



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road  
Old Stratford  
Northamptonshire



### Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Version</i>	096/OSW 2.0	<i>Date</i>	29/03/16
<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	096/OSW 2.0	<i>Date</i>	01/04/16
<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	

© KDK Archaeology Ltd 2016 No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort has been made to provide as complete and as accurate a report as possible. However, KDK Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies, or omissions contained in this document.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
KDK Archaeology Licence No. 100053538





## CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Aims & Methods .....	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background .....	8
4. Results.....	11
5. Conclusions .....	27
6. Acknowledgements.....	29
7. Archive .....	30
8. References .....	31

## Appendices3

1. List of Photographs .....	33
2. OASIS and Site Data.....	35

## Figures:

1. General location .....	3
2. Site location .....	5
3. Development plan .....	6
4. First edition OS map 1884 depicting the Black Horse Inn .....	10
5. Archaeology plan .....	24
6. Section drawings .....	25
7. Archaeology overlying 1883 OS map of site.....	26

## Plates:

1. Footing trench, looking east .....	16
2. Footing trench, stratigraphy at the north-east side of site, looking south-east .....	16
3. Ground reduction, looking east .....	16
4. Ground reduction, stratigraphy at the south-east end of site, looking south-east .....	17
5. Footing trench, stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking south.....	17
6. Footing trench, brick surface [106], looking north-east.....	17
7. Ground reduction, brick surface [112], looking south-west.....	18
8. Footing trench, stone drain [105], looking south-east.....	18
9. Footing trench, brick & stone drain [116], looking north-east.....	19
10. Footing trench, stony deposit (113), looking south-west .....	19
11. Footing trench, stony deposit (113) underlying brick surface [112], looking north-east .....	19
12. Footing trench, burnt deposit (120), looking east.....	20
13. Services, soakaway, looking north-east.....	20
14. Services, trench 1, looking north-east.....	20
15. Services, trench 2, looking west.....	21
16. Services, trench 2, stone wall [202], looking north-east .....	21
17. Services, trench 2, brick wall [204], looking west.....	22
18. Services, trench 3, looking south-west.....	22
19. Services, trench 3 stratigraphy, looking south-west .....	22
20. Services, trench 4, looking south-west.....	23
21. Services, trench 4 stratigraphy, looking south .....	23

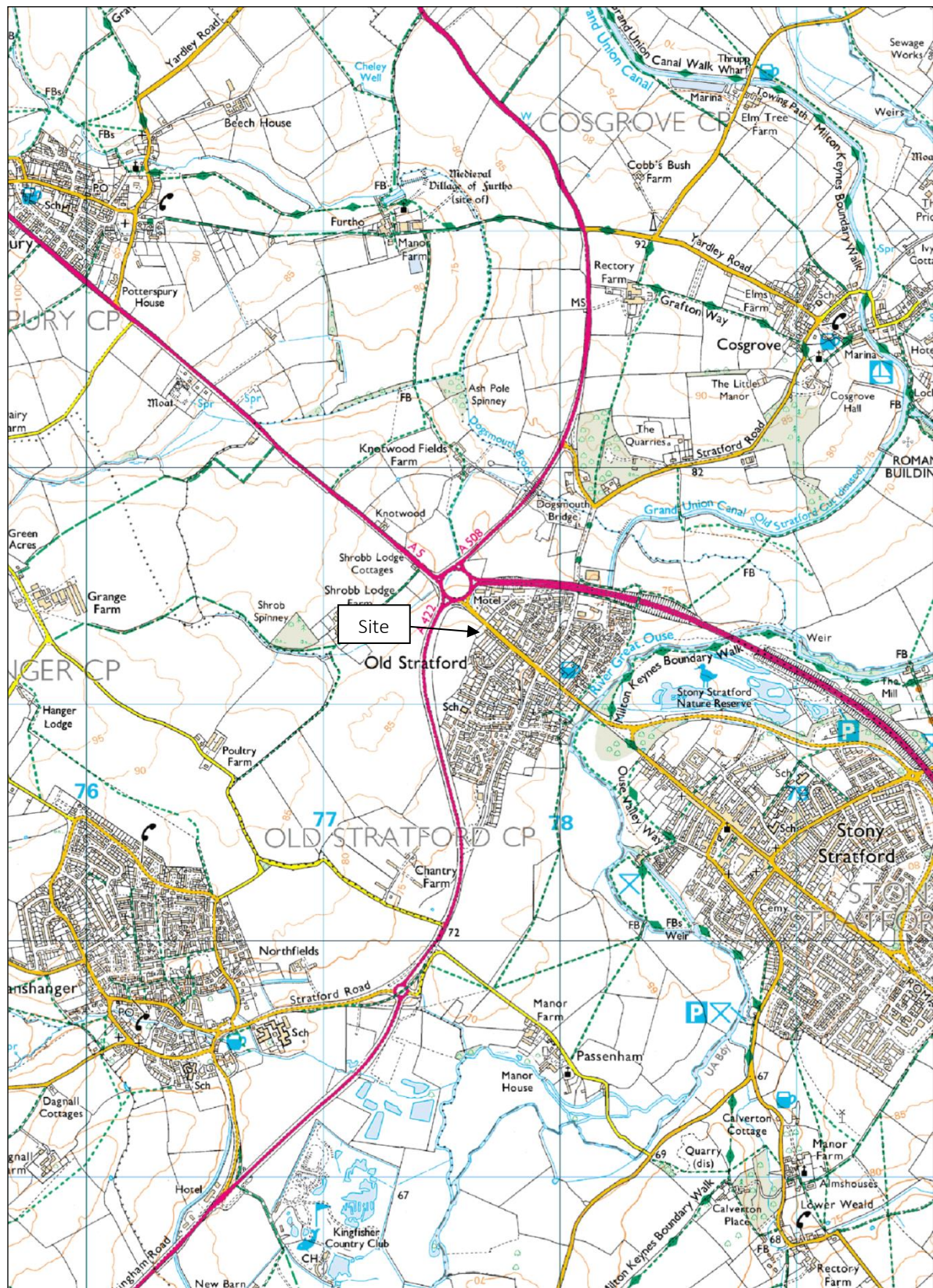


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



## Summary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 an Observation and Recording project was carried out at Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire during the construction of a residential dwelling on the site. Throughout the project a series of walls, surfaces and drainage were found, whilst the general stratigraphy of the site revealed a made-ground deposit thought to have been a result of demolition. The walls are likely to be associated with a post-medieval public house, the Black Horse Inn, which once stood on the site and was depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 and subsequent maps until 1970s when buildings are no longer shown.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Between April 2015 to March 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Clayton, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Rouse & Barclay Jones 2014), and approved by Northamptonshire County Council, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), South Northamptonshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is S/2014/0953/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

Old Stratford is in the south of the county of Northamptonshire, adjacent to the border of Buckinghamshire, within the administrative district of South Northamptonshire. The development site is in the civil parish of Old Stratford and is centred on National Grid Reference 477679 241319 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The site is located on the western edge of Old Stratford, and is bounded to the north-east by Towcester Road, to the north- and south-west by open ground, and to the south-east by a residential property (Fig. 2).

