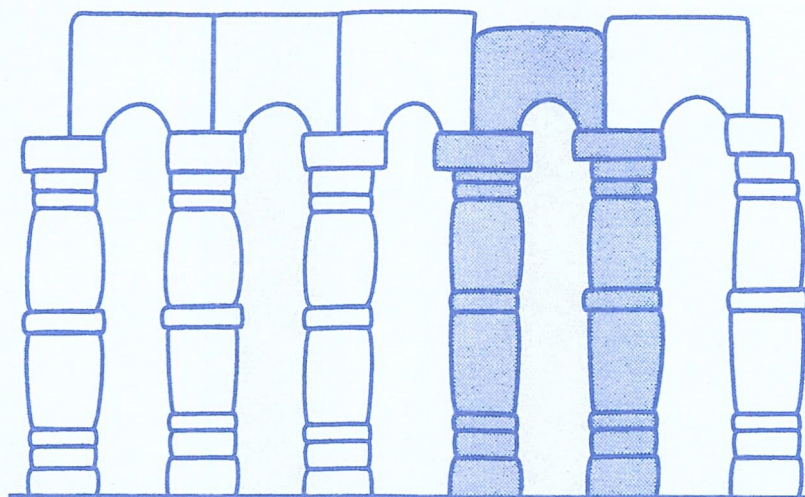




NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

JANUARY 2003

*LAND ADJACENT TO GODSON'S HILL FARM,
STATION ROAD, MARKET BOSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE*

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

STAGE 4: TRIAL EXCAVATION

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1: Site Location

Fig 2: Trench plans with features.

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 10.33ha of land, stage 1 of the proposed development, adjacent to Godson's Hill Farm, Station Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Seven trenches, totalling 300m, were opened prior to determination of an application for the construction of a golf course, access road and club house. Trench eight, situated in the access road, was not excavated because the land was under different ownership. No archaeological remains were found other than recent field drains, ridge and furrow and an associated boundary ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission is being sought to develop stage 1, about 10.33ha of land, adjacent to Godson's Hill Farm, Station Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. (Planning application number OUT/2002/0685/4, Fig 1). Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Selter Associates, the developers, as part of the planning condition placed upon the application. The evaluation met the requirements of a specification issued by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the 8th January 2003, work was completed on Friday 10th January 2003. Leicestershire Museums Accession number X. A9. 2003.

2 TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development area lies adjacent to Godson's Hill farm to the west of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (Fig 1). The 6 hectare area is centred on NGR SK 396 033.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A Desk Based Assessment carried out earlier by Northamptonshire Archaeology (McAree. 2002) concluded that there were no known archaeological sites within the

proposed development area.

Evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation survived as earth works, along with remains of two possible hollow ways was recorded as part of a topographical survey.

A detailed magnetometer survey was carried out in areas proposed for lakes within the golf course (Fisher and Holmes 2002). This work identified ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow and areas of modern disturbance.

4 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the trial excavation is to determine the potential for any surviving archaeological remains, which may be threatened by the proposed development and to determine their extent, date and character. These were established in a specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and dated 8th January 2003 and approved by the Leicester County Council planning Archaeologist.

5 METHODOLOGY

Seven trenches, 300m long in total length, were excavated using a 360° tracked machine with a 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 1). The trenches were positioned with the agreement of the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council to avoid underground services. The length of trenches was calculated as a percentage of the total area of the application site as 1%.

All overburden was stripped under archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked separately, adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of potential archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate when no archaeology was encountered.

The trenches were cleaned by machine and each feature or deposit was given an individual context number, the details of which were recorded on trial trench pro-forma sheets.

Levels were taken at the top and bottom, along one side of each trench, and the heights related to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record was made of each trench, using both 35mm black and white negative and colour transparency films.

All works were carried out according to the IFA Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines and all procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety

at Work Guidelines.

6 RESULTS

Each trench had a similar stratigraphic sequence consisting of topsoil 250-350mm thick, overlying subsoil 120-280mm thick that sealed the natural mixed clays, pebbles and gravel.

The trenches were devoid of any archaeological features other than trenches 3 and 7 (Fig 2) which contained ridge and furrow, at between 4 and 6m wide. Trench 6 (Fig 2), a ditch (21), 1.6m wide and 550mm deep and trench 5, a field drain (25) as well as a change in the very mixed natural (17) in the south-western half of the trench. All the features are thought to be post-medieval in origin.

7 FINDS

The evaluation at Godsons Hill Farm produced a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval material. With the exception of one small abraded fragment of possible tile from Trench 6 (ditch 21), the entire assemblage was retrieved from unstratified subsoil deposits.

