



**A programme of archaeological observation
investigation, recording and publication at
5 Church Street, Broughton
Northamptonshire
August 2019**

Report No. 19/82

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Illustrator: Sofia Turk



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Project Manager: Jim Brown
Site Code: ENN109374
NGR: SP 8348 7572

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Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	04/09/2019	Chris Chinnock	Rob Atkins	Jim Brown	Draft for client review

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1 – 364305	
Project title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and publication at 5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire, August 2019		
<p>MOLA undertook archaeological observation, investigation and recording during construction of four new bungalows at 5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire. There were no archaeological finds or features within any of the foundation trenches. The thickness of the subsoil suggested it was either imported onto the site, or may derive from flattened medieval cultivation earthworks. There was no evidence that the medieval village extended as far south as Church Street.</p>			
Project type	observation, investigation and recording (OIR)		
Site status	none		
Previous work	none		
Current land use	residential		
Development type	residential		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type/period	none		
Significant finds	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire		
Postcode	NN14 1LU		
OS coordinates	SP 8348 7572		
Area (sq m/ha)	1,655m ²		
Height aOD	c110–115m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Project Manager	Jim Brown, MOLA		
Project Supervisor	Adam Reid, MOLA		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Dipen Patel		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	14/08/2019		
End date	16/08/2019		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content	
Physical	ENN109374 MOLA Northampton	none	
Digital		photographs	
Paper		daily record sheets	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Unpublished MOLA report		
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and publication at 5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire, August 2019		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report, 19/82		
Author(s)	Adam Reid		
Page numbers	10		
Date	04/09/2019		

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Abstract

MOLA undertook archaeological observation, investigation and recording during construction of four new bungalows at 5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire. There were no archaeological finds or features within any of the foundation trenches. The thickness of the subsoil suggested it was either imported onto the site, or may derive from flattened medieval cultivation earthworks. There was no evidence that the medieval village extended as far south as Church Street.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr Dipen Patel to undertake archaeological observation, investigation and recording (OIR) during construction of new bungalows, plots 1–3, and the renovation of the existing bungalow at 5 Church Street, Broughton, Northamptonshire (Fig 1; NGR SP 83482 75732). The Assistant Archaeological Planning Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC Planning) required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken to mitigate the impact of the development (NCC 2019). The works followed a specification set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2019), and approved by the local authority prior to development. The OIR was undertaken from 14th–16th August 2019 in liaison with NCC Planning.

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a), and recognised professional standards and guidance (ClfA 2014b; HE 2015).