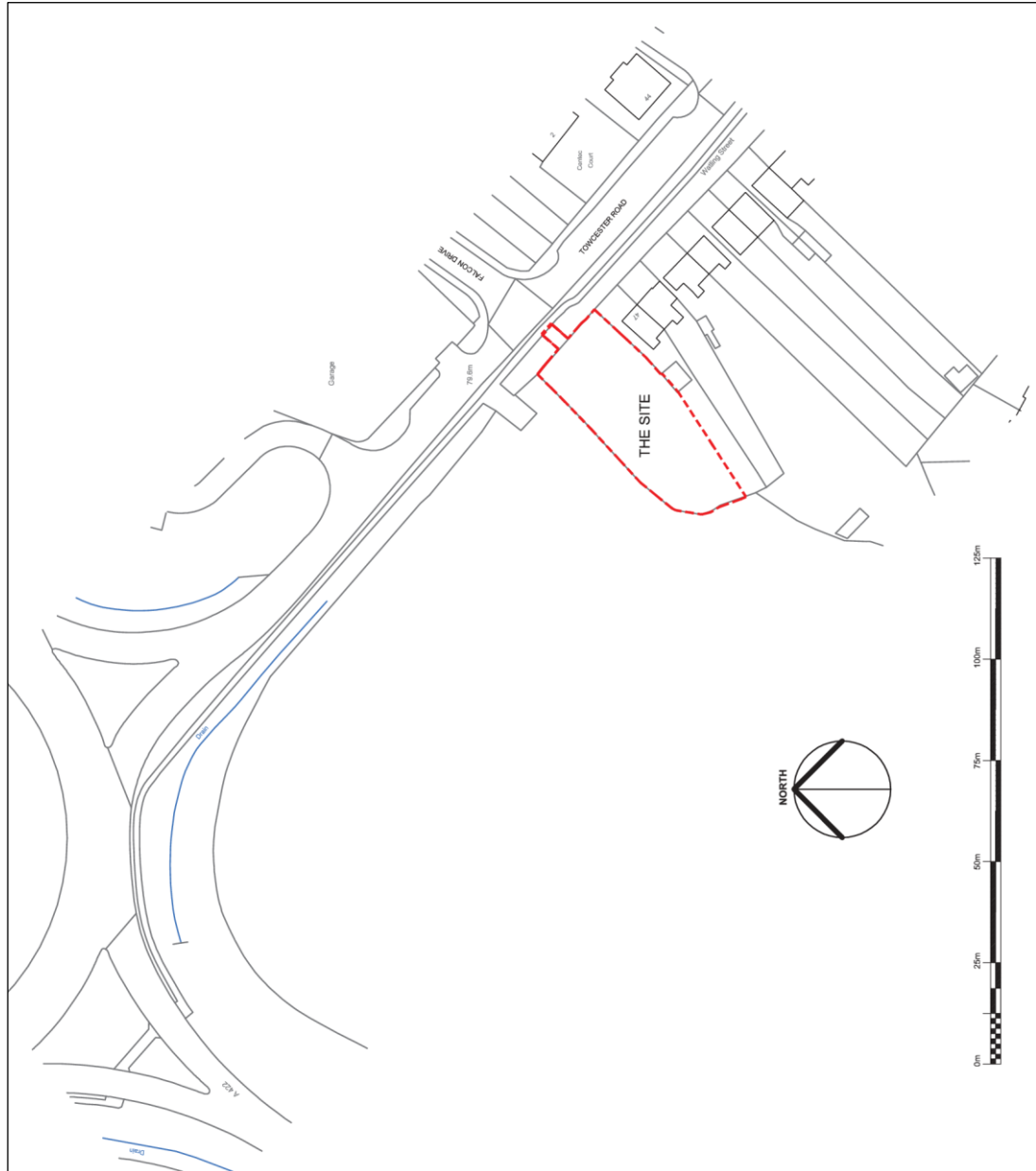
#### *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site belong to the *Oadby Association*, and are described as *Diamicton, grey, weathering brown, characterised by Cretaceous and Jurassic rock fragments; subordinate lenses of sand and gravel, clay and silt. Clay, brown to grey, and silty clay, with chalk and flint fragments* (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The underlying geology comprises *Lias Group*, which is characterised as *Predominantly grey, well bedded, marine calcareous mudstone and silty mudstone; thin tabular or nodular beds of argillaceous limestone, particularly in the lower part; thicker units of siltstone and sandstone, particularly in the upper part, and ironstone, particularly in the middle part. Marginal limestone facies also occur* (ibid). The development site lies at an elevation of c.75mAOD, on largely flat ground.



*Development*

The development proposal comprised the construction of a detached, 5 bedroom dwelling on currently unoccupied ground (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site location (scale as shown)

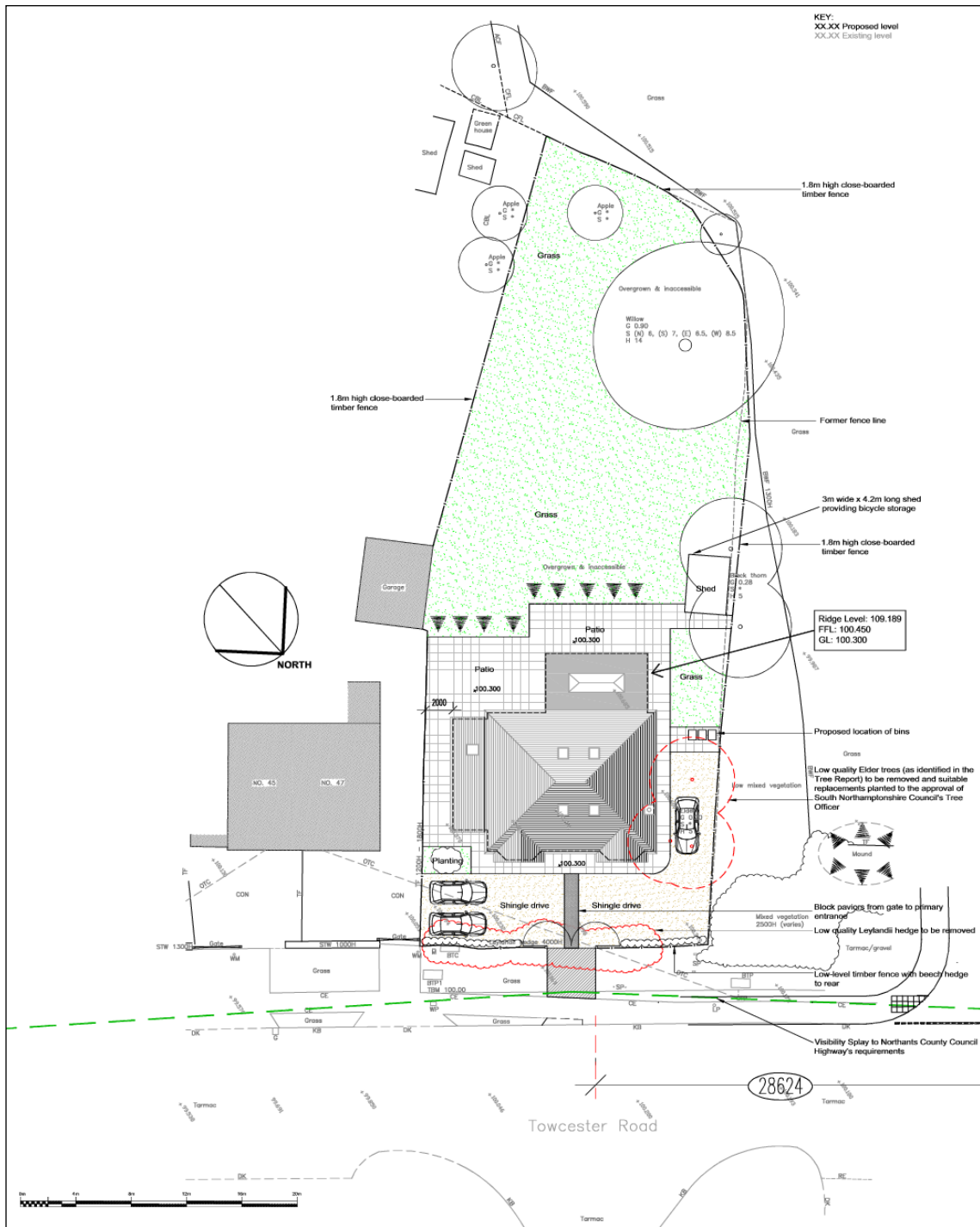


Figure 3: Development Plan (scale as shown)



---

## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Rouse & Barclay Jones 2014) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the WSI, the methods used were as follows:

- Continuous observation of removal of topsoil and subsoil over the footprint of the new dwelling and any other areas that were excavated
- The investigation and recording of any archaeological features that were revealed

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)





### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Old Stratford and its environs contain evidence for human activity covering a wide range of periods, from a possible prehistoric enclosure to a hospital belonging to the Order of the Knights Hospitaller. The village began life as a linear settlement, following the line of Roman Watling Street. In more recent times, the settlement has expanded on both the north and south sides of the road. The development site is located at the north western end of the current settlement, close to the line of Watling Street. The site was once part of the Black Horse Inn, and has the potential to reveal remains associated with this establishment, while a concentration of earlier activity to the northwest has the potential to extend within the boundaries of the site.

This section has been compiled with information from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources, including KDK's own library.

