century glass and two fragments of cattle bone. The wall trench was visible in the south section of the evaluation trench (Plate 8) but the wall (**113**) was not visible here.

## 2.2.4 Rubble spreads

Two rubble spreads (110 and 112) which overlay walls 111 and 113 respectively (Figure 3a) and were truncated by the later drain (**109**), were attributed to this phase.

These spreads comprised 0.18m and 0.2m thick deposits of loose, unbonded limestone fragments (Plate 6) from which fragments of post-medieval tile, pig and sheep bones were recovered.

## 2.2.5 Drain

A probable drain, oriented broadly east to west, truncated a pair of limestone walls (111 and 113) and two rubble-spreads (110 and 112). The drain (Group **109**) was investigated by 3 sections (**104/115** and **106**) (Figure 3a).

Section **104/115** was excavated at the eastern terminus of the drain, where it had steep, near vertical sides and a base which sloped gently down from east to west (0.5m wide and 0.2m to 0.3m deep) (Figure 3a, Plate 4).

Section **106** was excavated at the visible west end of the drain against the baulk of the PDA, where a fuller profile was visible. Here, the drain had shallow upper sides (1.5m wide) and the lower profile was the similar to section **104/115** (Figure 3c, Plate 9).

The sole fill of the drain (105, 107 and 116) was silty clay with abundant limestone fragments and finds dating predominantly from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fill (107) of one section (**106**) containing a single, un-abraded sherd of early to middle Saxon pottery.

# 2.2.6 Possible posthole

The small, square feature (**119**) was located close to the centre of the trench. It had shallow, possibly vertical sides and a flat, uneven base (0.5m wide x 0.02m deep. The fill (120) was very soft black clayey silt which contained no finds.

# 2.3 Trench 2

This trench, located in-between a recently installed drain and the southern boundary of the PDA, was 1.3m long, 0.4m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.7m (Figures 2, 3e, Plate 10).

The stratigraphy of this trench was 0.28m of dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (200) overlying 0.3m of mid orange brown friable clay-silt subsoil (201). Below this was a 0.06m thick layer of bright orange sandy clay (202) which contained fragments of post-medieval CBM and overlay 0.04m of compact dark blue clay (203). Below this was the natural clay (204) (Figure 3e and Plate 11).

# 2.4 Eastern baulk

#### 2.4.1 Introduction

The stratigraphy of this trench was 0.4m of soft dark brown clay-silt topsoil (100) overlying 0.2m of soft mid orange-brown clayey silt (101). Directly below this was the natural clay substrate (102).

## 2.4.2 Possible terrace

A possible terrace (**121**) with a near-vertical side and flat base (at least 2.3m wide x 0.66m deep dimensions) was recorded (Figure 3b, Plate 5). The overlying layer (108) was pale mid orange-brown fine friable silt which contained no finds.

# 2.5 Finds summary

A summary finds table is presented below. This is followed by a brief summary of notable finds. The specialist finds reports can be found in Appendix D.

Context		Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Glass		Pottery	1	Grand Total
Context		Animal	Pmed	Emod	Pmed	EMS	Pmed	Emod	Granu Total
103	Count		1		1		4		6
	Weight		24		1		21		46
105	Count	5	1	2	14		18	3	43
	Weight	51	1	5	35		106	2	200
107	Count	11	5	1	7	1	16		41
	Weight	100	15	12	57	5	118		307
110	Count	6	1						7
	Weight	25	8						33
112	Count	12	1						13
	Weight	78	15						93
116	Count						3	1	4
	Weight						71	13	84
118	Count	2			1				3
	Weight	87			68				155
202	Count		3						3
	Weight		302						302
Total Cou	nt	36	12	3	23	1	41	4	120
Total Wei	ght	341	365	17	161	5	316	15	1220

#### Table 2.1 Summary finds table

EMS = early to middle Saxon; Pmed = post-medieval; Emod = early modern;

CBM = ceramic building material

## 2.5.1 Pottery

Of particular note is the single sherd of early to middle Saxon pottery, possibly dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The lack of abrasion on this sherd indicated that it had not travelled far from its original point of deposition (Anderson, Appendix D).

## 2.5.2 Glass

Some of the glass fragments appeared to have come from post-medieval medicine bottles indicating that a pharmacy or apothecary may have been located near by (Moore, Appendix D).

# 2.5.3 Animal bone

The predominance of mandibles and teeth in the animal bone assemblage suggests that the bones were unlikely to have been food waste, more likely this material resulted largely from the processing of carcases, where the head was removed and treated, or disposed of separately from the rest of the carcase (Moore, Appendix D).

# 3 Discussion

## 3.1.1 Saxon pottery

The earliest activity recorded by the evaluation is represented by a single sherd of early to middle Saxon pottery recovered from the fill (107) of drain **109**. It is of particular interest, as its unabraded nature suggests that it was likely indicative of nearby settlement rather than being redeposited by manuring etc. This pottery was similar to pottery recovered from Berry Hill Close within the vicinity of Berry Hill Castle to the northeast of the PDA.

## 3.1.2 Cut features

The cut features recorded in Trench 1 can be placed in 3 broad stratigraphic phases:

#### Phase 1:

The earliest identified features (walls 111 and 113) may well have represented elements of a single structure fronting Banbury Road which had been heavily truncated by the later drain (**109**). The dimensions of these walls and the random nature of their construction suggest the walls were unlikely to have been load-bearing and therefore any postulated structure would not have been substantial. Dating evidence from the soil fill of the foundation trench (**117**) of wall 113 indicates a possible construction date around the late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century AD. Prior to the recent development, a low limestone wall existed bounding the PDA and the footpath however, this is unlikely to account for the walls identified during the evaluation as they followed a different orientation and were located further east than the boundary wall. It is more likely that these walls (111 and 113) are the remnant of a post-medieval garden wall or feature. This would also explain the absence of any structures on the contemporary mapping, such temporary or ephemeral features being unlikely to have been mapped.

