

**35 CHURCH STREET,
NASSINGTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NGR REF: TL 06491 96149



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
(OASIS ID: 254222)

MAY 2016

PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON

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Summary

An Archaeological Monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new dwelling at 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire. The deposits within the site contained late Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery. The site, therefore, showed evidence of human activity from the 9th to the 18th Century.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 06491 96149) (Figure 1-2). The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as discussions with Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Officer at Northamptonshire County Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (15/01378/LBC and more) for a new development at 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire. The development comprised a new two-storey dwelling with associated garage, driveway and service trenches.
- 2.2 The development site was located in the central parts of the village of Nassington. It enclosed an area of some 400m² at an average height of 21m AOD. The western and eastern sides of the site were occupied by existing dwellings, while Church Street was limiting the site in the north. A green field, with possible Saxon or Medieval ponds, was adjacent to the development site in the south. The geology of the site comprised Grantham Formation Siltstone, Sandstone and Mudstone, overlain by River Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Northamptonshire HER. Therefore, archaeological monitoring and documentation was required prior to the proposed construction works. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by East Northamptonshire District Council, and was in line with standards described in *NPPF* (2012).



Figure 1. The location of Nassington in England.

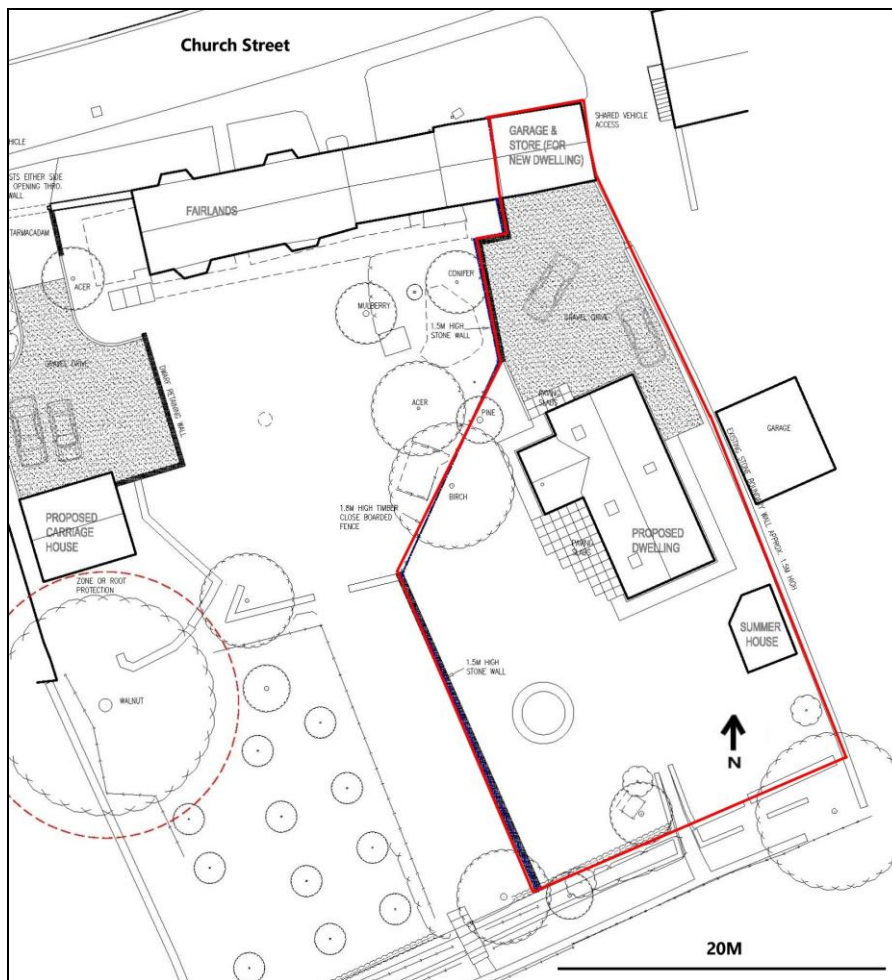


Figure 2. Site Location in Nassington.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site was located within an area of historic settlement on the south side of Church Street in Nassington. Records from aerial photographs indicate the presence of cropmarks or earthworks, especially to the south of the houses fronting on to the south side of Church Street. These are thought to represent Saxon or Medieval fishponds.
- 3.2 To the rear of 25 Church Street, to the east of the application site, a possible Saxon or Medieval ditch has been recorded from aerial photographs and east of that, at Manor Farm, the cropmark could indicate remains of a building.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the monitoring were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, nature, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
 - iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
 - iv) to mitigate potential threats;
 - v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
 - vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
 - vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.
- 4.2 The monitoring also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Ed. Nicholas J. Cooper) Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13, *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen, C. 2012), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997) and *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the sites in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Stripping of topsoil and overburden within the investigation area

The archaeological monitoring consisted of continuous observation during the removal of topsoil and overburden within the development area. The monitoring was therefore concentrated to areas of development, and focused mainly on the footprints of the new dwelling and outbuilding, while remaining parts were subject to monitoring during the excavation of service trenches.

