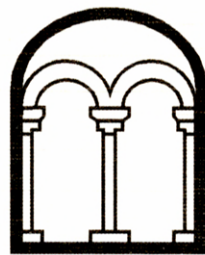


BLOTTS BARN  
BROOKS ROAD  
RAUNDS  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

**Albion**  
archaeology



**BLOTTS BARN  
BROOKS ROAD  
RAUNDS  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

Project: BB3884  
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Document: 2023/31  
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| Written by       | Edited by   | Approved by   |
| Benjamin Carroll | Iain Leslie | Drew Shotliff |

Produced for:  
RPS Consulting UK & Ireland

On behalf of:  
Roger & Amanda Denton Ltd



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## Preface

*All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).*

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## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by RPS Consulting UK & Ireland.*

*This report was prepared by Benjamin Carroll (Assistant Archaeological Manager). The fieldwork was undertaken by Gareth Shane (Archaeological Supervisor). Digitisation of site drawings and illustration were undertaken by Joan Lightning (Geomatics Technician). The project was managed by Benjamin Carroll and Iain Leslie (Archaeological Manager). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.*

*Fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue (North Northamptonshire Council Lead Planning Archaeologist).*

## Version History

| <i>Version</i> | <i>Issue date</i> | <i>Reason for re-issue</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>1.0</i>     | <i>13/04/2023</i> | <i>n/a</i>                 |



## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Albion | Albion Archaeology  |
| CBM    | Ceramic building material   |
| CIfA   | Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists   |
| HER    | Historic Environment Record   |
| LPA    | Local Planning Authority  |
| MoRPHE | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i><br>(Historic England 2015) |
| NNCLPA | North Northamptonshire Council Lead Planning Archaeologist                                    |
| OD     | Ordnance Datum  |
| PDA    | Permitted development area  |
| WSI    | Written Scheme of Investigation   |



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*East Northamptonshire District Council granted planning permission (20/00486/FUL) for construction of an office unit and ancillary storage along with associated parking and landscaping at Blotts Barn, Brooks Road, Raunds.*

*The North Northamptonshire Council Lead Planning Archaeologist (NNCLPA) recommended a condition was attached to the planning consent (Condition 8), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development of the site, in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).*

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting UK & Ireland to undertake archaeological trial trenching, the results of which are set out in this report, in order to assist the NNCLPA in advising the local planning authority (LPA) on the potential archaeological impacts of the development and on any further mitigation works that might be required.*

*The archaeological trial trenching was undertaken between 29th and 30th March 2023. It comprised five trial trenches. Trenches 1–3 were 20 x 1.8m, targeting the footprint of the new offices. Trenches 4 and 5 were 15 x 1.8m, targeting the storage barn and parking.*

*The trenching revealed evidence of two ditched boundaries, likely dating from the post-medieval period to the 19th century and associated with land division for agriculture.*

*The revealed remains are considered to be of negligible significance with no further potential to address regional research objectives.*

*The project archive will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC). The digital archive will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the ADS (reference albionar1-513566).*



# 1 INTRODUCTION

---

## 1.1 Project Background

East Northamptonshire District Council granted planning permission (20/00486/FUL) for construction of an office unit and ancillary storage along with associated parking and landscaping at Blotts Barn, Brooks Road, Raunds.

Condition no. 8 on the consent stated that:

*No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.*

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting UK & Ireland to undertake trial trenching in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2023). This report presents the results of the trial trenching.

## 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The permitted development area (PDA) lies *c.* 1.2km to the north-east of Raunds, centred on TL 00832 74418. It measures *c.* 1.3ha and is bounded to the north and west by agricultural land, to the east by Brooks Road and to the south by September Hall Farm. The area is mostly flat at a height of *c.* 60m OD, gently sloping to the south-east.