#### 3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC-AD43)

The development of the Old Stratford area during this period is not well understood. A possible prehistoric enclosure, represented by a small bank defining a roughly circular area has been identified through aerial photography c.0.35km to the north west of the development site (HER124495). This area has been highlighted as a site with the potential to reveal activity dating to both this period and the Roman period (Section 3.3, below). Two flint flakes were recovered from a fieldwork site c.0.2km to the north west (HER137476), while part of Neolithic greenstone axe was uncovered during building works c.0.85km to the north of the development site (HER151077).

#### 3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

It has been postulated that Old Stratford is the predecessor to nearby Stony Stratford, and was a posting station along the important Roman road of Watling Street (HER626), which passes through the centre of Old Stratford (HER3501), connecting Richborough (*Rutupiae*) to Wroxeter (*Virconium*), via London (*Londinium*). Building work next to Watling Street, c.0.65km to the southeast of the development site, revealed evidence of Roman activity in the form of a layer of black ash containing Samian ware, other pottery fragments and animal bone (HER20128). As discussed above, an area of possible prehistoric or Roman activity has been identified to the northwest of the village of Old Stratford. The proximity of this site to the route of Watling Street supports the argument that there may have been a Roman settlement here.

Elsewhere in the vicinity of Old Stratford, large amounts of unstratified Roman pottery, including some fragments of Samian ware, were found over several years during extraction at a gravel pit, c.0.5km to the north of the development site (HER26868). A number of Roman ditches were also recorded at the same site (HER20121). Roman coins have been found by metal detectorists in fields located c.0.35km to the west of the development site (HER137477; 137478; 147931; 150475; 151076; 101654).

#### 3.4 *Saxon - Medieval* (c.450-1500)

Evidence for Saxon activity in the locality comes mainly from chance finds. Metal detecting in fields to the north and west of Old Stratford recovered an unstratified Saxon coin (HER161309) and a strap (HER137477), while a single sherd of Saxon pottery was found during fieldwalking in fields c.0.65km to the north of the development site (HER20559). A possible Saxon occupation site has been proposed close by (HER745). Unstratified sherds of Anglo-



Saxon pottery, dating to c.450-650AD and possibly associated with a nearby posthole, were recovered during fieldwork c.0.15km to the northwest of the development site (HER31546), while a ring of plaited silver wire and a silver penny of Edward the Elder (who reigned from 899-924) were found c.0.5km to the west (HER101653). A further coin of Edward the Elder was found a similar distance to the north of the development site (HER151406).

There is little physical evidence for medieval activity in Old Stratford. During this period, the area was split between the manors of Cosgrove, Furtho and Passenheim. It is assumed that a settlement may have existed in the vicinity of the current village, due to its strategic position along major transport route, but thus far little physical evidence has been recorded to support this theory (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol5/pp198-207#h3-0003>).

### 3.5 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The post-medieval period is well represented within Old Stratford. The former turnpike road from Old Stratford to Dunchurch passes through the village, following the line of Roman Watling Street and the old A5 (London Road) (HER101325). Fronting onto this road there are records of a hermitage and chapel, c.0.6km to the south east of the development site, dating to 1620 (HER11712), which may also represent the site of the earliest recorded building in Old Stratford, the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (HER8852). This belonged to the Hospitallers perceptory in Dingley, in addition to other land they held at Cosgrove and Passenheim (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol5/pp198-207#h3-0011>). There are eight Grade II Listed Buildings within 1km of the development site, all of which front onto London Road. These eight all date to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with later alterations (HER5962; 5971; 5972; 5963; 5964; 5965; 5966; 5968).

Located c.0.7km to the southeast of the site is the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later development of Firs Farm (HER169218). Several upstanding walls within Old Stratford have been designated as important historic walls by South Northamptonshire Council, including walls at Firs Farm and No.12 London Road (HER162964; 163413; 163414). An 18th or 19th century stone path and field drain have been recorded at Oxfield Park, c.0.75km to the south east of the development site during a trial trench excavation. The path is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, and does not appear to be associated with the farmyard there (HER169222). Foundations of 18th or 19th century farm buildings and wall were also recorded during the same excavation (HER169219; 169221). A possible deer lawn has been recorded c.0.85km to the northwest of the development site (HER100336). Further evidence of agriculture has been recorded outside Old Stratford in the form of post medieval furrows, located c.0.5km to the west of the development site (HER137479). A discrete but unstratified find of a whetstone or weight with a suspension loop has been made c.1km to the north of the development site (HER151081).

Industrial activity during this period is represented by quarrying activity c.0.55km to the north of the development site (HER25573). The Grand Junction Canal, opened in 1793, included the Buckingham arm to Old Stratford (HER115114; 115112). This arm closed in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but vestiges of it, such as the canal bridge located c.0.4km to the south east of the development site (HER32103) remain.

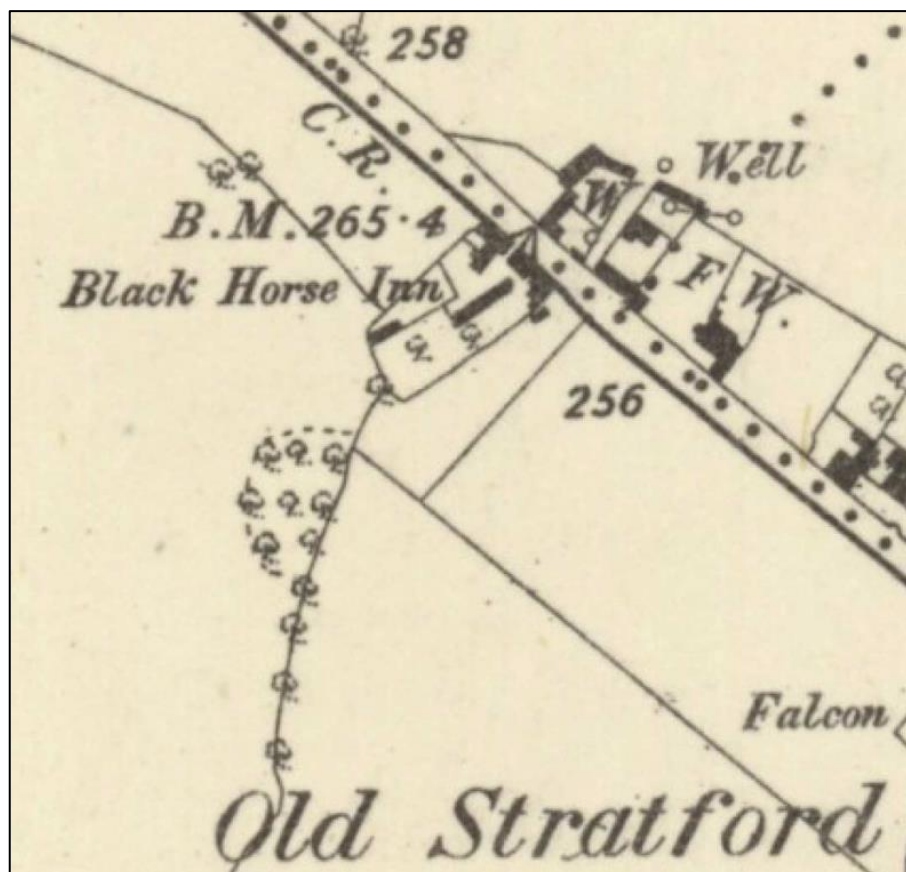
Cartographic evidence shows that towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Old Stratford was still very much a linear development, with most buildings located on the northern side of London Road. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the development site as the site of the Black Horse Inn, which comprised a range of buildings focussed mostly towards the south and eastern parts of the site (Figure 4).



### 3.6 *Modern* (1900-present)

Ordnance Survey mapping shows that Old Stratford remained largely unchanged during the very early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with development only springing up on the south side of London Road and along the Buckingham arm of the Grand Junction canal in the 1930s. During WWII, an armament depot was located c.0.4km to the southeast of the development site (HER104084). In 1951, the administrative parish of Old Stratford was created, amalgamating portions of land from adjoining Cosgrove, Deanshanger and Furtho parishes (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol5/pp198-207#h3-0003>). It may have been this that prompted a boom in the expansion of the village, with the focus of development shifting to the south side of London Road. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, development had spread equally on the northern side of London Road, largely obscuring the historical linear development of the village.