There were six abraded sherds of medieval (4) and post-medieval (2) pottery. The medieval pottery is represented by sherds, which date from c.1100-1400 and includes 3 sherds of Potters Marston Ware (PM) and a vestige of a strap handle from a jug in a sandy fabric (MS3). The post-medieval sherds include a fragment of glazed red earthenware (EA2) and Midland Yellow (MY). The fabrics were identified with the kind help of Dr Richard Pollard, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services.

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER					
	1/2		6/19		5/15	
	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	No	Wgt
Medieval						
Potters Marston (PM) - c.1100-1300	3	14				
Medieval Sandy ware (MS3) c.1200-1400					1	26
Post-medieval						
Midland Yellow (MY) c.1500-1725			1	17		
Glazed Earthenware (EA2) c.17/18th century					1	21
Total	3	14	1	17	2	47

In addition there are 14 undiagnostic fragments of ceramic tile and brick.

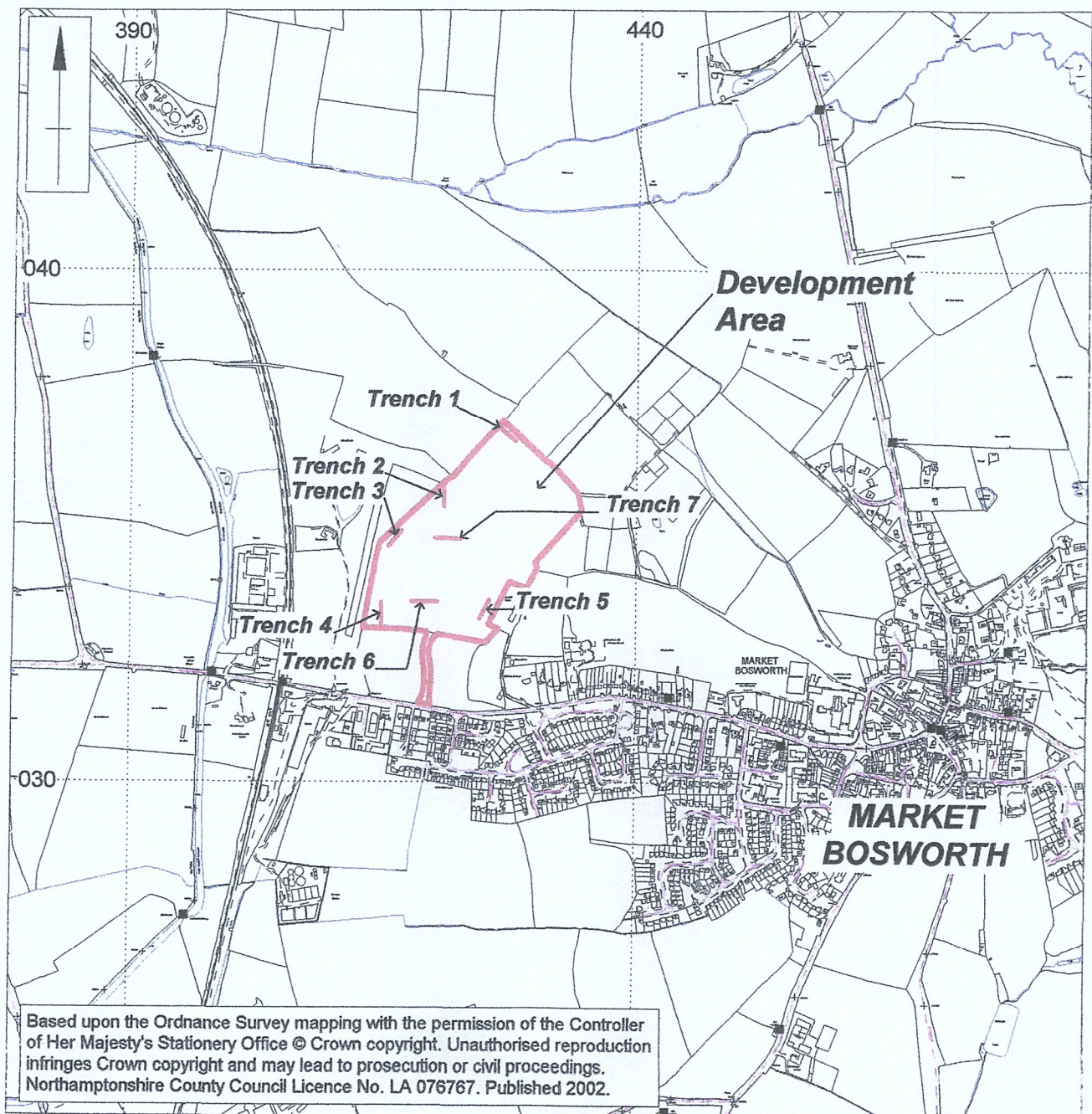
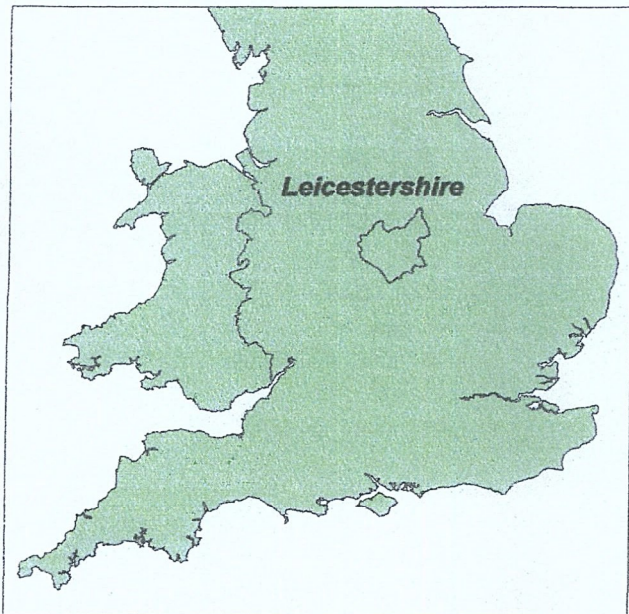
CONCLUSION