#### Phase 2:

The rubble spreads (110 and 112) were not as cohesive as the two walls and were likely rubble associated with the collapse of the postulated structure. The spread of these cobbles appeared to be confined within the supposed boundary of the walls suggesting that any structure may have collapsed inwards and not spread east beyond the confines of the wall. This theory is further supported by the eastern portion of wall 111 which appeared to be sealed by subsoil (114) and not rubble (110) suggesting the extent of the rubble ended when it reached the wall.

#### Phase 3:

The drain (**109**) had a shallow invert which drained westwards to Banbury Lane, and suggests that this road once benefited from side drainage ditches. The drain (**109**) appears to have been in use and then gone into disuse sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century based on its ceramic content and its stratigraphic relationships with the underlying walls.

#### **Eastern terrace**

The large cut (**121**) seen on the east side of the retaining wall may have been a terrace cut into the bank to the north of The Well House. The overlying layer (108) of the terrace was almost identical to the subsoil and this, along with the absence of any tip-lines, indicated that this feature may have been rapidly and deliberately filled in, possibly to provide a graded slope into the fields to the east.

#### Posthole

The purpose of the possible small, square cut (**119**) was unclear. It may have been the truncated base of a posthole.

#### Landscaping

The layer of re-deposited natural clay (203) found in trench 2 suggests that this area may once have been landscaped.

# 4 Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully identified evidence of past human activity. Significantly, the evaluation has met one of the specific aims. The most notable finding is a single sherd of unabraded early to middle Saxon pottery, indicating nearby activity, possibly as far back as the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Within the PDA, there is evidence of possible garden features, in the form of walls, rubble spreads and a drain dating to the late  $18^{th}/18^{th}$  centuries. There is evidence of a possible apothecary or pharmacy and the processing of animal carcasses nearby to the PDA.

No evidence of prehistoric activity or medieval occupation, commerce and industry was recorded.

Whilst it is difficult to determine the degree of archaeological preservation within the whole PDA, the evaluation has demonstrated that early modern cut features and structures, survive in a moderate state of preservation within the northern portion of the PDA. The situation with the southern portion of the PDA is unclear, in that there is possible evidence of previous landscaping in this area.

There is a moderate level of confidence in the factual results of this evaluation, and in the interpretations made due to the clarity of the archaeology and the stratigraphic relationships. The prevailing site conditions at the time of the fieldwork were poor.

The evaluation has ensured the long-term survival of the data collected, through the compilation of a site archive, and this report.

# 5 Archive

The evaluation produced the following document archive, under the site code of BHA14.

#### Table 5.1 Archive quantification

Item	Count
Number record	1
Trench records	2
Context indices	2
Context sheets	21
Drawing indices	1
Permatrace sheets	2
Photo indices	4
Black and white photos	8
Digital images	56

There is currently no suitable museum to receive the archive. Network Archaeology will therefore prepare and store the archive until a suitable museum is available.

# 6 Acknowledgements

Network Archaeology would like to thank the following people and organisations for their

assistance during the evaluation and the production of this report.

#### Table 6.1 Acknowledgements

Organisation	Name	Position	Contribution
NCCAA	Liz Mordue	Senior Archaeologist	External monitoring
Owner/developer	Charles Buckley	landowner	Background
Owner/developer	Charles Buckley	lanuowner	information
	David Bonner	Technical Director	Project management;
	David Bollilei	Technical Director	Evaluation
	Stanhan Thorna	Project Officer	Evaluation;
	Stephen Thorpe		Report writing
Network Archaeology	Andrew Hunn	Project Officer	Evaluation
	Richard Moore	Project Manager	Specialist finds reports
	Caroline Kemp	Finds Supervisor	Finds processing
	Adam Holman	GIS Officer	Report Figures
	Jacqueline Churchill	Illustrations Officer	Report Figures

# 7 Bibliography

AAF	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CIfA	2014a	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CIfA	2014b	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology	
CIfA	2014c	Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials	
CIfA	2014d	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation	
CIfA	2014e	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	
Cooper, NJ (ed),	2006	The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda, University of Leicester/ English Heritage	
Historic England	1991	Exploring Our Past	London
Historic England	1997	English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (Unpublished draft)	London
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper ${f 1},$	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen	2012	East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust)	
Museums & Galleries Commission	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	London
NAAWG	2014	Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard (Standards Working Party of Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Working Group)	
Network Archaeology	2006 Rev 2015	Health, Safety and Welfare Policy	
Network Archaeology Ltd	2015	Land Adj. to The Well House, Banbury Lane, Culworth Written Scheme of Investigation For Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation	Unpublished client report
Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., Pearce, J.	2001	Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of post-Roman ceramics (MPRG Occ Pap 2)	
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
UKIC	2001	Excavated Artefacts and Conservation	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No. 1, revised
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term United Kingdom Instit storage. United Kingdom Instit Conservation, Archae Section (London)	
Watkinson, D & Neal A. V	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford

# 7.1 Website sources

A vision of Britain through time	Culworth	http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/7692
ADS undated	Archaeological Data Service	http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/?CFID=1143881&CFTO KEN=60471957 [Accessed November 2015]
AHDS, undated	Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice. Second edition	http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/
British Geological Survey, undated	Geology of Britain viewer	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html [Accessed November 2015]
British History on-line	Culworth	http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/northants/vol4/pp39- 40Accessed November 2015]
UK Battlefields Resource Centre	Battlefields Trust	http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource- centre/warsoftheroses/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=13

**APPENDIX A** 

# Archaeological and historical background

# Archaeological and Historical Background

The PDA lies within the historic core and recently extended conservation area of Culworth (DNN12278) on the southwest fringes of the village. The PDA lies within the boundaries of the late Saxon village (MNN280). No other heritage assets have been identified within the PDA.

A possible Roman road (MNN14764) is thought to run broadly east to west approximately 75m to the north of the PDA whilst a possible Roman cemetery is thought to exist at Barley Hill, approximately 400m to the southeast.