The buildings associated with the Black Horse Inn remained extant on the site until at least 1958, when they were still shown on Ordnance Survey mapping, although the label for the Black Horse Inn disappeared by the publication of the 1925 OS map. By the publication of the 1970 OS map, the buildings had been removed.



Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland

**Figure 4:** First edition OS map 1884 depicting the Black Horse Inn (not to scale)



## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

An initial site visit was made in April 2015, prior to the development to monitor the mechanical investigation of three test pits in order to ascertain the onsite geology. The test pits revealed the general site stratigraphy (see below) and no archaeology.

A programme of observation and recording was carried out during the mechanical excavation of footing trenches, ground reduction and associated service trenches for the new building.

### *Footing Trenches and Ground Reduction* (Fig. 5-7; Plates 1-12)

The footing trenches were initially excavated and monitored, measuring 0.6m wide and 2m deep (max). After which the ground was reduced between the footing trenches, measuring 0.38-0.5m deep.

The footing trenches and associated ground reduction was excavated with a 5 tonne mechanical excavator, Kubota, fitted with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket.

### *Archaeological Features*

#### Walls

**Stone Wall [108]** (Plate 5): was situated towards the eastern end of the footing trench, orientated northwest-southeast. The wall was constructed of roughly dressed, small-medium stones bonded with lime mortar (109). Brick surface [106] was found butting up to the wall to the west, and brick wall [110] was found butting up to the wall to the southeast.

**Brick Wall [110]** (Plate 5): was found at the eastern end of the footing trench, orientated northwest-southeast. The wall was constructed of un-frogged red bricks bonded with a lime mortar (111). The wall butted up to stone wall [108] to the northwest.

**Stone Wall [114]**: was found towards the northeast end of the footing trench, orientated northwest-southeast. The wall was constructed of roughly dressed, medium sized sub-angular stones and bonded with a lime mortar (115).

**Brick & Stone Wall [118]**: was located towards the northwest end of the footing trench, orientated north-south. It was constructed of two courses of roughly dressed stone and one course of un-frogged brick and bonded with lime mortar (119).

#### Surfaces

**Brick Surface [106]** (Plate 6): was found towards the northwest end of the footing trench and ground reduction. It was constructed of a single course of un-frogged red bricks laid out in a stretcher bond and set into a layer of lime mortar (107).

**Brick Surface [112]** (Plate 7): was exposed at the southern end of footing trench and ground reduction. It was orientated northeast-southwest and constructed of a single course of un-frogged red bricks with no bonding material. A number of frogged, stable bricks inscribed with the words 'Doulton' on were also found within the surface. The bricks were thought to have been manufactured by Henry Doulton and Co, pipe maker and brick agents of High Street, Lambeth, London established in 1846 ([http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry\\_Doulton\\_and\\_Co](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry_Doulton_and_Co)).



### Drains

**Stone Drain [105]** (Plate 8): was found towards the northern corner of the footing trench, orientated north-south. It was constructed of un-mortared, roughly dressed, medium stones with finds of post-medieval pottery of white ceramic and willow-pattern (not retained).

**Brick & Stone Drain [116]** (Plate 9): was found at the southwest end of the footing trench, orientated northeast-southwest. It consisted of four un-frogged red brick courses and roughly dressed stone bonded with a lime mortar (117).

### Other

**Stony deposit (113)** (Plate 10 & 11): was found both underlying and beyond brick surface [112], consisting of a concentration of small sub-angular stones that may have formed a surface or a base layer for partly overlying brick surface [112].

**Burnt deposit (120)** (Plate 12): was situated at the western corner of the footing trench/ground reduction area containing frequent charcoal flecks and CBM. A continuation of this deposit was also observed in service trench 4, (401).

Context numbers relating to the footing trenches and ground reduction are summarised below:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	D: 0.26m	Topsoil: mid-dark brown, loose, silty matrix with frequent rooting and small sub-angular stones.
101	Layer	D: 0.7m	Made-ground demolition layer: dark black/brown, loose, silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and moderate red brick and tile fragments and frequent rooting.
102	Layer	D: 0.5m	Natural strata: Light-mid brownly orange, malleable/friable silty clay with moderate small chalk and sub-angular stones and minor rooting.
103	Layer	-	Natural strata: varies from light mottled orange and grey/light burn orange, firm/fine, clay/powdery sand both with frequent chalk flecks
104	Cut	W: 0.4m D: 0.3m	Construction cut for stone drain [105]: linear in plan orientated north-south, a U-shaped profile with vertical/straight sides and a flat base.
105	Structural	W: 0.4m D: 0.3m	Stone drain: orientated north-south, constructed of un-mortared roughly dressed, medium stones for the sides and base and a hollow drainage run in the centre with larger roughly dressed stones overlying.
106	Structural	L:5.2m W: 2.41m D: 0.09m	Brick surface: single course of un-frogged, red bricks in a stretcher bond and set into a layer of mortar (107). Each brick measured 230 x105 x 70mm (9 x 4½ x 2¾ inches), (L x W x D)
107	Structural	-	Mortar part of wall [106]: light beige yellow, coarse, compacted lime mortar.
108	Structural	W:0.41m D: 0.3m	Stone wall: constructed of roughly dressed, medium-large stones bonded with lime mortar (109).
109	Structural	-	Mortar part of wall [108]: light yellowy beige, loose, lime mortar.



110	Structural	L: 0.73m W: 0.41m	Brick wall: constructed of un-frogged red hand-made bricks in a stretcher bond and bonded with lime mortar (111). Each brick measured 230 x 115 x 70mm (9 x 4½ x 2¾ inches).
111	Structural	-	Mortar part of wall [110]: light yellow beige, loose, lime mortar.
112	Structural	L: >7.47m W: >2.68m	Brick surface: aligned northeast-southwest constructed of un-frogged and un-bonded red bricks, each brick measuring 220 x 105 x 65mm (8⅝ x 4½ x 2½ inches). A number of grey bricks were also incorporated into the surface, stable bricks; each brick measured 255 x 125 x 53mm (10 x 4⅞ x 2⅛ inches). These bricks were inscribed with the word 'Doulton' on the side.
113	Deposit	L: >6.6m W: >8.35m	Stony deposit: concentration of stone fragments found both underlying and beyond brick surface [112].
114	Structural	W: 0.41m	Stone wall: constructed of roughly dressed, medium stones and bonded with lime mortar (115).
115	Structural	-	Mortar part of wall [114]: light orangey yellow, sandy gritty, lime mortar.
116	Structural	W: 0.4m D: 0.25m	Brick and stone drain: four courses of un-frogged, red brick and roughly dressed stone bonded with a lime mortar. Each brick measured 220 x 115 x 50mm (8⅝ x 5½ x 2 inches).
117	Structural	-	Mortar part of drain [116]: light orangey yellow, compact, sandy gritty, lime mortar.
118	Structural	W: 0.4m D: 0.35m	Brick and stone wall: constructed of two courses of roughly dressed stone and one course of un-frogged brick bonded with lime mortar (119). Each brick measured 230 x 110 x 70mm (9 x 4⅜ x 2¾ inches).
119	Structural	-	Mortar part of wall [118]: light orangey yellow, sandy/gritty, lime mortar.
120	Deposit	L: > 5.65m W:>11.73m	Burnt deposit: dark black/brown, friable/loose, silty material with frequent small sub-angular stones, flecks of charcoal and brick.

### ***Service Trenches***

(Fig. 5-7; Plates 13-21)

Over the course of two days, 4 service trenches were monitored. All trenches were excavated by a 2.2 tonne machine fitted with a 0.30m and a 1m toothless bucket. The trenches were dug in preparation for the installation of services to the house.

### ***Soakaway percolation pit***

(Plate 13)

A soakaway percolation pit was excavated to investigate the depth of the water table and to ensure appropriate drainage. A pit 1.40 x 1.20 x 1m was excavated with a smaller 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.25m square dug in the centre. The water table was hit at 1.20 metres and drainage was not sufficient for the installation of a soakaway. As a result, the soakaway was relocated to the front of the house near to the property boundary an area which had been previously disturbed by the building of the road and vegetation. The trench leading to the soakaway was also cut



through the disturbed ground and therefore was not monitored. No archaeological finds or features were encountered from the percolation pit.

**Trench 1** (Plate 14)

Trench 1 was 3.20m long, 0.33m wide and 0.15m deep. It was located to the southeast of the site and ran parallel to the building in a south southeast - north northwest orientation. The excavation required minimal ground reduction and as a result, only a layer of modern made ground was observable (**121**).