The stripping of overburden was conducted under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The investigation area was mechanically stripped to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any deposits present within the site.

The excavation of the site took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. Due to a lack of space the topsoil and subsoil were transported away from the site during the course of the archaeological investigation.

When archaeological deposits were encountered they were hand cleaned, investigated and recorded according to the parameters described below. The investigation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets within the site.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed deposits and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made deposits were hand cleaned, photographed, excavated and documented. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and sampling of the deposits were sufficient to establish the date, character and relationships with other deposits. Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features.

The investigation provided a full documentation and interpretation of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the historical remains therein. Judgement regarding the removal of structural remains, or other special remains or deposits, was led by this consideration, and was always made in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

The developer was informed that provision had to be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording or bad weather.

5.4 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Excavation plans and sections in the scales 1:50 and 1:20 were produced for all excavated areas and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also used in this report (a maximum of two photos per A4 sheet). The photographic record followed the outlines in NAAWG 2014 paragraph A1.10.9 for site photographic guidance.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The lowest deposit encountered within the site was the Natural ground, which consisted of orange yellow, firm gravel. The Natural showed no traces of human activities, and no archaeological features were seen cut into the Natural.
- 6.2 Covering the Natural was the up to 0.39m thick Subsoil (102), which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones. From this layer was collected 7 sherds of pottery, spanning from the 9th to the 18th Century.
- 6.3 The Subsoil contained 3 sherds of Stamford Ware from ca. AD 850-1250, 1 sherd of Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware from ca AD 1150-1400, 1 sherd of Shelly Coarseware from ca AD 1100-1400, 1 sherd of Red Earthenwares from ca AD 1450-1600 and 1 sherd of Iron-Glazed Coarsewares from the late 17th-18th Century.
- 6.4 The uppermost deposit with the investigation area was the up to 0.47m thick Topsoil (101), which consisted of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones and roots.

- 6.5 The stratigraphy in the service trench was very similar to the deposits within the footprints of the new dwelling. The new outbuilding in the south eastern part of the site was erected on a new concrete slab. The stripping of topsoil in this area did not reach deeper than ca 0.20m, and the shallow trench revealed no features of archaeological interest.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 The artefactual evidence from the site at 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire consisted to 100% of various pottery sherds. The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 167g. It comprised a mixture of late Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval material, and occurred in a single context, the Subsoil (102). It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F205: Stamford Ware, AD850-1250. 3 sherds, 92g.

F319: Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware, AD 1150-1400. 1 sherd, 25g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD 1100-1400. 1 sherd, 13g.

F407: Red Earthenwares, AD 1450-1600. 1 sherd, 23g.

F426: Iron-Glazed Coarsewares, Late 17th-18th Century. 1 sherd, 14g.

- 7.2 The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010). Two of the three sherds of Stamford Ware are from the rims of small unglazed jars, and have simple everted forms. They are likely to be of late Saxon date (Kilmurry 1980). The other sherd is glazed, and probably of late 10th-11th century date. The rest of the assemblage consists of plain bodysherds.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological monitoring at 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire showed evidence for human activity from the 9th to the 18th Century. This result fits nicely with the known history of the village; The ponds south of the site are likely to be from the late Saxon or Medieval period, and previous archaeological investigations in the village have exposed finds and features of similar dates.
- 8.2 Even though no archaeological features were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring it is important to remember that Nassington is a village with high archaeological potential. The site was situated along Church Street, one of the oldest streets through the village, which is leading up to the Medieval parish church. No foundations from any previous buildings were found along the street, where the service trench was excavated from Church Street through the existing building. The pottery which was collected during the fieldworks indicates, however, that the plots along Church Street have a high archaeological potential, with a history that stretches over at least 1000 years.



Figure 3. The various layers of topsoil and subsoil within the site were very thick, and indicates that garden soil has been brought into the plot over the centuries. The subsoil (102) contained pottery from the late Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval periods, and indication that the deposits are very mixed. The Natural ground showed no traces of human activity.



Figure 4. The new outbuilding in the south eastern part of the site was erected on a new concrete slab. The shallow stripping of topsoil in this area revealed no features of archaeological interest.