The British Geological Survey records the bedrock as Oxford Clay Formation (Mudstone)<sup>1</sup>. Superficial deposits comprise Oadby Member (Diamicton) to the north-west of the PDA, Bozean Tiall (Diamicton) in the middle, and none recorded to the south-east.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

No archaeological remains are known within PDA. A 1km-radius HER search highlighted the presence of a probable Roman settlement site *c.* 400m to the west (HER 6799), identified during fieldwalking by a concentration of pottery and stone. Probable Iron Age cropmarks (HER5659) are known *c.* 500m to the east, comprising a pair of conjoined enclosures, with a further extensive series of probable Iron Age and Roman enclosures identified as cropmarks (HER 6978) *c.* 900m to the south-east. Cropmarks interpreted as medieval/post-medieval field systems and quarry pits have been identified *c.* 400m to the south (HER1806, HER8205), with surviving ridge and furrow identified in various fields in the surrounding area. Raunds itself has been subject to numerous archaeological investigations, the closest of which, *c.* 1km to the south-west at Northdale End, revealed two settlement foci of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval date (ENN109357).

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk> [accessed 03/03/2023]





## **1.4 Project Objectives**

Detailed research aims can be found in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2023).

The general purpose of the archaeological trial trenching was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



## 2 METHOD STATEMENTS

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2023), which was approved by the NNCLPA prior to commencement of the work.

### 2.1 Methodological Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albion Archaeology</li> </ul> | <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIfA</li> </ul>               | <i>Charter and by-law</i> (2022); <i>Code of conduct</i> (2022)  |
|  | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2020)  |
|  | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2020)                     |
|  | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> (2020)                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EAA</li> </ul>                | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic England</li> </ul>   | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)                                       |
|  | <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donnelly-Symes</li> </ul>     | <i>Northamptonshire ARC: Archaeological Archives Standard</i> (2021)   |

### 2.2 Implementation

The fieldwork was undertaken between 29th and 30th March 2023. A total of five trial trenches were excavated (Figure 1). Trenches 1–3 were 20 x 1.8m, targeting the footprint of the new offices. Trenches 4 and 5 were 15 x 1.8m, targeting the storage barn and parking.

All trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket, operated by an experienced driver, under constant archaeological supervision. The overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts by eye. All trenches and spoil heaps were scanned with metal detectors, not set to discriminate against iron, and operated by experienced users. All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

Monitoring was conducted remotely with the NNCLPA on 29th March 2023.



### 2.3 Archiving

The archive of records generated during the project will be kept secure at all stages of the operation. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards and requirements outlined in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), those set out by *Northamptonshire ARC: Archaeological Archives Standard* (Donnelly-Symes 2021) and the Archaeology Data Service's guidance on digital archives, *Guidelines to Good Practice*<sup>2</sup> will be followed.

The project archive will be deposited at ARC with accession no. ENN111056. The digital archive will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service (reference no. albionar1-513566).

Albion Archaeology employs a full time Archives Officer to ensure that all archives are completed to the correct standards and deposited according to the relevant guidelines.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main>



## 3 RESULTS

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### 3.1 Introduction

All archaeological deposits and features found within the trial trenches are summarised in this section. Where site recording numbers are used, they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate whether they are a feature number = [\*\*\*] or fill/layer numbers = (\*\*\*). Context numbers were allocated in batches to reflect the trench number, e.g. [16] is a feature within Trench 1.

Detailed descriptions of each individual context are provided in Appendix 1; this should be consulted for information such as alignment, nature of fills, dimensions etc. The trench locations are shown on Figure 1, with more detailed plans and sections on Figure 2. Selected photographs can be found on Figures 3–7.

Archaeological features were identified in two trenches (1 and 5): a post-medieval to modern ditch and a modern ditch. No artefacts were recovered from the features. No archaeological features or remains were identified in Trenches 2–4.

### 3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The thickness of overburden varied between *c.*0.25m and 0.75m across the site, becoming thicker within Trenches 1 and 2, adjacent to the current buildings. The thicker depth of overburden comprised make-up deposits (14)–(15) and (21)–(22), which contained CBM, plastics, metal and concrete fragments. They extended for *c.*10m and *c.*5m from the north-east and south-east ends of Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. The make-up deposits were presumably derived from construction debris used to level the area for a landscaped lawn.

Excluding the make-up deposits, the overburden across site comprised a dark brown-grey clay-silt topsoil, *c.*0.15–0.40m thick, overlying a mid-brown-orange clay-silt subsoil, *c.*0.15–0.50m thick.

Undisturbed geological deposits varied from friable light-grey-orange silt-clay to firm mid-blue-grey silt-clay.