**Trench 2** (Plate 15-17)

Trench 2 was 5.20m long, 0.40m wide and >1.24m deep. A large square pit measuring 1.50 x 1.20 x 1m was cut in order to install a manhole. Service Trench 2 led west southwest from this pit for 5.20m before turning north into Trench 3. Towards the centre of the trench a section of stone wall (**202**) was observed which consisted of two large roughly dressed stones and a double course of smaller stone bricks which were obscured by the northern baulk. The largest of the stones measured 0.50 x 0.41m in size and was 0.09m in depth. Mortar was visible on the top and bottom of the larger stones but none was visible in the space between them. The precise orientation of this wall is unclear but it is likely that it ran in an east-west orientation. The stones sat on stony deposit (**203**) which contained a high concentration of degraded mortar and red brick. Dateable finds included; modern glass and pottery as well as part of the stem of a clay pipe (finds not retained). This context may be associated with the stony deposit (**113**) found in the footing trench/ground reduction part of the site. To the west-southwest of the trench the highly fragmented base of brick wall (**204**) was discovered. Two bricks were mortared together on a cement base which was 0.05m deep. The bricks were a single course high and ran in a south-east orientation. They were very degraded and bonded together with cement mortar. On the larger of the two bricks, which measured 0.12m wide by 0.06m deep, horizontal skintling was visible.

**Trench 3** (Plates 18-19)

Trench 3 was 4.60m long, 0.40m wide and >1.24m deep. It was located to the southwest of the property and was orientated north-south. Wall (**204**) continued into this trench and a steel water pipe was discovered beneath it which ran in a south-southwest – north-northeast direction. Modern deposit (**301**) which contains backfill from the house foundation ground reduction was located to the northeast of the trench.

**Trench 4** (Plate 20-21)

Trench 4 was 18m long, 0.50m wide and 0.90m deep and ran in a southwest direction from the main dwelling to an out building. The stratigraphy of Trench 4 comprised 0.30m topsoil (**400**), 0.32m burnt deposit (**401**), which was thought to be the same deposit as seen within the footing trench/ground reduction part of the site, context (**120**), and >0.26m natural (**402**). No archaeological finds or features were observed from within this trench.

Context numbers relating to the service trenches are summarised below:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100 Soakaway	Layer	L: >1.4m W: >1.2m D: 0.36m	Topsoil: mid grey brown, loose, soft silty clay with moderate fragments of building rubble, brick, iron, glass and plastic.



102 Soakaway	Layer	L: >1.4m W: >1.2m D: 0.89m	Natural strata: Light-mid browny orange, malleable/friable silty clay with moderate small chalk and sub-angular stones and minor rooting.
121 Trench 1	Made-ground	L:>3.20m W:>0.84m D:0.15m	Light grey loose rubble deposit containing composed of type 1 building material and general building detritus including brick, plastic, wood, concrete and iron, none retained.
200 Trench 2	Layer	L:>5.2m W:>0.4m D:0.36m	Topsoil: A mid grey brown friable soft clay silt containing a moderate amount of domestic and building debris including brick, iron, glass, animal bone, plastic, wood and ceramic material, none retained
201 Trench 2	Layer	L:>5.2m W:>0.4m D:0.89m	Natural: Mid orangey brown moderately compact soft silty clay which contained occasional chalk flecks.
202 Trench 2	Structural	L:>0.41m W:>0.40m D:0.09m	Roughly dressed large stones set in a light white yellow limestone mortar.
203 Trench 2	Deposit	L:>2.30m W:>0.40m D:0.09m	Stony deposit: mid white yellow friable clay sand containing a large proportion of degraded mortar and brick. Also occasional slate, blue and white porcelain, flint, clay pipe, glass and animal bone, none retained.
204 Trench 2	Structural	L:>0.12m W:>0.34 D:0.18m	Red brick foundation of brick wall set in a cement mortar.
205 Trench 2	Deposit	L:>5.2m W:>0.4m D:0.34m	Made-ground: dark grey brown, moderately compact silty clay with small sub-angular stones, fragments of animal bone, CBM and charcoal, none retained.
300 Trench 3	Layer	L:>4.6m W:>0.4m D:0.38m	Topsoil: A mid grey brown friable soft clay silt containing a moderate amount of domestic and building debris including brick, iron, glass, plastic, wood and ceramic material.
301 Trench 3	Deposit	L:>3.10m W:>0.40m D:Unknown	Modern backfill: Dark yellow brown moderately compact soft silty clay containing occasional flecks of CBM and brick fragments, backfill from observation and recording
400 Trench 4	Layer	L: >18m W: >0.5m D: 0.3m	Topsoil: mid-dark brown, loose, silty matrix with frequent rooting and small sub-angular stones.
401 Trench 4	Layer	L: >18m W: >0.5m D: 0.32m	Subsoil: A dark grey brown moderately compacted silty clay which contained inclusions of animal bone, CBM charcoal and small sub-angular stones.
402 Trench 4	Layer	L: >18m W: >0.5m D: 0.28m	Natural: Mid orangey brown moderately compact soft silty clay which contained occasional chalk flecks.





**Plate 1:** Footing trench, looking east (2x1m scale)



**Plate 2:** Footing trench, stratigraphy at the north-east side of site, looking south-east (2m scale)



**Plate 3:** Ground reduction, looking east (2x1m scale)



**Plate 4:** Ground reduction, stratigraphy at the south-east end of site, looking south-east (1m scale)



**Plate 5:** Footing trench, stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking south (1m scale)



**Plate 6:** Footing trench, brick surface [106], looking north-east (1m scale)



**Plate 7:** Ground reduction, brick surface [112], looking south-west (2 x 1m scale)



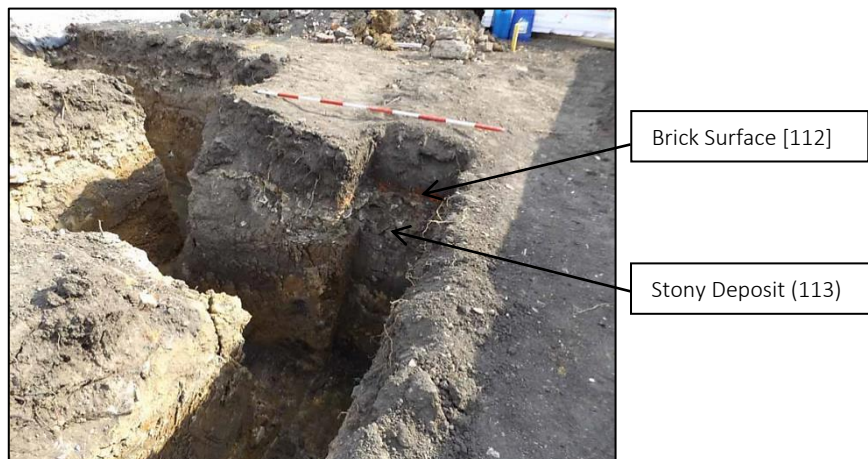
**Plate 8:** Footing trench, stone drain [105], looking south-east (1m scale)



**Plate 9:** Footing trench, brick & stone drain [116], looking north-east (50mm)



**Plate 10:** Footing trench, stony deposit (113), looking south-west (2x1m scale)



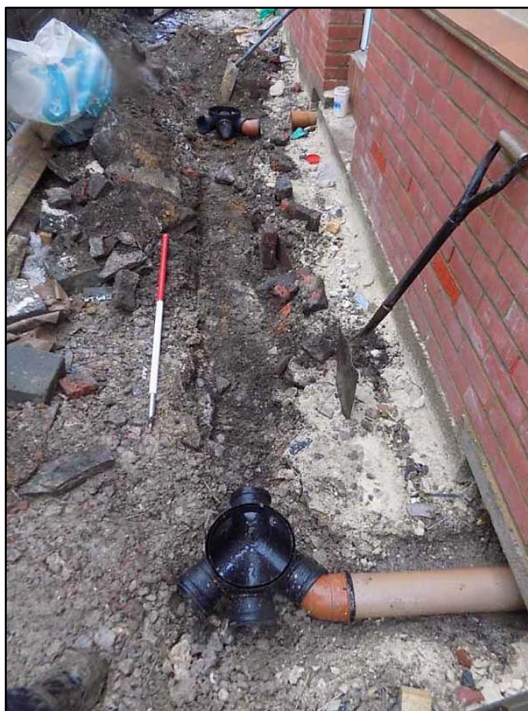
**Plate 11:** Footing trench, stony deposit (113) underlying brick surface [112], looking north-east (2m scale)