The battle of Danes Moor, fought in AD914 between the Saxons and the Vikings as part of Æthelflæds attempt to halt the expansion of the Danelaw, is believed to have taken place at Danesmoor approximately 2km to the west of the PDA. This is also considered to be the site of the battle of Edgecote which was fought as part of the war of the roses on July 26<sup>th</sup> 1469. During the later conflict, the route taken by the rebel reinforcements that attacked the Earl of Pembrookes army is thought to pass immediately south of the PDA (Battlefields resource centre).

Culworth is mentioned as a manor with a population of 15 in the Domesday survey. The survey also mentions the village of Brime in the same area as Culworth with a population of 12 which no longer exists. It is possible therefore that the 11<sup>th</sup> century village of Brime may have been absorbed into Culworth over the centuries (British History on-line). Another place, Coten, first mentioned sometime around the start of the 13<sup>th</sup> century may also have been incorporated into the village of Culworth (*ibid*).

Berry Hill, an earthwork thought to be associated with a ringwork castle (DNN2119) is located approximately 145m northeast of the PDA, immediately north of St Marys Church (DNN998) whilst a medieval field system (MNN125586) lies approximately 450m west of the PDA.

The common fields of the village were enclosed in 1612 (British History on-line) and further to the south of the PDA ridge and furrow ploughing (MNN132540) has been identified to the east of Banbury Road whilst possible medieval / post-medieval activity has been identified to the west of Banbury Road (MNN3382). A medieval field system has also been identified by aerial photographs (MNN125586) approximately 350m to the west of the PDA.

The predominant heritage assets within 500m of the PDA are listed buildings, of which 49 were identified within 500m of the PDA. The majority of these buildings are Grade II listed, the only exception being St Marys Church (DNN998), located 100m to the northeast of the PDA which is Grade II\* listed. The nearest listed buildings are located approximately 50m to the north of the PDA, being Postway Cottage (DNN756), Mouse Corner (DNN971), St Peters House (DNN1084) and The Laurels (DNN966), all of which date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century except for The Laurels which is 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**APPENDIX B** 

# Summary table of contexts

Trench	Context	Туре	Fill of	Same as	Group	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Finds
1	100	Layer		200		Up to 0.4m thick	Soft dark brown clayey silt with common small pebbles	Topsoil	N
1	101	Layer		201		Up to 0.2m thick	Soft mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles	Subsoil	N
1	102	Layer		204		n/a	Compact bright orange clay with ironstone fragments	Natural	N
1	103	Layer					Number assigned to finds recovered during cleaning	Interface of subsoil and natural	N
1	104	Cut		106 115	109	0.5m wide x 0.2m deep	E-W oriented linear with steep concave sides and a flat base	Possible drain	N
1	105	Fill	104	107 116		0.2m thick	Very dark grey-brown silty clay with common limestone fragments	Fill of possible drain	Y
1	106	Cut			109	1.4m wide x 0.64m deep	E-W oriented linear with steep concave sides and a flat base. Feature becomes wider higher up in section	Possible drain	Ν
1	107	Fill	106	105 116		0.64m thick	Very dark soft brown silty clay with frequent small pebbles	Fill of possible drain	Y
1	108	Layer				0.66m thick	Pale mid orange-brown fine friable silt	Subsoil filling possible terrace	Ν
1	109	Group				2.4m long x 0.5m wide x 0.2m to 0.64m deep	Linear oriented broadly east to west with a possible terminal at its eastern end. Steep concave sides with a flat base. Base slopes down gradually from east to west	Possible drain	Y
1	110	Layer				0.76m wide x 0.4m thick	Spread of loose, unbonded limestone fragments mixed with a dark grey-brown clayey silt	Rubble spread	Ν
1	111	Structure				0.48m visible length x 0.18m visible width x 0.18m high	Line of randomly coursed and bonded limestone fragments (100mm x 120mm x 50mm average) bonded with a bright white loose sandy mortar	Possible wall	N
1	112	Layer				0.2m wide x 0.3m thick	Spread of loose, unbonded limestone fragments mixed with a dark grey-brown clayey silt	Rubble spread	N

Trench	Context	Туре	Fill of	Same as	Group	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Finds
1	113	Structure				0.52m visible length x 0.32m wide x 0.26m high	Line of randomly coursed and bonded limestone fragments (100mm x 120mm x 50mm average). Bonded with a loose, friable bright white sandy mortar	Possible wall	Y
1	114	Layer				0.6m wide visible x 0.3m thick	Soft dark orange-brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles	Probable subsoil overlying stones 111	N
1	115	Cut		104 106	109	0.5m wide x 0.3m deep	Linear oriented broadly east to west with Steep concave sides and a flat base. Base slopes down gradually from east to west	Possible drain	Ν
1	116	Fill	115	105 107		0.3m thick	Very dark grey-brown silty clay with common limestone fragments	Fill of possible drain	Y
1	117	Cut				0.55m wide x 0.27m deep	Linear oriented broadly NW-SE with a steep visible edge and a slightly concave base	Construction cut for wall 113	N
1	118	Fill	117			0.27m thick	Soft orange brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments	Soil around wall 113 filling construction cut	Y
1	119	Cut				0.5m square x 0.02m deep	Very shallow cut with near vertical sides and a flat base	Possible pad base or trampled topsoil	N
1	120	Fill	119			0.02m thick	Very soft black clayey silt	Sole fill	N
1	121	Cut				2.2m wide x 0.66m deep	Cut with a stepped visible edge and a flat base	Possible terrace into bank east side of PDA	N
1	122	Layer				Up to 0.4m thick	Grey sandy gravel	Modern gravel	N
2	200	Layer		100		0.28m thick	Soft dark grey-brown clayey silt	Topsoil	Ν
2	201	Layer		101		0.3m thick	Soft mid orange-brown clayey silt	Subsoil	N
2	202	Layer				0.06m thick	Bright orange-brown sandy clay	Subsoil	Y
2	203	Layer				0.04m thick	Compact dark blue clay	Re-deposited clay	N
2	204	Layer		102		n/a	Compact orange sandy clay with ironstone fragments	Natural	N

**APPENDIX C** 

# **Matrices**

**APPENDIX D** 

# **Specialist finds reports**

## **Ceramic Material**

#### **Sue Anderson**

## Pottery

#### Introduction

Forty-six sherds of pottery weighing 336g were collected from four contexts, all in Trench 1. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric and a summary catalogue is included as Tables 3 and 5. A full record is included in the archive in MS Access format.