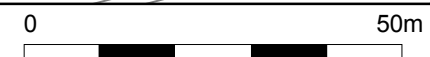
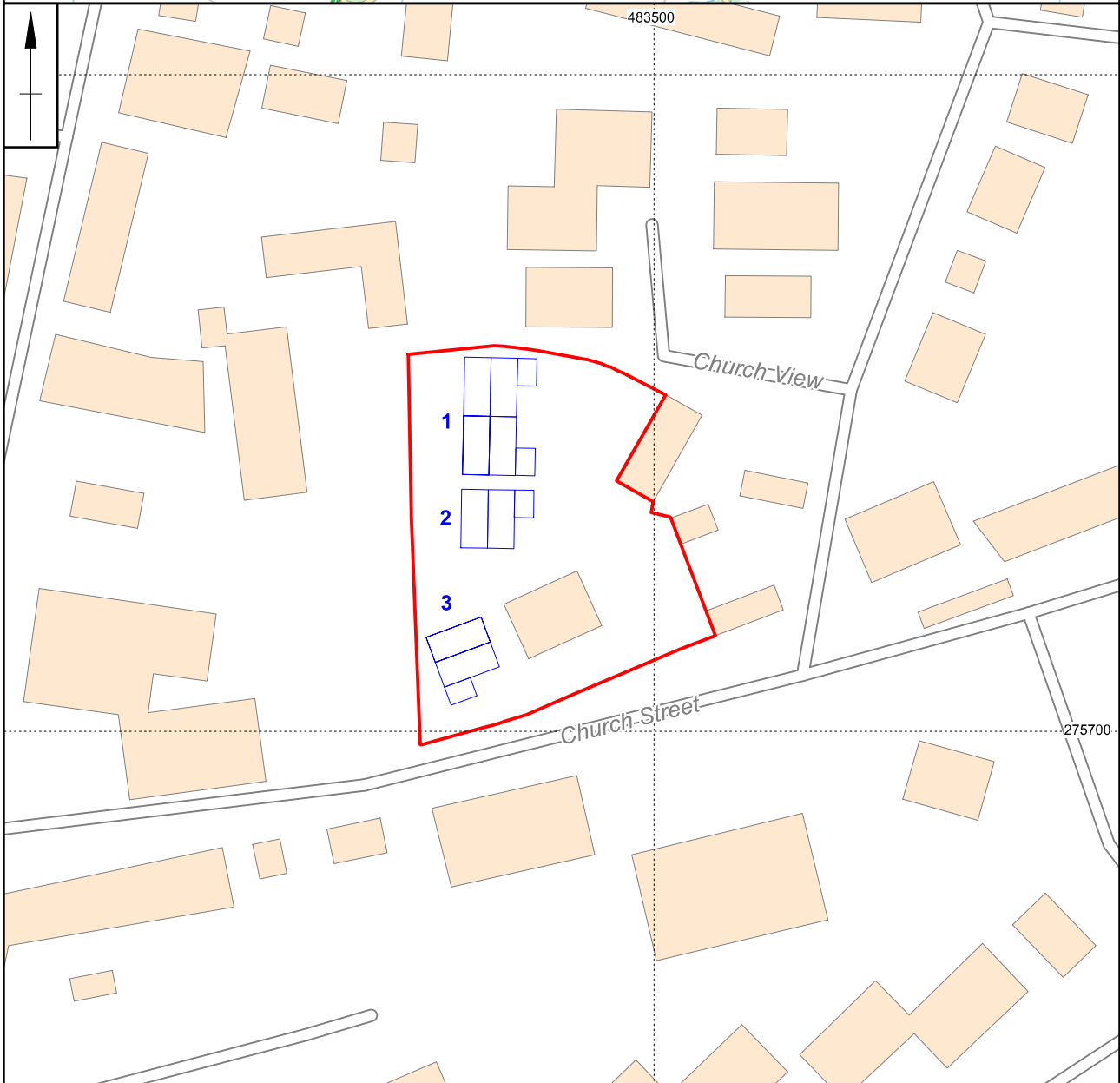
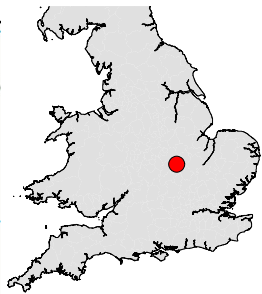
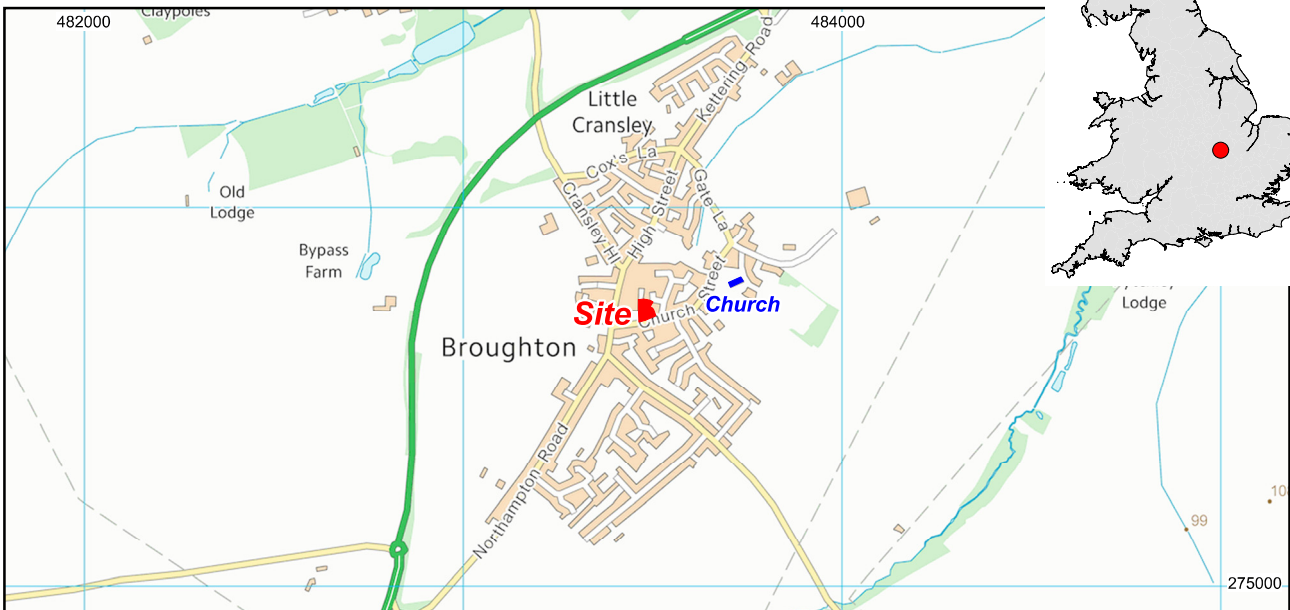
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The site lies in the centre of the modern village of Broughton and outside the south-western edge of the area of known historic settlement (Fig 1). The proposed development area lies within an existing house plot. The site is bounded to the north by Church View, to the east by 7 Church Street and by sheds at the rear of Eastgate. Church Street bounds the south of the site and the Red Lion car park is to the west.