**Plate 12:** Footing trench, burnt deposit (120), looking east (1m scale)



**Plate 13:** Services, soakaway, looking north-east (2x1m scale)



**Plate 14:** Services, trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



**Plate 15:** Services, trench 2, looking west (1m scale)



**Plate 16:** Services, trench 2, stone wall [202], looking north-east (50mm scale)



**Plate 17:** Services, trench 2, brick wall [204], looking west (50mm scale)



**Plate 18:** Services, trench 3, looking south-west (1m scale)



**Plate 19:** Services, trench 3 stratigraphy, looking south-west (1m scale)



Plate 20: Services, trench 4, looking south-west (1m scale)



Plate 21: Services, trench 4 stratigraphy, looking south (1m scale)



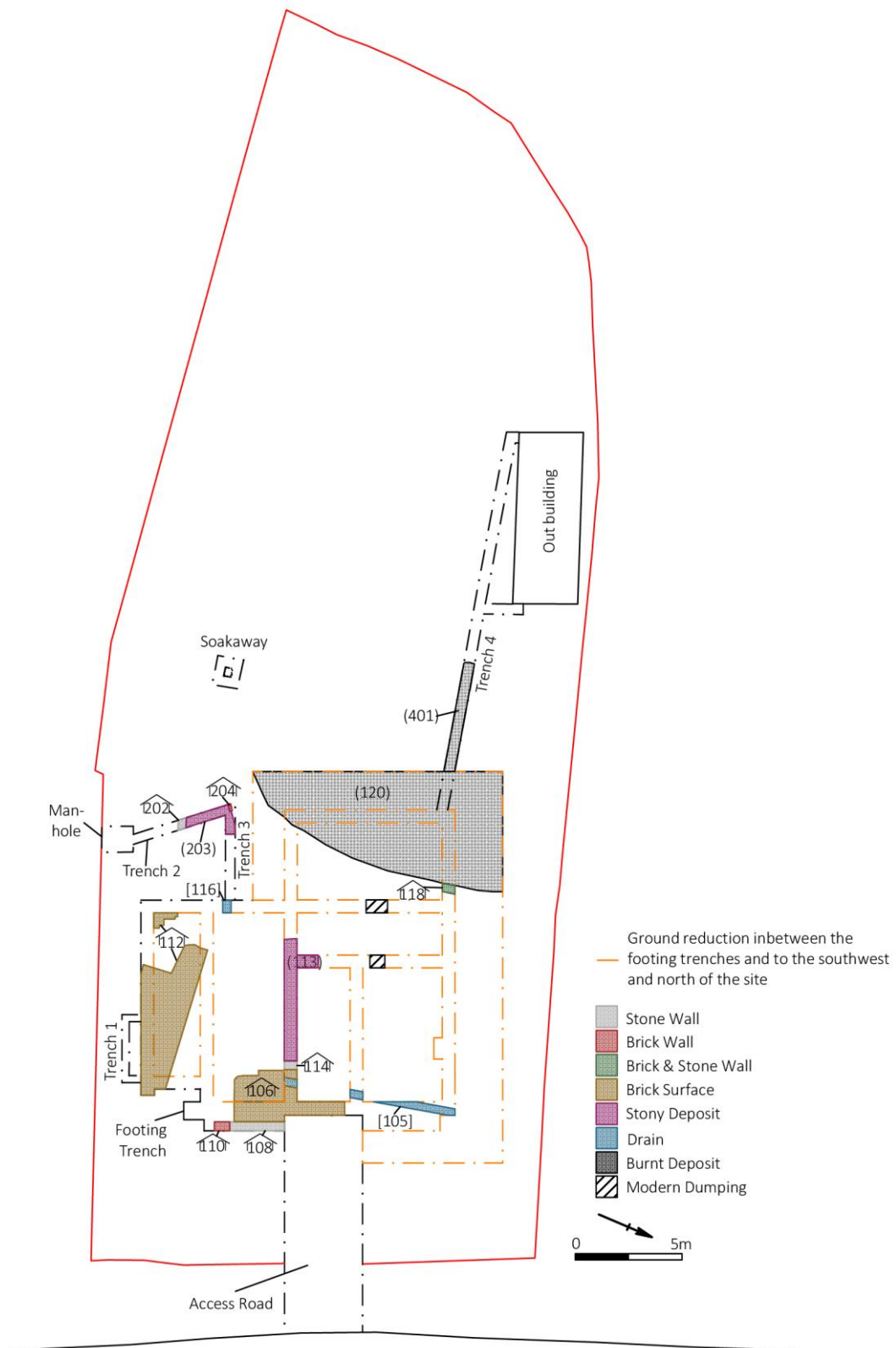


Figure 5: Archaeology plan (scale 1:300)