No significant archaeological remains were found in the evaluation trenches. The finds recovered from the subsoil were probably part of a wide scatter of material associated with fertilising the land with manure. The ground was subject to water logging and this factor possibly deterred ancient settlement activity and the area appears to have simply been used for agricultural purposes. The features recorded were all of late date and relate to cultivation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

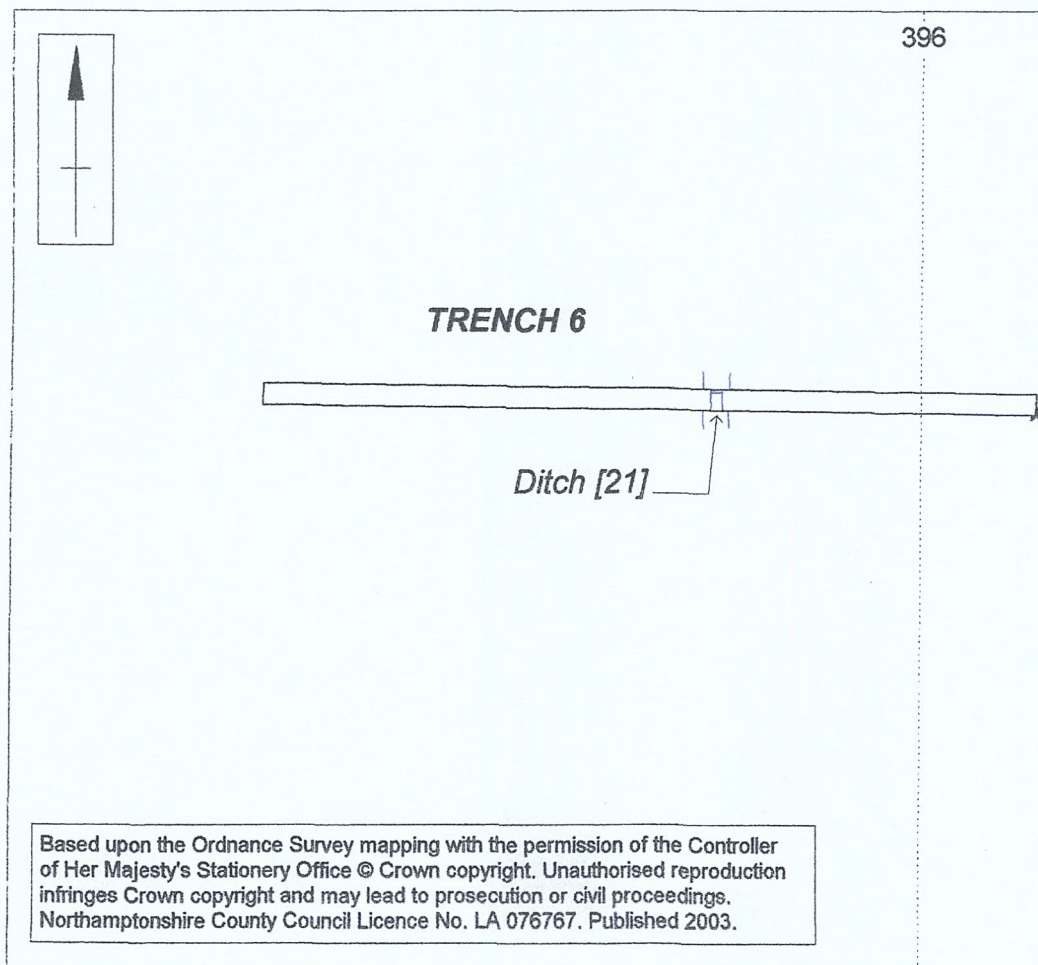
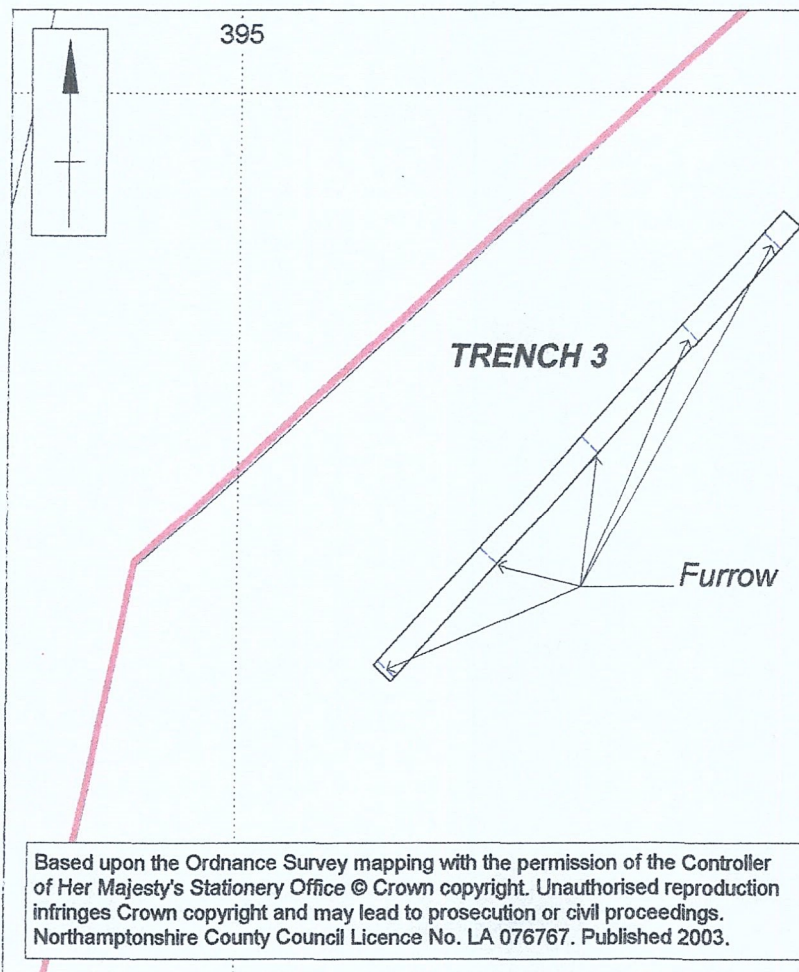
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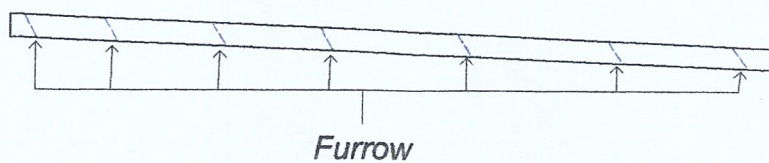
Fig. 1



396

035

TRENCH 7

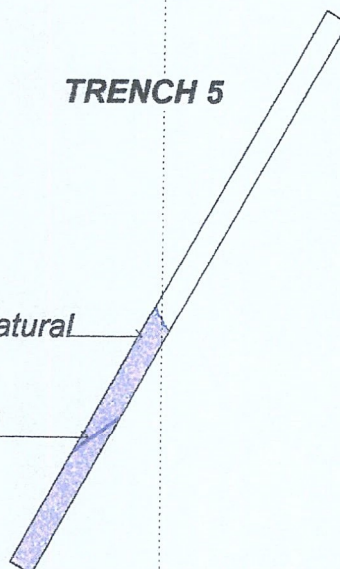


SCALE = 1:500

397

TRENCH 5

Change in natural
Land drain [25]



SCALE = 1:500

Fig. 2