9 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Northamptonshire County Council.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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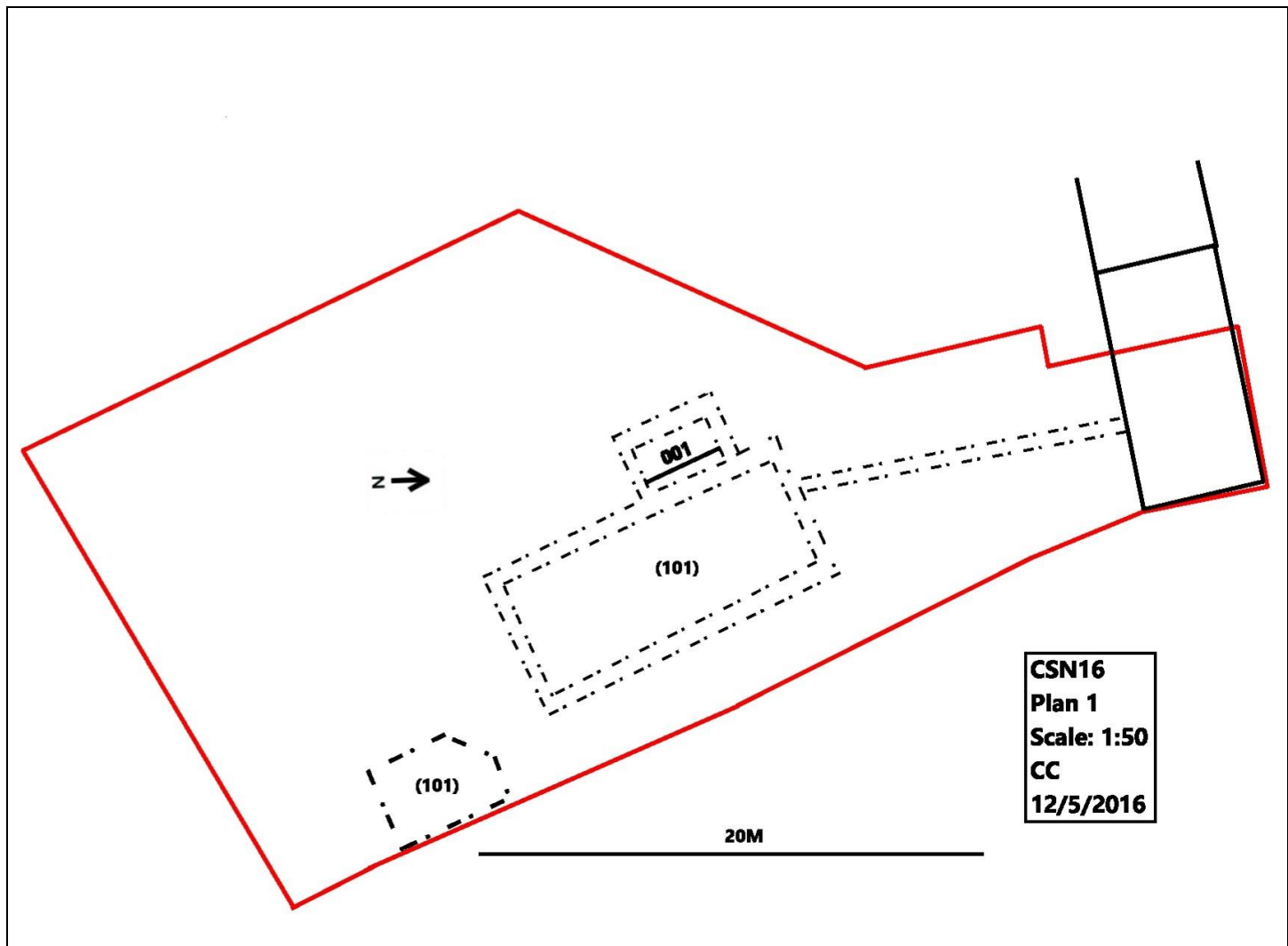
APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