#### 3.1 Trench 1 – Field Boundary Ditch

Ditch [16] was aligned E–W and sealed by the subsoil. It had an asymmetrical U-shaped profile and was *c.*1.7m wide by 0.3m deep. No finds were recovered from the feature's fill (17), a mid-orange-grey clay-silt deposit. The ditch was broadly parallel to existing field boundaries to the north and south, and most likely represents the remains of a field boundary dating to the post-medieval period or later.

#### 3.2 Trench 5 – Ditch

Ditch [53], aligned NNE–SSW, was directly below the topsoil and cut the subsoil. It had a steep U-shaped profile, 1m wide and 0.65m deep, containing a mid-grey-yellow fill (54). No finds were recovered from the ditch; however,



given its stratigraphic position cutting the subsoil, it is likely to be relatively modern in date.



## 4 CONCLUSIONS

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The archaeological trial trenching revealed evidence of two ditched boundaries within the PDA, likely dating from the post-medieval period or later, and associated with land division for agriculture. Neither of the ditches appears on historical OS maps, available from the late 19th century onwards.

The revealed remains are considered to be of negligible significance with no further potential to address regional research objectives.



## 5 REFERENCES

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Albion Archaeology, 2017 *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*, 3rd edition

Albion Archaeology, 2023 *Blotts Barn, Brooks Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching*. Report 2023/27

Donnelly-Symes, B., 2021, *Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre: Archaeological Archives Standard*. Version 2



## **6 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES**

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**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00823/74405**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL 00840/74415**

**Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the site**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b>  | <b>Description:</b>  | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10              | Topsoil       | Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small stones Maximum thickness 0.4m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11              | Subsoil       | Friable mid brown orange clay silt Maximum thickness 0.3m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12              | Natural       | Firm light grey orange clay silt   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13              | Turf line     | Dark grey brown clay silt Maximum thickness 0.05m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14              | Make up layer | Friable mid grey brown occasional small-medium concrete, occasional small-large stones Maximum thickness 0.45m                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15              | Make up layer | Mid blue brown occasional small-large CBM, occasional small-medium concrete, occasional small-large stones Maximum thickness 0.25m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16              | Ditch         | Linear E-W sides: asymmetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.m                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17              | Fill          | Friable mid orange grey clay silt  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00830/74425**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL 00811/74432**

**Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the site**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b>  | <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20              | Turf line     | Friable dark grey brown silt Maximum thickness 0.15m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21              | Make up layer | Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional small-medium concrete, occasional small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.4m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22              | Make up layer | Friable dark blue orange silty clay occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium concrete, occasional small-medium stones               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23              | Natural       | Firm light grey orange silty clay   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24              | Subsoil       | Friable dark brown orange clay silt Maximum thickness 0.5m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00805/74437**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL 00813/74455**

**Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the site**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>  | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 30              | Topsoil      | Friable dark brown grey clay silt Maximum thickness 0.25m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31              | Subsoil      | Friable mid brown orange clay silt Maximum thickness 0.25m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 32              | Natural      | Firm light grey orange silty clay                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00780/74454**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL 00766/74457**

**Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the site**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>                                       | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 40              | Topsoil      | Friable dark brown grey clay silt Maximum thickness 0.3m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 41              | Subsoil      | Friable mid brown orange clay silt Maximum thickness 0.3m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 42              | Natural      | Firm mid blue grey silty clay                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 5**