The land is at c110–115m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and slightly south of the head of a stream valley that flows north-east from the village to join the River Ise, near Kettering. The historic core of the village is situated around the spring head.

The solid geology comprised interbedded sandstone and siltstone; in most of Northamptonshire, this boundary is seen as an ironstone or ferruginous sandstone of the Northampton Sand Formation or mudstone (BGS 2019). The soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage that are considered to be highly fertile vegetation (LandIS 2019).

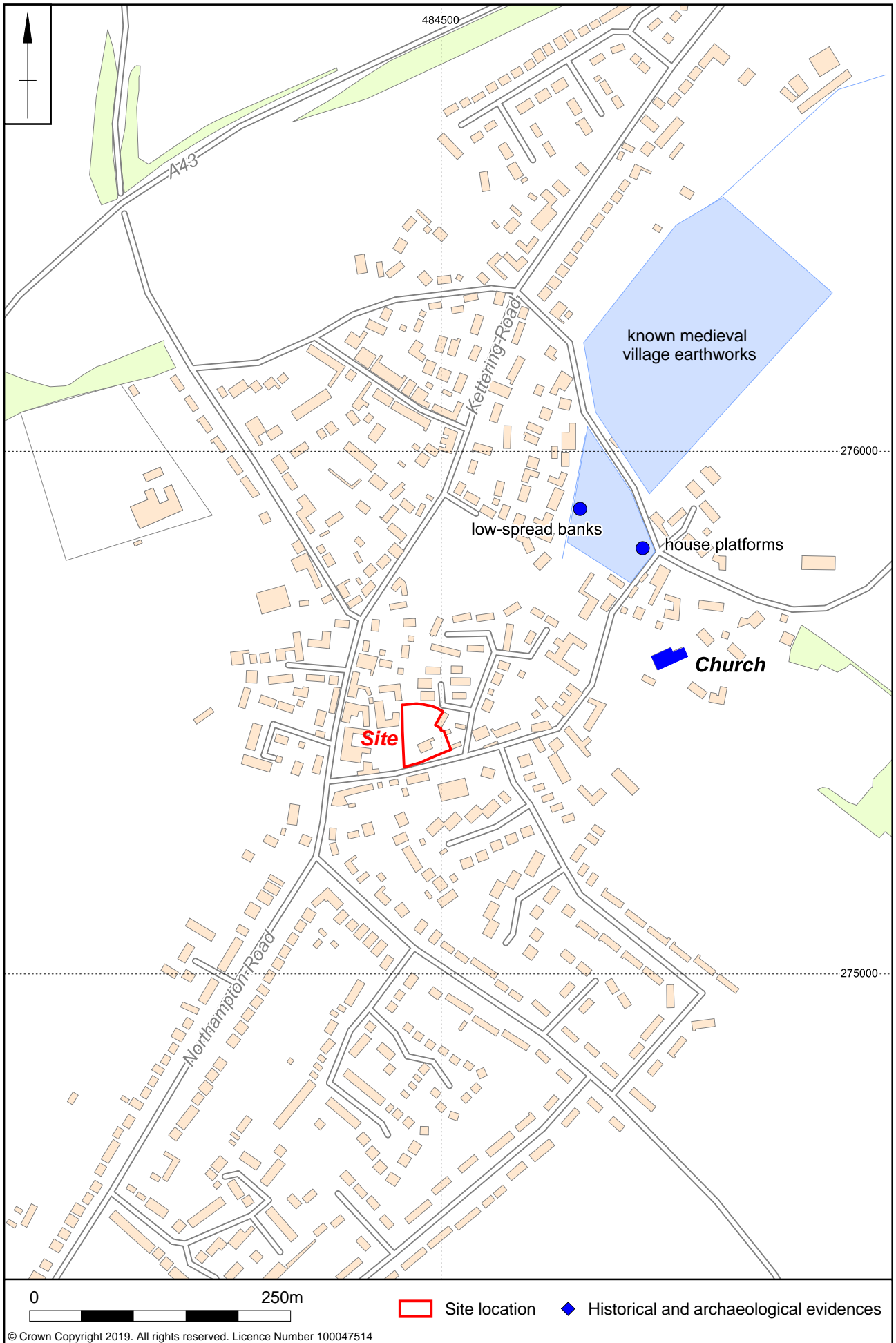


- Site location
- Location of house footprints

OS OpenData contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Scale 1:1000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 5000

Historical and archaeological background Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

There had been no previous archaeological investigation within the site and little information was available from previous surveys in the vicinity. The *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England (RCHME)* provides details on the historic medieval settlement of Broughton (RCHME 1979, 12–14); it also records that a stone axe of porphyritic basalt was found in the village and a leaf-shaped arrowhead somewhere in the parish. Aerial photographs show a possible ring ditch, 30m in diameter, on high ground to the south of the village (RAF VAP F22 540/RAF/1312, 0161–2). Roman pottery was found to the east of the village (NGR SP 8455 7579), including a 4th-century coin. The RCHME suggests that this was subsequently investigated but does not provide a reference.

The medieval and later settlement remains lie on either side of a steep-sided valley 200m to the north of the church on either side of Gate Lane (Fig 2). Immediately south-west of Gate Lane and along the north side of Church Street are several rectangular raised house platforms within small embanked closes. On the west side of the valley are low-spread banks extending down the hillside from the rear gardens in High Street. These appear to be abandoned closes, once belonging to those houses. To the north-east of Gate Lane is a sub-rectangular enclosure lying on the edge of the valley side that is bounded by a broad ditch and is divided into two by a low internal bank. There are a series of low banks or scarps extending down the hillside, which may be old closes.

The common fields of the parish were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1786. Almost the whole parish except along the valley bottoms and in the extreme south-west is shown, on an estate map of 1728, divided into six open fields with the internal furlongs named and strips indicated (photocopy in Northamptonshire Record Office).

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Glebe Avenue, Broughton, identified two ditches and a pit, each containing pottery dating to the late Iron Age (Wolfram-Murray 2013). Additionally, three undated ditches and a possible alluvial layer were found. Earthworks from medieval ridge and furrow cultivation survived in part of the area and the remnant furrows were seen in all of the trenches.