<b>CTS Fabric</b>	Name	Date range	No	Wt/g	MNV	eve
E/MS	Early/Middle Saxon coarse quartz	6th c.?	1	5	1	
F407	Red earthenwares	M.16th c.+	4	66	4	
-	Red earthenware slipwares (PMSW)	17th/18th c.	1	5	1	
F410	Tin-glazed earthenwares	c.1550-1800	1	2	1	
F411	Midland Blackware	c.1550-1700	1	3	1	
F413	Manganese Glazed Ware	c.1680-1760	2	3	2	
F415	Creamware	c.1740-1820	3	15	2	0.08
F417	Nottingham Salt-glazed Stoneware	c.1700-1800	1	1	1	
-	Staffs white-dipped stoneware (ESWS)	c.1700-1800	2	4	2	
F426	Iron-glazed coarsewares	17th/18th c.	16	135	9	
F428	Iron-glazed wares	18th/19th c.	4	48	4	0.11
-	Agate Ware (AGAT)	18th c.	1	25	1	
F429	White Salt-glazed Stoneware	c.1720-1780	5	9	3	0.14
F430	China (Refined factory-made whitewares)	c.1860-1950	4	15	2	0.04

#### Table 1: Pottery quantification by fabric

#### Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve) and minimum number of vessels (MNV). A full catalogue is available in the archive. Fabric codes were assigned from the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series (CTS; Blinkhorn 1996) where possible. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Local wares were identified with the aid of the CTS and other local site reports as noted in the text. Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

#### Early/Middle Saxon Pottery

A handmade body sherd (5g) was collected from (107). The sherd is in a hard black fabric containing abundant coarse sand, sparse angular quartz/quartzite up to 2mm across and sparse flakes of dark mica, and is unabraded. It appears to conform most closely to the description for fabric BES3 from Castle Lane, Brackley (Blinkhorn 1996, 46), although there are also similar fabrics from Berry Hill Close, Culworth (Blinkhorn 1994, 57, e.g. Fabric 1).

#### Post-medieval pottery (16th-18th C.)

The majority of pottery in this assemblage is of post-medieval date, most of it probably belonging to the period 17th–18th century.

Four red earthenware (F407) vessels included a base sherd from a bowl and a pierced body sherd from a colander or similar, both orange-glazed. One small base fragment in a fine red earthenware with a reduced core had traces of slip decoration internally, in the form of two narrow white lines. An abraded fragment of a tin-glazed earthenware (F410) rim with a blue line close to the edge was probably from a plate or dish. There were two small sherds of Staffordshire-type manganeseglazed wares (F413), one from a tankard and the other probably from a bowl.

Blackwares (F411, F426, F428) dominated the group and included body sherds of several large bowls in a coarse streaky pink fabric (occasionally reduced to grey), as well as two chamber pots in finer red/purple fabrics. An agate ware bowl or dish base fragment was made from a similar streaky fabric which showed as marbling through the light brown glaze.

Several stonewares were present, although they were all represented by small sherds. There were pieces of brown-glazed Nottingham-type stoneware (F417), Staffordshire-type white-dipped tankards, and white salt-glazed stoneware (F429). The latter included a plate with barley seed pattern on the rim, and a small dish or saucer.

#### Modern Pottery (M.18th-20th C.)

Two cream-ware vessels were identified, one of which was an ointment pot with straight sides, a plain rim and a footstand base. Both creamwares were pale versions and probably of later date

than the typical yellowish type of the early period of production. Four sherds from two vessels recorded as F430 'china' were also plain white or pale cream and included the rim of a bowl. These sherds could also be later creamwares, although the lack of base fragments meant that there was no diagnostic greenish pooling of glaze.

#### Pottery by context

Table 2 shows the distribution of fabrics by context with suggested spotdates.

Context	Туре	Fabric	Date range
103	Cleaning	ESWS, F426	18th c.
105	Linear fill	F407, F410, F413, F417, ESWS, F426, F428, F429, F430	18th/19th c.
107	Linear fill	E/MS, F407, PMSW, F411, F413, F415, F426, F428, F429	18th c.
116	Linear fill	F426, AGAT, F430	18th/19th c.

Table 2: Pottery fabrics by context with spotdates

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from the backfills of linear features, and suggests that these were closed in the late 18th or early 19th centuries.

#### Discussion

The assemblage is typical of post-medieval pottery assemblages of broadly 17th–early 19thcentury date in southern Northamptonshire in terms of the range of fabrics. It contains both Midlands utilitarian wares, typically iron-glazed and manganese-glazed blackwares, and refined factory-made tables wares which were just beginning to enter the mass market during this period.

Of most interest in this assemblage is the presence of an unabraded sherd of Early Middle Saxon date, which is similar to fabrics identified previously in the town and at Brackley. The lack of abrasion suggests that the sherd has not moved far from its origin and is perhaps more likely to relate to occupation than deposition via manuring.

# **Ceramic building material**

Thirteen fragments of CBM were collected from six contexts (Table 4). All fragments were of postmedieval date and were in similar fabrics containing local inclusions such as ferrous particles, ironstone, coarse quartz and argillaceous clay pellets/streaks. A fragment of post-medieval roof tile in a fine sand, grog and ferrous (fsgfe) fabric was found in cleaning (103). It was 12mm thick.

A small piece, possibly of brick, in a fine sandy calcareous and clay pellet fabric (fsccp) was found in linear fill (105) together with a tiny piece of roof tile in a fine sand, grog and ferrous (fsgfe) fabric.

Two fragments of bricks in a fine sand, grog and ferrous fabric (fsgfe) were recovered from linear fill (107). Three fragments of roof tile were also recovered from this context and were in fine sand and ferrous fabrics with clay pellets (fscpfe), coarse quartz/flint (fsffe) and grog inclusions (fsgfe). One was 15mm thick, one was 18mm thick and the third was incomplete in thickness.