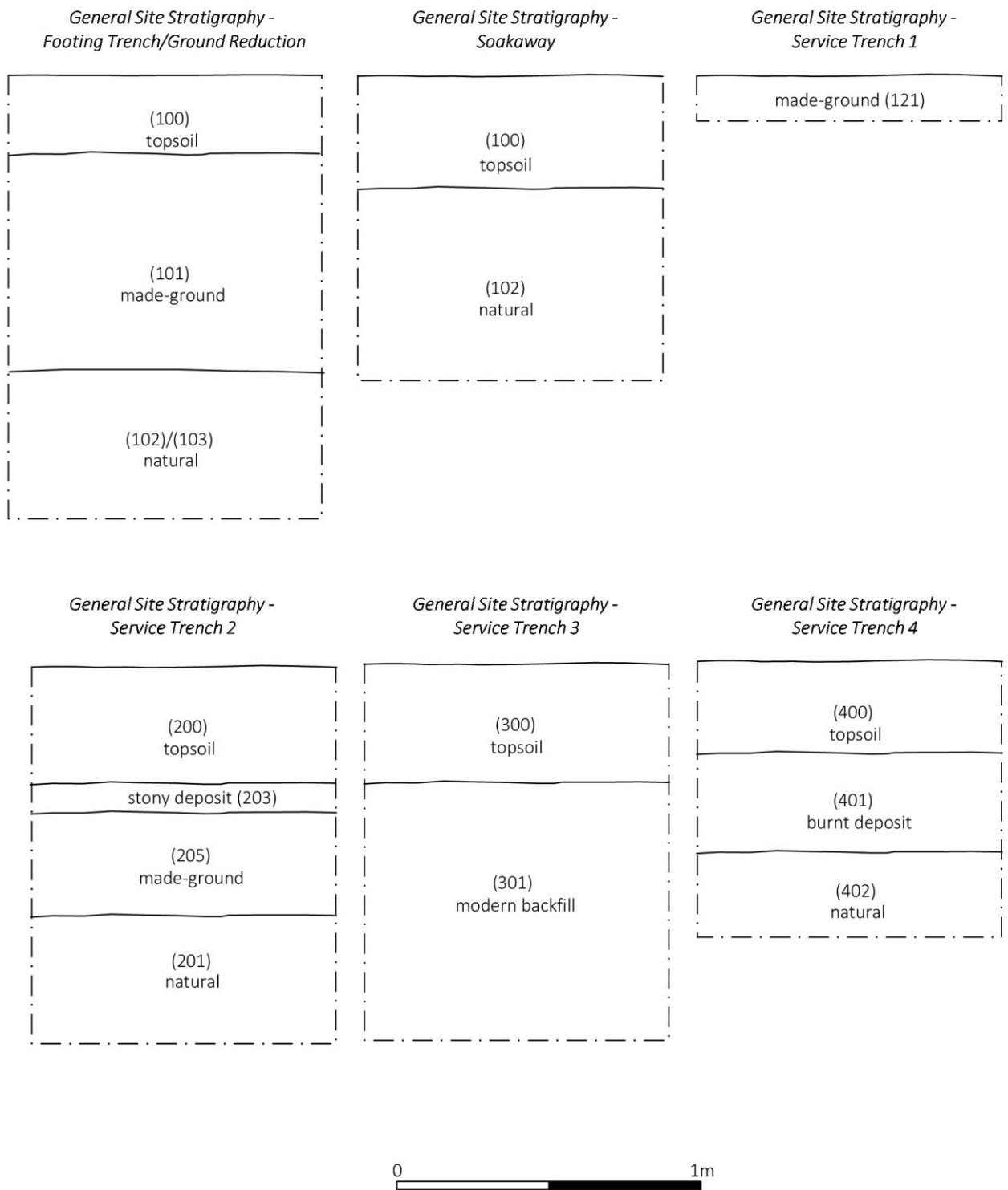
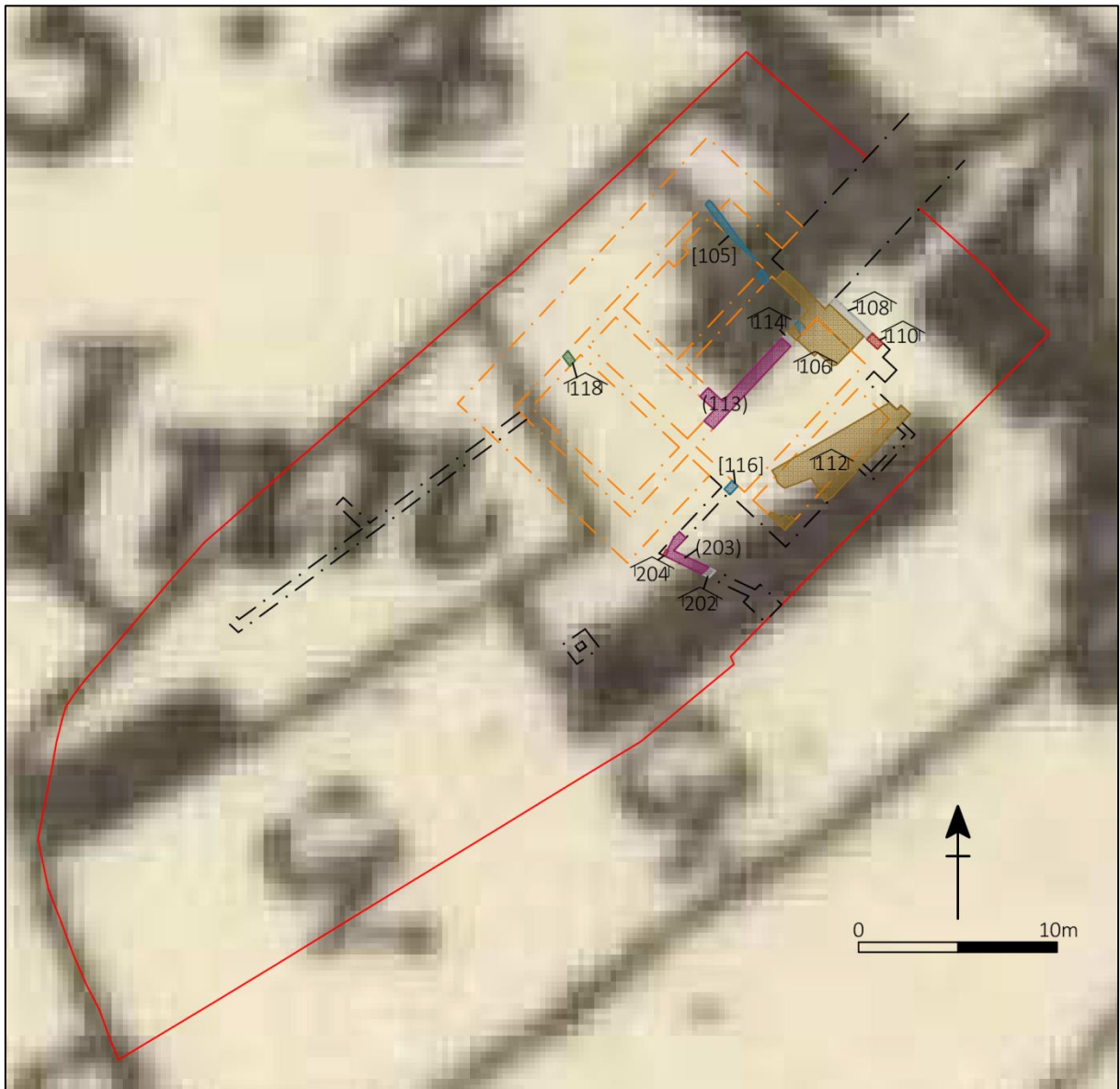


Figure 6: Section drawings (scale 1:20)



Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland

**Figure 7:** Archaeology overlying 1884 OS map of the site (scale 1:350)



## 5 Conclusions

The aims of the project were to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site; to establish the relationship of any remains found in the surrounding contemporary landscape; to recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region and to recover paleo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Throughout the groundworks a series of structural features were found consisting of stone constructed walls [108], [114] & [303], brick walls [110] & [305], and a brick and stone constructed wall [118]. Two brick surfaces were exposed [106] & [112] along with stone drain [105] and brick and stone drain [116]. A stony deposit (113) was also found both underlying and beyond brick surface [112] that may have acted as a base layer, and a further stony deposit (203) was found in service trench 2 which may have been associated to deposit (113).

The Black Horse Inn once stood on the site, and was depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Figure 4). The buildings associated with the Black Horse Inn remained extant on the site until at least 1958, when they were still shown on Ordnance Survey mapping, although the label for the Black Horse Inn disappeared by the publication of the 1925 OS map. By the publication of the 1970 OS map, the buildings had been removed.

The structural features found, in particular those of brick, were constructed with un-frogged bricks bonded with lime mortar suggesting a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date and are thought to form part of the buildings originally associated with the Black Horse Inn. Surface [112] also included a number of stable bricks inscribed with the word 'Doulton' which were believed to have been manufactured by Henry Doulton and Co, a pipe maker and brick agent of High Street, Lambeth, London established in 1846 ([http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry\\_Doulton\\_and\\_Co](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry_Doulton_and_Co)).

When overlying the archaeology with the 1884 OS map the majority of features found cannot be specifically married up to the buildings shown in the OS map, however, brick surface [112] may possibly be the floor of the rectangular building depicted on the OS map and brick surface [106] may be part of an outside yard area adjacent to the building shown towards the north-west corner of the site (Figure 7).

The general stratigraphy of the site looks to be truncated with topsoil and made-ground over the natural strata. The made-ground deposits included (101) which was found spreading throughout the footing trench and ground reduction area along with a further deposit (120) & (401) which was very black in colour with charcoal and CBM and thought to have been a result of burning. Such deposits as these most likely relate to the demolition of the buildings that originally formed the Black Horse Inn. The truncation of the site may have occurred when the site was originally developed or during demolition.

Regarding the two latter aims of the project in terms of recovering artefacts, any finds which were encountered included post-medieval finds of white ceramic and willow-pattern pottery fragments, clay pipe stems and fragments of post-medieval glass which were noted but not retained due to their later date. Also the post-medieval date of the features and the lack of cut features in the form of pits, ditches or post-holes resulted in no environmental samples being taken.



---

The site had the potential to reveal archaeological activity from a range of periods as it is located at the north western edge of the settlement of Old Stratford, close to the line of the Roman road, Watling Street. To the north west of the site a concentration of earlier activity, prehistoric, Saxon and medieval, also had the potential to extend within the boundaries of the site. However, aside from the buildings associated with the Black Horse Inn no earlier finds, features or deposits were observed. This may be a result of the site being truncated; it may also be possible that earlier features exist beyond the limits of the excavation.



---

## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Mr & Mrs Clayton for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Chris Addison from Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record Office for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; and to Liz Mordue Archaeological Advisor to Northampton County Council for monitoring the project.

The site manager Shaun O'Connor and machine driver, John are also duly acknowledged for their full co-operation during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA and Laura Dodd MSc. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA and Laura Dodd MSc and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



---

## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Monitoring sheets
5. Site drawings
6. Client's site plans
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 Currently there is no depository for archaeological material in Northamptonshire. Until a facility becomes available, KDK will provide temporary storage of archive material, which will be archived in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (2014), the Museums and Galleries Commission (1992) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).



## 8 References

### ***Standards & Specifications***

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers

Brickley M. & McKinley J. I. 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Technical Paper.