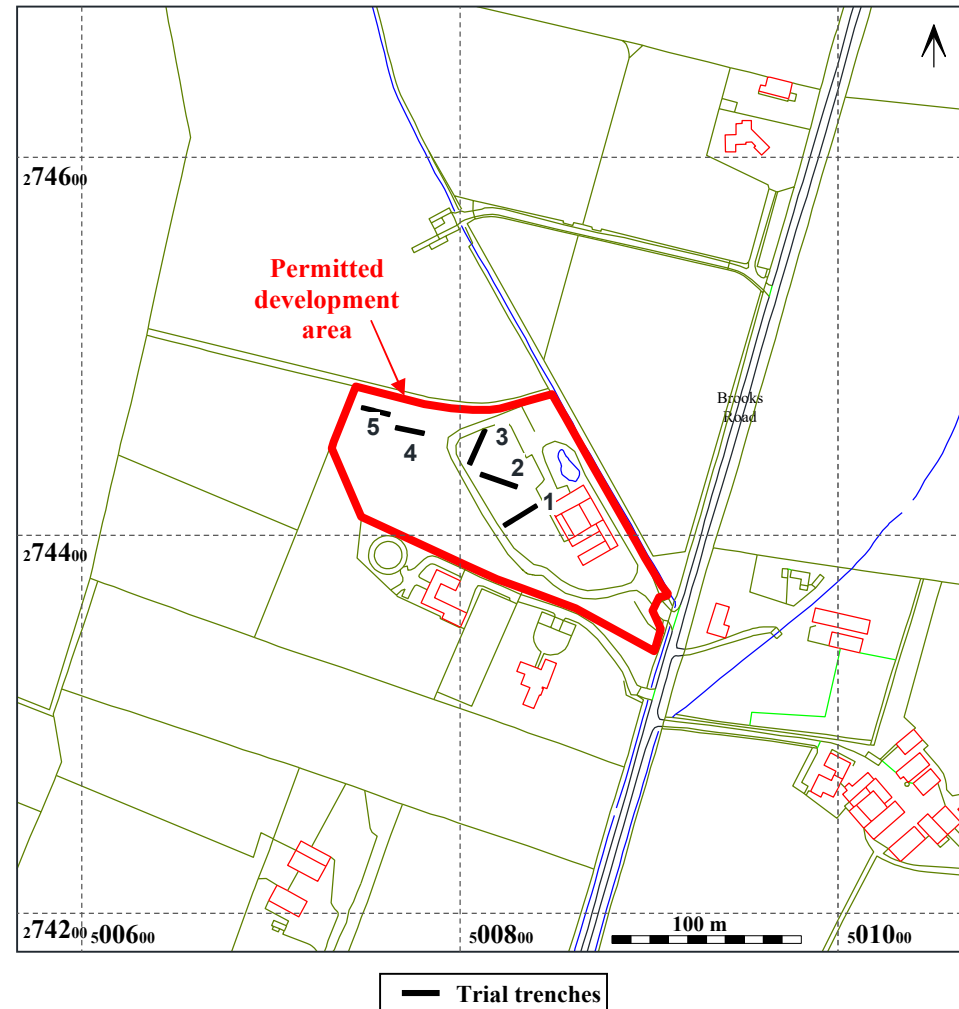
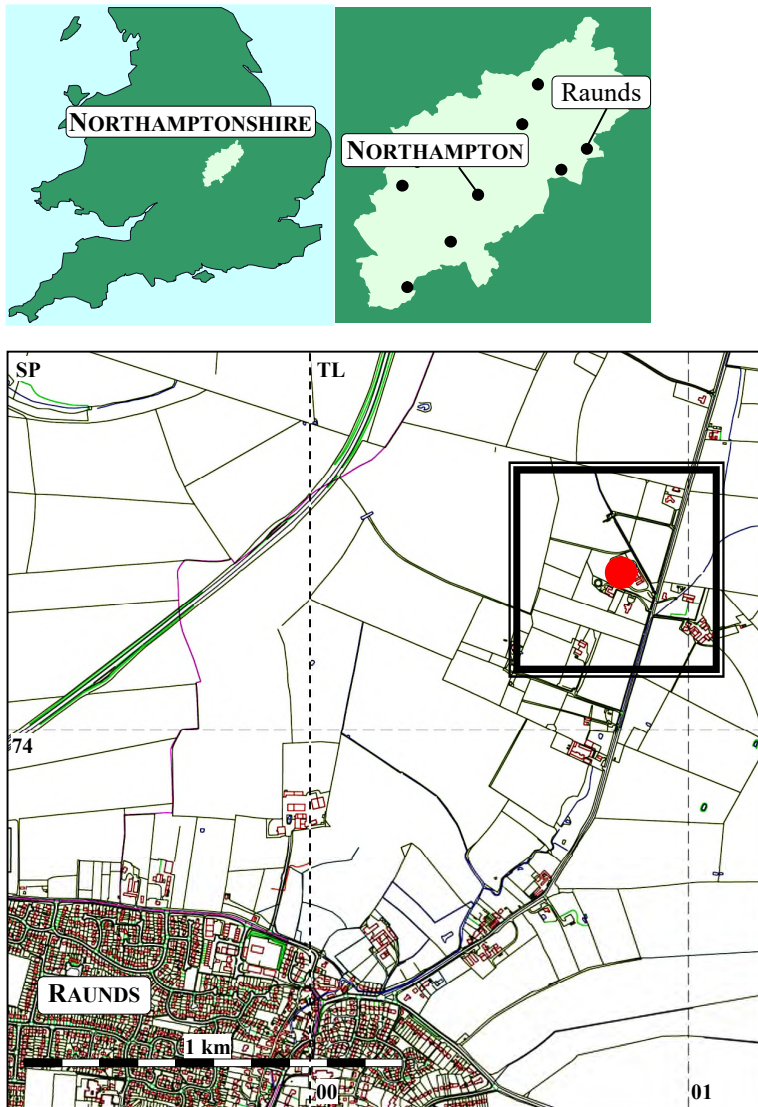
**Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.3 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00762/74463**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL 00748/74467**