Layers (110) and (112) each contained one fragment of roof tile in the fine sand, grog and ferrous (fsgfe) fabric, measuring 14–15mm thick.

Three joining fragments of a single roof tile in 'fsffe' fabric were found in subsoil (202). The tile was 19mm thick and more than 136mm wide. Thin patches of buff-coloured lime mortar were present on the base and edges.

## Recommendations

The pottery and CBM have been fully recorded and no further work is required. If more fieldwork is carried out on the site and the results are intended for publication, this material should be incorporated in the overall assemblage. The material should be retained as part of the site archive.

# References

Blinkhorn, P., 1994, '*The pottery*', in Audouy, M., '*Excavations at Berry Hill Close, Culworth, Northamptonshire, 1992*', Northamptonshire Archaeology 25, 55–9.

Blinkhorn, P., 1996, *Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type Series*. Northants County Council, unpub.

MPRG, 1998, A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1.

MPRG, 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics.* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occ. Paper 2.

#### Table 3: Pottery summary

Context	<b>CTS Fabric</b>	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Notes	Date range
103	F426	CBW	3	19	1	bowl			17th/18th c.
103	F1000	ESWS	1	2	1			white-dipped? Poss SWSW but fabric is cream	17th/18th c.
105	F407	GRE	1	51	1	bowl			M.16th c.+
105	F407	GRE	1	2	1			slightly burnt ext	M.16th c.+
105	F407	GRE	1	8	1	colander		pierced	M.16th c.+
105	F426	CBW	2	21	1	bowl		pale pink	17th/18th c.
105	F426	CBW	3	8	3			red, Buckley?	17th/18th c.
105	F413	STMG	1	2	1				c.1680-1760
105	F426	CBW	1	3	1			reduced poorly mixed, Buckley?	17th/18th c.
105	F428	LBW	1	2	1			purple fabric	18th/19th c.
105	F410	TGE	1	2	1	dish/plate	everted	cream, bluish tinge to glaze, kiln scar ext	c.1550-1800
105	F429	SWSW	1	1	1				c.1720-1780
105	F429	SWSW	3	3	1	plate	everted	creamish fabric	c.1720-1780
105	F1000	ESWS	1	2	1			white-dipped	17th/18th c.
105	F417	ESWN	1	1	1				c.1700-1800
105	F430	REFW	3	2	1	bowl?	flaring?	or CRW but pale	c.1860-1950
107	F411	IGBW	1	3	1				c.1550-1700
107	F407	PMSW	1	5	1			fs, reduced core	17th/18th c.
107	F426	CBW	5	38	1	bowl			17th/18th c.
107	F428	LBW	1	34	1	chamber pot	flat-topped everted	metallic glaze	18th/19th c.
107	F428	LBW	1	6	1	chamber pot?	flat-topped everted	metallic glaze	18th/19th c.
107	F428	LBW	1	6	1			fs purple fabric	18th/19th c.
107	F407	GRE	1	5	1	bowl?		Buckley, fine version?	M.16th c.+
107	F413	STMG	1	1	1				c.1680-1760
107	F429	SWSW	1	5	1	dish/saucer	plain		c.1720-1780
107	F415	CRW	2	14	1	ointment pot	upright plain	pale	c.1740-1820
107	F415	CRW	1	1	1			pale	c.1740-1820
107	E/MS	ESCQ	1	5	1			abundant coarse quartz, black, some large mica plates?	
116	F426	CBW	2	46	2	bowl			17th/18th c.
116	F1000	AGAT	1	25	1	bowl/dish		Buckley type	18th c.
116	F430	REFW	1	13	1			poss CRW but pale	c.1860-1950

#### Table 4: CBM

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Length	Width	Height	Abr	Peg shape	Mortar	Notes	Date
103	fsgfe	RTP	1	23			12					pmed
105	fsccp	B?	1	1							tiny	pmed
105	fsgfe	RTP	1	1							chop, could be brick	pmed
107	fsgfe	В	2	63							coarse inclusions	pmed
107	fscpfe	RTP	1	2							flake, poss brick	pmed
107	fsffe	RTP	1	69			18				KT edge, thick	pmed
107	fsgfe	RTP	1	17			15					pmed
110	fsgfe	RTP	1	8			14					pmed
112	fsgfe	RTP	1	14			15					pmed
202	fsffe	RTP	3	302		>136	19			patchy buff thin	=1 tile	pmed

Notes: RTP – post-med plain roof tile; B – brick. Fabrics – fs – fine sandy; cp – clay pellets; fe – ferrous; c – calcareous; f – flint/coarse quartz; g - grog