CiFA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Archiving)*

CiFA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CiFA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CiFA 2014 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. London: English Heritage

Ferguson L. M. & Murray D. M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Manchester: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1

Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

HE 2015 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. London: Historic England

Rouse, C & Barclay Jones, C 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire. KDK 096/OSW/1*.

SMA 1995 *Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).

Watkinson D. & Neal V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*. Hertford & London: Rescue

### ***Secondary Sources***

British Geological Society: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

British History Online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol5/pp198-207#h3-0003>





---

Cooper, N J (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester/ English Heritage

Knight, D Vyner, B Allen, C 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust

Mills A. D. 1991 *A Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford University Press: Oxford

Williams A. & Martin G. H. 1992 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Group: London

### ***Internet Sources***

Grace's Guide to British Industrial History: Henry Doulton and Co -  
([http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry\\_Doulton\\_and\\_Co](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Henry_Doulton_and_Co)).

National Library of Scotland: View - Northamptonshire LXI.SW (includes: Deanshanger; Old Stratford; Potterspury; Wick... - Ordnance Survey Six-inch England and Wales  
(<http://maps.nls.uk/view/101576143>).



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 096/OSW		Site Name: Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire
Digital	B&W	Subject
1		Initial site visit: test pit 1, looking NE (scale 1m)
2		Initial site visit: test pit 2, looking SE (scale 1m)
3		Initial site visit: general site shot, looking S
4		Site clearance, looking SE
5		Site clearance, looking S
6	1	Footing trench: stone drain [105], looking SE (1m scale)
7	2	Footing trench: stone drain [105], looking NE (1m scale)
8	3	Footing trench: brick surface [106], looking SE with tile (1m scale)
9		Footing trench: brick surface [106], looking SE (1m scale)
10		Footing trench: brick surface [106], detail shot, looking NE (1m scale)
11		Footing trench: brick surface [106], detail shot, looking NE (1m scale)
12	4	Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking NNW with tile (1m scale)
13		Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking NNW (1m scale)
14		Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking NNW (1m scale)
15		Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], detail shot, looking SW (1m scale)
16		Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], detail shot, looking SW (1m scale)
17		Footing trench: stone wall [108] & brick wall [110], looking SW (1m scale)
18	5	Footing trench: brick surface [112], looking SW with tile (2x1m scale)
19		Footing trench: brick surface [112], looking SW (2x1m scale)
20		Footing trench: brick surface [112], detail shot, looking SE (2x1m scale)
21		Footing trench: brick surface [112], brick variation, looking NW with tile
22		Footing trench: brick surface [112], brick variation, looking NW with tile
23		Footing trench: brick surface [112], brick variation, looking NW with tile
24		Footing trench: brick surface [112], brick variation, looking NW with tile
25	6	Footing trench: stony deposit (113), looking SW (2x1m scale)
26		Footing trench: stony deposit (113) & brick surface [112], looking SW (2x1m scale)
27		Footing trench: brick surface [112], looking SW (1m scale)
28		Footing trench: stony deposit (113), looking SW
29		Footing trench: piece of worked stone from western side of footings (1m scale)
30	7	Footing trench: stratigraphy at north-west side of footings, looking SE (2m scale)
31		Footing trench: continuation of brick surface [106] & stony deposit (113), looking NE with tile (2x1m scale)
32	8	Footing trench: continuation of brick surface [106] & stony deposit (113), looking NE (2x1m scale)
33	9	Footing trench: brick surface [106], looking NW with tile (1m scale)
34		Footing trench: brick surface [106], looking NW (1m scale)
35	10	Footing trench, looking W (2x1m scale)
36	11	Footing trench, looking NW (1m scale)
37	12	Footing trench: brick surface [106] in section, looking N (2m scale)
38	13	Footing trench: stone wall [108] in section, looking NE (2m scale)
39	14	Footing trench: stony deposit (113) & brick surface [112] in section, looking E (2m scale)
40	15	Footing trench: stony deposit (113) & brick surface [112] in section, looking NE (2m scale)
41	16	Footing trench: front footings with brick surface [106] in section, looking NW (2m scale)
42	17	Footing trench: brick surface [106] & stone wall [114] in section, looking NW (2m scale)
43	18	Footing trench: general stratigraphy at NW end of footings, looking NE (1m scale)
44		Footing trench: general stratigraphy at NW end of footings, looking NE (1m scale)



SITE NO/CODE: 096/OSW		Site Name: Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire
Digital	B&W	Subject
45	19	Footing trench, looking NE (2x1m scale)
46	20	Footing trench: brick & stone drain [116], looking NE
47	21	Footing trench: brick & stone wall [118] and burnt deposit (120), looking NE (1m scale)
48	22	Footing trench: burnt deposit (120) in section, looking E (1m scale)
49		Footing trench: burnt deposit (120) in section, looking E (1m scale)
50	23	Footing trench, looking NE (2x1m scale)
51	24	Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], looking SW (2x1m scale)
52		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], looking SW (2x1m scale)
53		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], looking NE (2x1m scale)
54		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], looking NE (2x1m scale)
55		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112] detail, looking SW (1m scale)
56		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], detail, looking SW (1m scale)
57		Ground reduction: south-east end of site, brick surface [112], detail, looking SW (1m scale)
58	25	Ground reduction: central part of site, brick surface [106] & stony deposit (113) looking SW (2x1m scale)
59		Ground reduction: central part of site, brick surface [106] & stony deposit (113), looking SW (2x1m scale)
60		Ground reduction: central part of site, brick surface [106] & stony deposit (113), looking S (2x1m scale)
61	26	Ground reduction, looking E (2x1m scale)
62	27	Ground reduction: stratigraphy at south-west end of site, looking SW with tile (1m scale)
63		Ground reduction: stratigraphy at SW end of site, looking SW (1m scale)
64		Services: soakaway, looking NE with tile (2x1m scale)
65		Services: soakaway, looking NE (2x1m scale)
66		Services: soakaway stratigraphy, looking SW (2x1m scale)
67		Services: Trench 1, looking NE with tile (1m scale)
68		Services: Trench 1, looking NE (1m scale)
69		Services: Trench 2, looking SE with tile (2x1m scale)
70		Services: Trench 2, looking SE (2x1m scale)
71		Services: Trench 3, stratigraphy, looking E (1m scale)
72		Services: Trench 3, stone wall [202], looking NE with tile
73		Services: Trench 3, stone wall [202], looking NE
74		Services: Trench 3, brick wall [204], looking S with tile
75		Services: Trench 3, brick wall [204], looking W
76		Services: Trench 3, brick wall [204], looking W
77		Services: Trench 2, looking W with tile (1m scale)
78		Services: Trench 2, looking W (1m scale)
79		Services: Trench 3, looking SW with tile (1m scale)
80		Services: Trench 3, looking SW with tile (1m scale)
81		Services: Trench2, stratigraphy, looking SW with tile (1m scale)
82		Services: Trench 2, stratigraphy, looking SW (1m scale)
83		Services: Trench 4, looking SW with tile (1m scale)
84		Services: Trench 4, looking SW (1m scale)
85		Service: Trench 4, stratigraphy, looking S with tile (1m scale)
86		Service: Trench 4, stratigraphy, looking S with tile (1m scale)



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire	Project Site Code	096/OSW
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-198277	Museum Event No	ENN108297
OS reference	477679 241319	Study area size	1108.41 sq. m
Project Type	Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	75mAOD
Short Description	Between April 2015 and March 2016 an Observation and Recording project was carried out at Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire during the construction of a residential dwelling on the site. Throughout the project a series of walls, surfaces and drainage were found, whilst the general stratigraphy of the site revealed a made-ground deposit thought to have been a result of demolition. The walls are likely to be associated with a post-medieval public house, the Black Horse Inn, which once stood on the site and was depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 and subsequent maps until 1970s when buildings are no longer shown.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Single housing development	Current land use	Disused ground
Local Planning Authority	South Northamptonshire Council	Planning application ref.	S/2014/0953/FUL
Monument type	Wall, drains, surfaces	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Liz Mordue (Northants CC)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Clayton		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	16.04.15	End date	03.03.16
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre – Not currently open	None	
Paper		WSI, report, site records, black and white photographs and negatives	
Digital		CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording: Land Adjacent to 47 Towcester Road, Old Stratford, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	096/OSW 2.0		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA & Laura Dodd MSc		
Page no's	35	Date	29/03/16