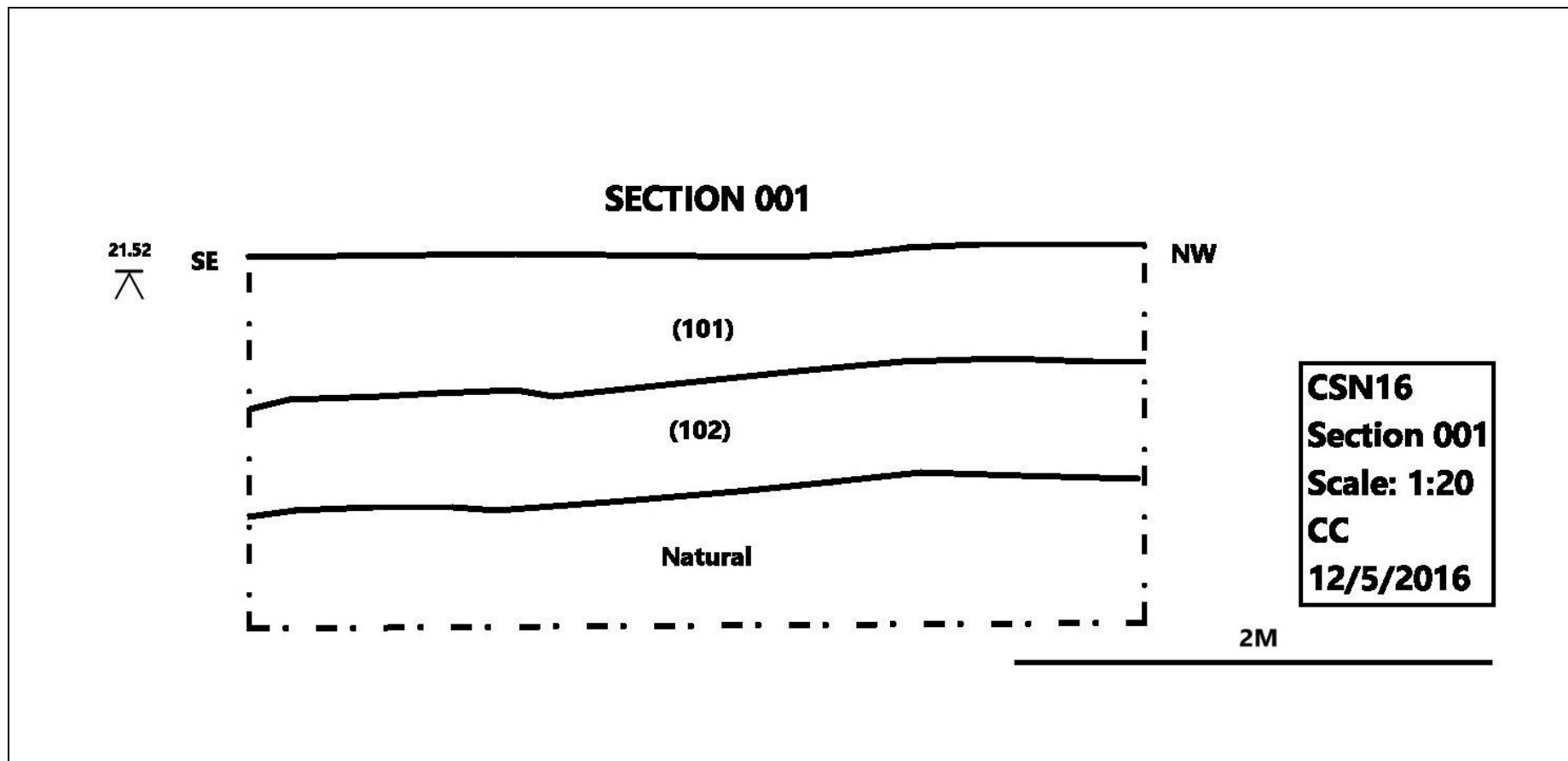
Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
(101)	0.47	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones and roots.	(102)	-
(102)	0.39	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Natural of orange yellow, firm gravel.	-	(102)

FINDS LIST

Find nr	Context	Material	Object	Description	Period
1	(102)	Fired Clay	3 sherds of pottery	Stamford Ware	AD850-1250
2	(102)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware	AD 1150-1400
3	(102)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Shelly Coarseware	AD 1100-1400
4	(102)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Red Earthenwares	AD 1450-1600
5	(102)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late 17 th -18 th Century



CSN16
Plan 1
Scale: 1:50
CC
12/5/2016



35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

OASIS ID: independ1-254222

Project details

Project name	35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Monitoring for the construction of a new dwelling and associated driveway, garage and service trenches.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2016 End: 24-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CSN16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/01378/LBC - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	BT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BT Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NASSINGTON 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire

35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

Postcode PE8 6QG
Study area 400 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 06491 96149 52.552385196373 -0.429188087292 52 33 08 N 000 25 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 20m Max: 22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Council
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Council
Digital Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Council
Paper Contents "Ceramics"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title 35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Monitoring

35 Church Street, Nassington, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

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