#### Table 5: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	CTS Fabric	Туре	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Handle	Base	Parallel	Rim diam	Rim percent	Decoration	Glaze int	Glaze ext	Abrasion	Soot	Wear	Draw?	Also in	Notes	Spot date	Date range
103	CBW	F426	D	3	19	1	BL								DB								17-18	17th/18th c.
103	ESWS	F1000	D	1	2	1								IHLs	W	W						white-dipped? Poss SWSW but fabric is cream	18	17th/18th c.
105	GRE	F407	В	1	51	1	BL			F					0		+							M.16th c.+
105	GRE	F407	D	1	2	1									0			+				slightly burnt ext		M.16th c.+
105	GRE	F407	D	1	8	1	COL								0	0						pierced		M.16th c.+
105	CBW	F426	D	2	21	1	BL								DB		+					pale pink		17th/18th c.
105	CBW	F426	D	3	8	3									DB							red		17th/18th c.
105	STMG	F413	D	1	2	1									DB									c.1680- 1760
105	CBW	F426	D	1	3	1									DB							reduced poorly mixed		17th/18th c.
105	LBW	F428	D	1	2	1									DB	DB						purple fabric		18th/19th c.
105	TGE	F410	R	1	2	1		EV						HP blue line	w	w	+					cream, bluish tinge to glaze, kiln scar ext		c.1550- 1800
105	swsw	F429	U	1	1	1									W	W								c.1720- 1780
																								c.1720-
105	SWSW	F429	RU	3	3	1	PL	EV						barley seed	С	С						creamish fabric		1780 17th/18th
105	ESWS	F1000	U	1	2	1									W	W						white-dipped		с. с.1700-
105	ESWN	F417	D	1	1	1									В	В								1800 c.1860-
105	REFW	F430	RU	3	2	1	BL?	FLAR?				180	4		С	С						or CRW but pale		1950
107	IGBW	F411	D	1	3	1									DB	DB								c.1550- 1700
107	PMSW	F407	В	1	5	1				F				thin white slip lines int	0							fs, reduced core		17th/18th c.
107	CBW	F426	D	5	38	1	BL								DB									17th/18th c.
107	LBW	F428	R	1	34	1	СН	FTEV				200	6		DB	DB						metallic glaze		18th/19th c.
							-							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·										18th/19th
107	LBW	F428	R	1	6	1	CH?	FTEV				220	5		DB	DB						metallic glaze		c. 18th/19th
107	LBW	F428	D	1	6	1									DB	DB						fs purple fabric		C.
107	GRE	F407	D	1	5	1	BL?								В							Buckley, fine version?		M.16th c.+
107	STMG	F413	D	1	1	1									В	В								c.1680- 1760
107	swsw	F429	R	1	5	1	DS/SA	PL				110	14		W	W								c.1720- 1780
107	CRW	F415	FP	2		1	OP	UPPL		FS		100	8		С	ſ						pale		c.1740- 1820
107	CRW	F415	U	1	14	1	0,	0,12				200			с	C C						pale		c.1740- 1820
107	ESCQ	E/MS	U	1	5	1																abundant coarse quartz, black, some large mica plates?		1020
															DD							piates:		17th/18th
116 116	CBW AGAT	F426 F1000	DB	2	46 25	2	BL BL/DS			F					DB B	В						Buckley type?		с. 18th с.
							22,00									6								c.1860-
116	REFW	F430	U	1	13	1									С	C						poss CRW but pale		1950

# **Animal bone**

#### **Dr Richard Moore**

#### Introduction

The site produced a small assemblage of animal bone from five contexts. Identifiable pieces are listed below.

## Results

There is a very noticeable preponderance of mandible and teeth fragments within the assemblage. This composition would seem to preclude on origin from general food waste, and it is much more likely that this material resulted largely from the processing of carcases, where the head was removed and treated, or disposed of separately from the rest of the carcase. A nearby site where animal heads were rendered for brawn might be a possibility.

The bird wing bone in context 107 is almost certainly an accidental inclusion. Crows, with their association with carrion, are widely considered to be unclean in many cultures. Although the meat is said to be considered a delicacy in Lithuania, it is therefore improbable that this could have derived from food use.

# Catalogue

#### 105

Cattle R metatarsal, part of proximal articulation and upper part of shaft Cow-sized metapodial, proximal end fragment, different from above 2 Cow-sized long bone shaft fragments

#### 107

Sheep or goat: mandible fragments and left m3, articular process probably from same bone Cattle: upper molar

Cattle: mandible fragment including broken premolar root

Bird: L ulna proximal, probable corvid

#### 110

Sheep: Teeth m2, m3 and frags of mandible

Sheep: upper molar

Sheep-sized: rib

#### 112

Pig: right mandible fragment with dm3, dm4, m1 not erupted

?Pig: occipital fragment including foramen magnus

Sheep-sized: mandible frags x 4

Unid: cranial fragment

Rib frags x 2

Iliac crest fragment

#### 118

Cattle: right mandible fragment with pm3, pm4 roots

## Recommendations

No recommendations are made for this material.

## Clay tobacco pipe

#### **Dr Richard Moore**

## Results

Four tobacco pipe fragments were retrieved: three stem fragments and one bowl. These are listed by context below. The large, parallel-sided, spur-footed, flat-topped bowl in context 107 probably dates from the mid-nineteenth century. It is a plain design, not bearing any pattern or identifying marks.



The three stem fragments were all of relatively narrow diameter, which might also suggest a nineteenth-century date.

## Catalogue

#### 105

Stem frag 51.4mm long, slightly oval cross section diam 6.8 to 7.3mm, hole 2.0mm

Stem frag 32.7mm long, stem diameter 5.8mm, hole 2.4mm

#### 107

Bowl, complete, flat topped and high parallel sides, spur foot

Stem frag 29.0mm long, 6.3mm diam, 2.1mm hole

## Recommendations

No recommendations are made for this material.

## Glass

### **Dr Richard Moore**

## Results

#### 103

Clear glass slightly frosted surface fragment of flat glass, maximum dimension 21.3mm, 3.4mm thick, probable window glass, but could be part of a flat-based vessel

#### 105

Two similar bottle bases, distinctive translucent greenish blue glass. From small, round straightsided bottles, 28mm diameter. Base 6-7mm thick, walls 2.6mm



Small bottle bases from context 105 and 107 (left)

Four fragments of pale green bottle glass, with very heavy gold-coloured patination throughout. Largest fragment to 26.1mm maximum dimension, thickness 3.6 to 6.0mm

Two small fragments of bottle glass, pale olive green colour, larger piece to 21.4mm and 3.3mm thick

Three fragments of thin pale bluish green bottle glass; largest to 19.6mm and 2.0mm thick, other pieces thinner, 1.9mm and 1.2mm but otherwise similar. All from similar very thin walled straight-

sided small bottles

Slightly greenish triangular fragment of flat window glass, maximum dimension 32.5mm, 2.2mm thick

Patinated fragment of slightly greenish window glass, maximum dimension 18.8mm, 1.8mm thick

Slightly curved fragment of clear glass, maximum dimension 24.9mm, 2.6mm thick: possibly part of a bottle, or slightly distorted window glass

107

Part of base of blue glass bottle, similar in diameter and appearance to the two bottle bases from context 105 (above), Base 4.4mm thick, walls 3.0mm thick

Small bottle neck and part of shoulder in clear slightly greenish lightly patinated glass; neck outside diameter 14.5mm, 2.4mm thick, shoulder 2.1mm thick. Diagonal indentation across shoulder of the bottle, probably a fault in blowing, rather than an intentional feature.