Archaeological mitigation work, in advance of redevelopment, at 56 Church Street identified the remains of structures dating to the 19th century, but found no evidence of earlier activity (Markus 2014).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project aims

The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeology revealed within its cultural and environmental setting. In particular the investigation aimed to:

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

3.2 Research potential

Potential for specific research objectives outlined in national (HE 2017) and regional research frameworks (Knight *et al* 2012; Cooper 2006) was not possible on the basis of the results of the work.

4 METHODOLOGY

A programme of observation, investigation and record (OIR) was carried out during topsoil and subsoil stripping, and the cutting of foundation trenches (Figs 3–5). This primarily took place within the footprints of the new dwellings, plots 1–3 (Fig 1). Excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and supervision was provided by an experienced archaeologist. The footings for three new structures were excavated and no archaeological remains were encountered. Following submission of site images and after three days attendance, it was determined by NCC Planning that further archaeological supervision was no longer required.

Foundation trenches were located using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A record of daily attendances, observations and records of investigation were logged on MOLA *pro-forma* record sheets following company standards (MOLA 2014). All levels were related to Ordnance Datum from the GPS. A photographic record was maintained comprising high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels.

5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

5.1 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate comprised light orange-brown siltstone and ironstone, with concentrations of light white chalky limestone encountered in the south-western portion of the development area. The substrate was overlain by subsoil and built-up ground comprising mid brown-grey clayey loam that was present in all parts of the site, 0.35m–0.60m thick (Fig 6). This layer was fairly homogenous and comprised a mixture of imported subsoil. The topsoil comprised dark brown-grey clayey loam, 0.20m–0.30m thick.

5.2 Results of archaeological observation, investigation and recording

Foundation trenches were cut through the topsoil and subsoil, c0.5m wide and 1.2m–1.9m deep, to reach solid natural ground. The topsoil and subsoil was fairly consistent across all three plots (Figs 6–8), although there were localised variations of the substrate in each set of trenches.

Late post-medieval and modern debris, including brick tile and a glass bottle, were found within the subsoil, but were not retained. As these materials date from the late 19th–early 20th centuries and were within an unstratified subsoil horizon, it is likely that the older material was mixed in during the mid-20th century when the subsoil was last heavily disturbed. The existing bungalow first appeared on Ordnance Survey maps after 1938, and further 20th-century occupation debris will have derived after this date. No other finds or features were observed in the foundation trenches.



Partial topsoil and subsoil strip, looking north-east Fig 3



Foundation trenches, plots 1–2, looking south Fig 4



Foundation trenches, plots 1–2, looking east Fig 5



Foundation trench, plot 1, looking west Fig 6



Foundation trench, plot 2, looking south Fig 7



Foundation trench, plot 3, looking north-west Fig 8

6 DISCUSSION

A low level of debris was observed from the late 19th–early 20th centuries contained within the subsoil built up across the site, and lying beneath the topsoil. There were no archaeological finds or features within any of the foundation trenches, plots 1–3.

The development of the site after 1938 may have resulted in the increased depth of soils across the site. No buried soil horizons survived as evidence of previous land use, and the lack of medieval or earlier finds suggested the plot was not occupied. The plot probably lay outside the historic core of Broughton village, slightly to the south, and was a small close; probably latterly pasture during the early 20th century. The plot was infilled toward the end of the inter-war years, 1919–1939. Ordnance Survey maps show the first building on the site appeared after 1938, which is when the subsoil was last heavily disturbed.

As there is no evidence prior to this that the land was built upon, the thickness of homogenous subsoil suggests that it was either imported onto the site, or, that the deep subsoil may derive from flattened medieval cultivation earthworks, levelled out over the plot.

The current landowner confirmed that the land behind the house was previously used as a bowling green and had likely received modification to provide a level playing surface. The area surrounding the site has been developed into residential housing, except to the west where the Red Lion car park is located. This appeared to have a differing ground level, suggesting that build-up or levelling deposits are limited to the current development area.

The complete lack of archaeological features precluded any contribution towards research potential, but it would seem that the deserted medieval village and earthworks to the north-east did not extend as far south as Church Street.

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04 September 2019



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