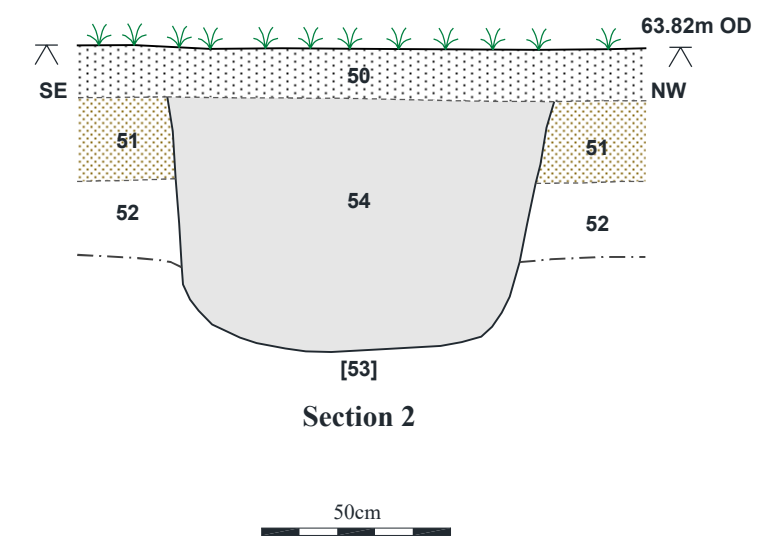
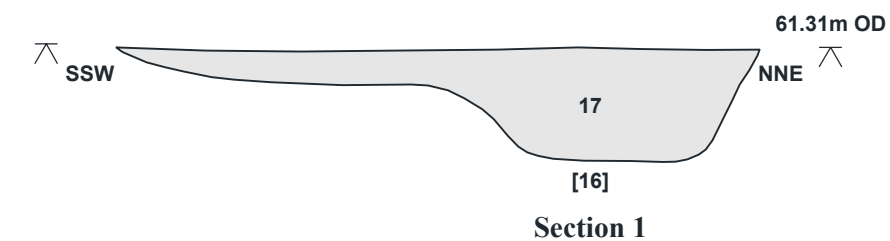
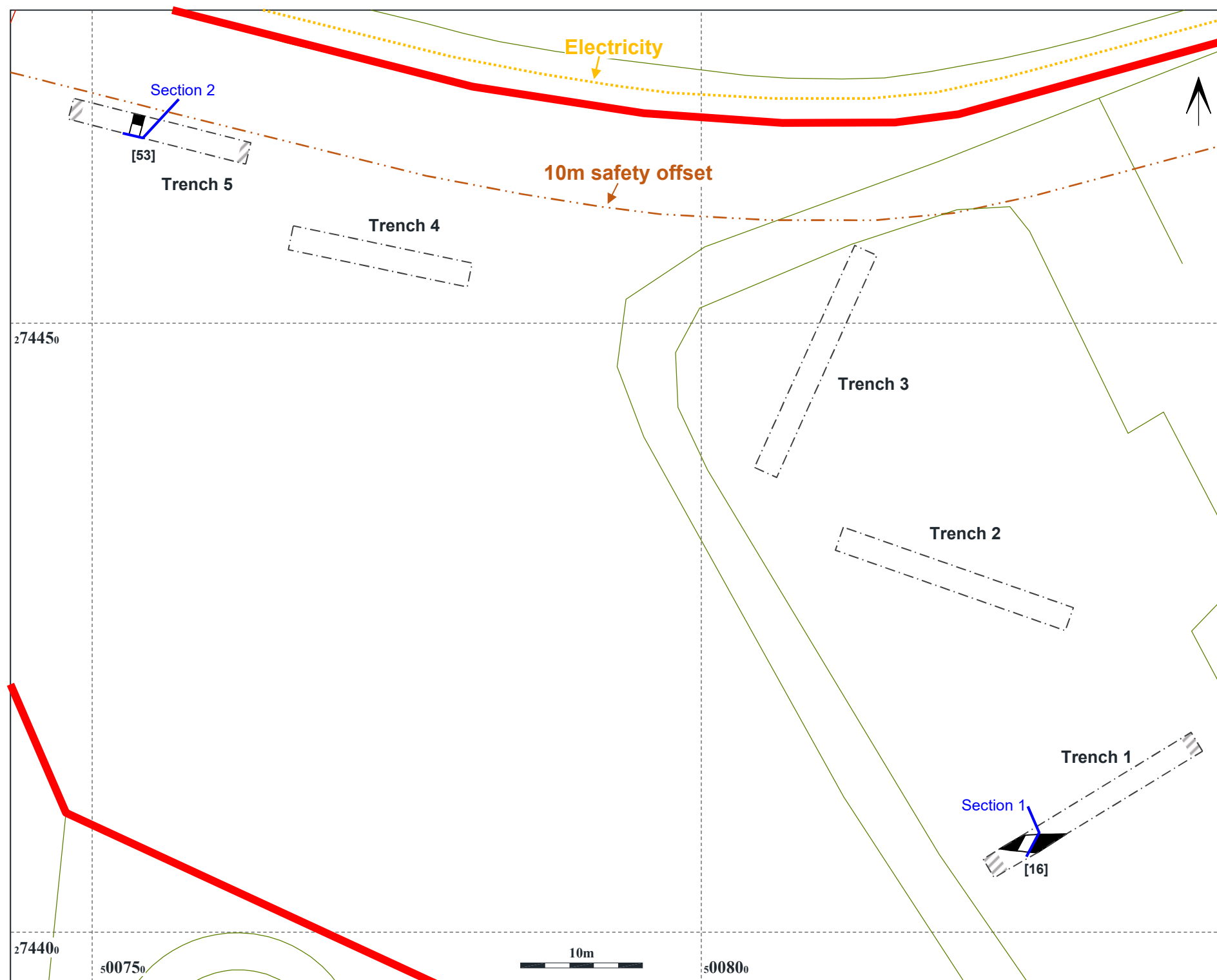
**Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the site**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>  | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50              | Topsoil      | Friable dark brown grey clay silt Maximum thickness 0.15m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 51              | Subsoil      | Friable mid brown orange clay silt Maximum thickness 0.15m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 52              | Natural      | Firm mid blue grey silty clay  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 53              | Ditch        | Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.65m, max length 1.m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 54              | Fill         | Firm mid grey yellow clay  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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**Figure 2: All-features plan and sections**

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Trench 1: Overview looking north-east, 1m scale



Trench 1: Section through ditch [16], looking east, 1m scale

**Figure 3:** Trench 1 – selected photographs





Trench 1: Baulk section showing make-up deposits (14) and (15), looking north, 1m scale



Trench 2: Overview looking south-east, 1m scale.

**Figure 4:** Trenches 1 and 2 – selected photographs



Trench 2: Baulk section from top to bottom: turf (20), make-up (21), make-up (22), subsoil (24), and undisturbed geology (23), looking south-west, 1m scale



Trench 3: Overview looking north-east, 1m scale.

**Figure 5:** Trenches 2 and 3 – selected photographs



Trench 4: Overview looking north-west, 1m scale



Trench 5: Overview looking south-east, 1m scale

**Figure 6:** Trenches 4 and 5 – selected photographs



Trench 5: Baulk section through ditch [54], looking south-west, 1m scale

**Figure 7:** Trench 5 – selected photograph

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