Bottle neck from context 107

Two fragments of clear olive green bottle glass, larger to 29.4mm maximum dimension, 2.8mm thick; smaller 23.2mm and 2.3mm thick

Fragment of bottle glass with very heavy gold-coloured patination thoughout, from a large diameter bottle, maximum dimension 51.1mm, thickness 3.4mm

Part of kick-up from the base of a large diameter bottle in heavily patinated greenish glass, maximum dimension 63.9mm; indentation 58mm+; 5.9mm to 7.4mm thick.

#### **118**

Part of kick-up from the base of a large diameter bottle, possibly in greenish glass but very heavily patinated giving a mottled brownish buff opaque surface, finely pitted erosion of glass surface where patination missing, indentation 58mm+; 8.3mm to 10.1mm thick.



Wine bottle bases from contexts 118 (left) and 107 (right)

### Discussion

Generally, the material accords with an 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The more robust pieces from the assemblage are from thick walled patinated bottles, typical wine bottles, probably of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. Such finds are very common within domestic waste deposits of this date.

Less typically, much of the rest of the assemblage consists of fragments of small, thin-walled, vertical-sided bottles. Medicine bottles are perhaps the most obvious interpretation. This suggests the possibility that there was once a chemist or apothecary shop nearby.

## Recommendations

No recommendations are made for this material.

**APPENDIX E** 

# **Plates**



Plate 1: Trench 1 location pre-excavation. Camera facing east



Plate 2: General view of the PDA. Camera facing southeast



Plate 3: Trench 1. Camera facing eastsoutheast



Plate 4: Drain group 109. Camera facing west



Plate 5: Terrace 121. Camera facing northeast



Plate 6: Rubble spread 110 and wall 111. Camera facing west

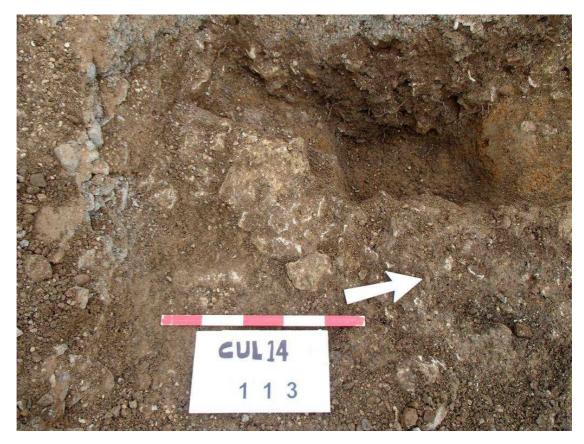


Plate 7: Possible wall 113. Camera facing west-northwest



Plate 8: Foundation trench 117. Camera facing southwest



Plate 9: Drain group 109 cutting wall 113 and spread 110. Camera facing west-

northwest



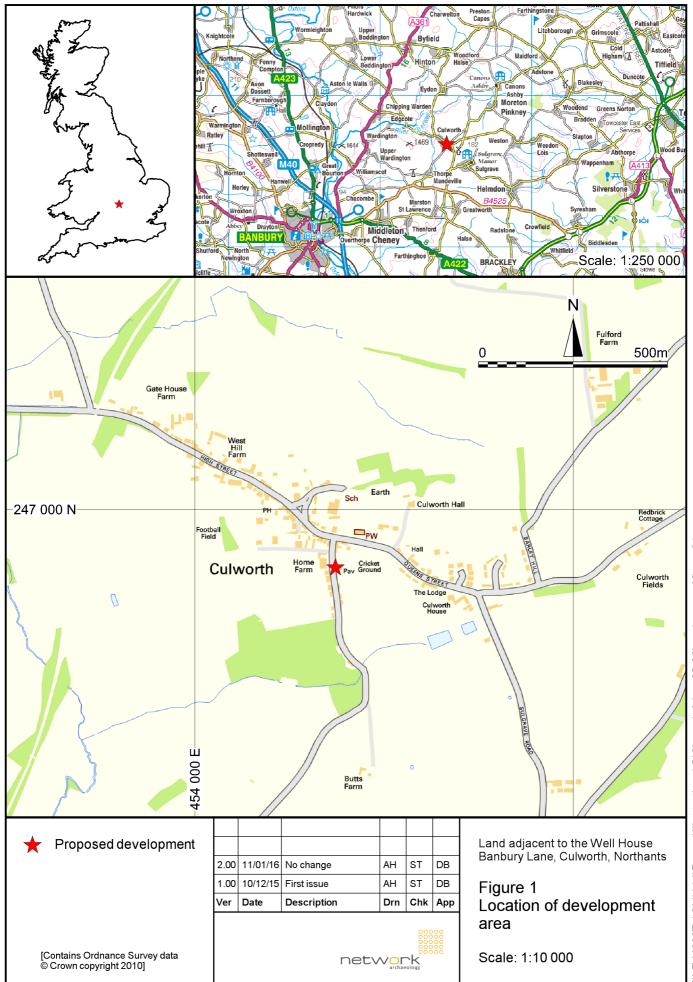
Plate 10: Location of trench 2 pre-excavation. Camera facing east



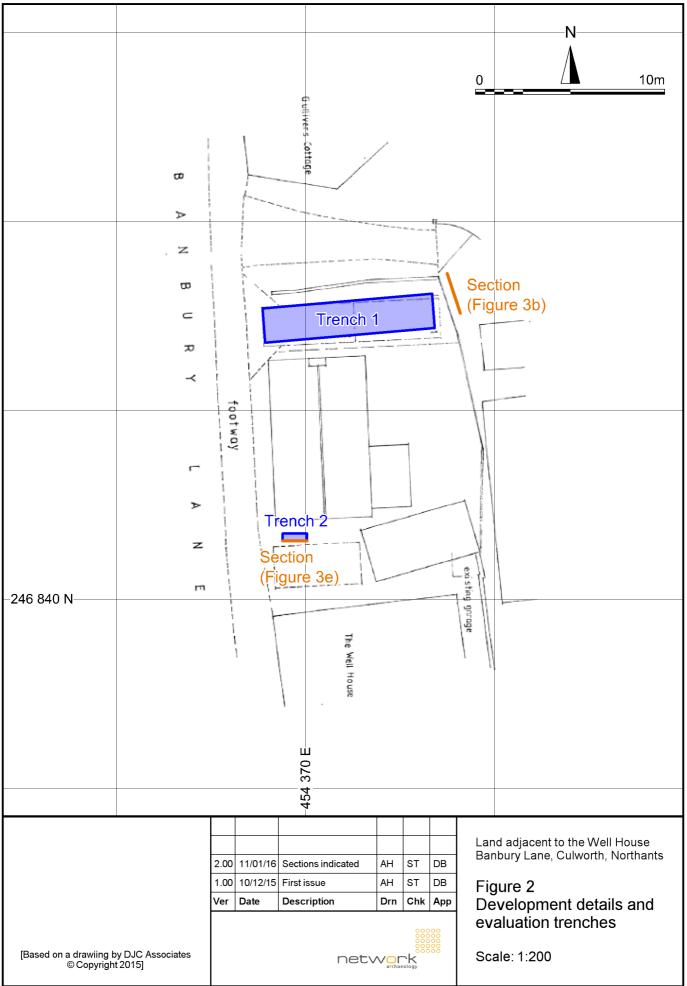
Plate 11: Trench 2 post-excavation. Camera facing southwest

**APPENDIX F** 

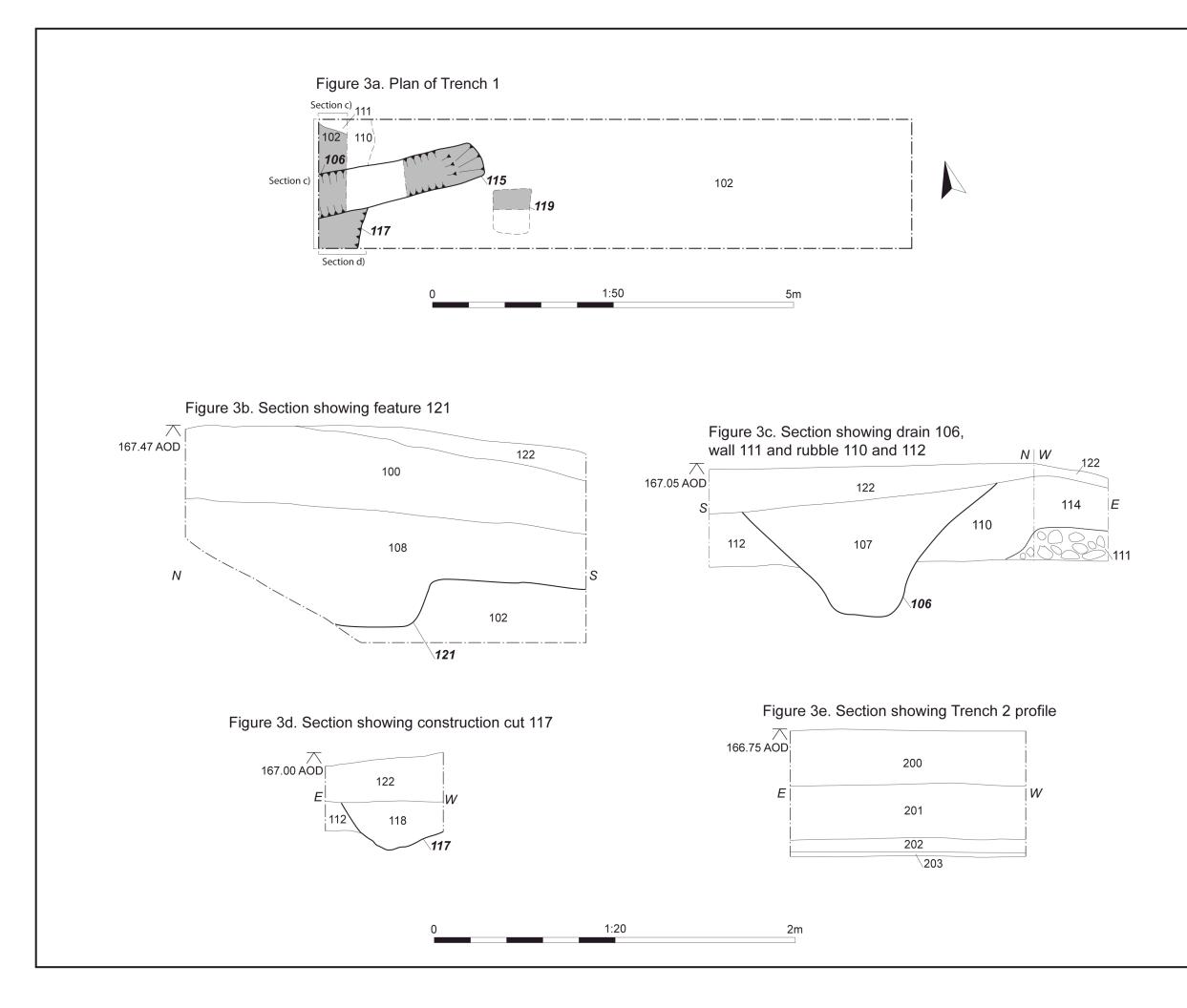




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	Limit of excavation									
		Cut line								
``		Layer line								
1:	234	Cut number								
1:	233	Layer/fill number								
- 1	800	Stones								
		Hand excavated slots								
							i ai			
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**APPENDIX G** 

# **OASIS Form**

## **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

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## Land adjacent to The Well House, Banbury Lane, Culworth, Northamptonshire - Network Archaeology Ltd

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