LAND BEHIND NEWTON FARMHOUSE,

12 CHURCH LANE,

NEWTON BROMSWOLD,

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NGR REF: SP 99848 65921



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (OASIS ID: independ1-262375)

AUGUST 2016

PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new horse training arena on land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire. Two test pits revealed well preserved stratigraphy and earthworks from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The cultural layers contained frequent pottery sherds from the last 900 years. Towards the end of the projects an earthwork survey was carried out to document the preserved earthworks within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The site was located on land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 99848 65921) (Figure 1-3). Two test pits were opened up in the central parts of the site and revealed well preserved stratigraphy from the Norman period to the present day. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* 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 A Planning Application for a new development on land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire will be sent to the Council later in 2016. The development comprises a new horse training arena in an area with well preserved Medieval earthworks to the rear of the existing farm house.
- 2.2 The development site was located in the northern parts of the village of Newton Bromswold. It enclosed an area of some 3500m² at an average height of 90m AOD. The site was located in paddock. The eastern and western sides of the paddock were occupied by existing dwellings, while Newton Farmhouse was located in the south. Rushden Road was limiting the paddock in the north. The geology of the site comprised Oadby Member- Diamicton over Oxford Clay Formations- Mudstone (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Northamptonshire HER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction on the site. This decision was in line with pre-application standards described in the *NPPF*.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The application site was located within an area of historic settlement, to the north of Church Lane and south of Rushden Road. Newton Bromswold is characterised in the County Historic Environment Record as a shrunken village, and the earthwork remains of former settlement are visible at a number of locations in the modern village. These have been mapped from aerial photographs.
- 3.2 Newton Bromswold is a small settlement surrounded by the earthwork remains of the Medieval village, including substantial linear features probably representing boundaries between house and garden plots. Such features were also present within the application site.
- 3.3 However, it was not possible to assess from the information provided by the applicant whether the proposal would affect the earthworks and, if so, to what extent. There was also the potential for buried remains of Medieval settlement to be present in association with the earthworks.

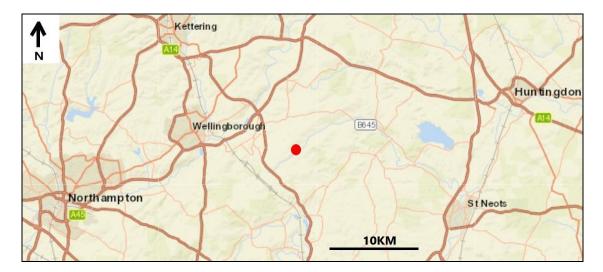


Figure 1. The location of Newton Bromswold in England.



Figure 2. Site Location.



Figure 3. Development Area (Black rectangle). Test pit Locations (Red dots) and area for Earthwork Survey (Red rectangle).

4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the evaluation 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 evaluation 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, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *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 site in the broader landscape; *characterisation of the activities identified within the site; *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Test Pitting

It was suggested that two 2x2m large test pits were opened up within the proposed development area. The total area covered by the test pits was therefore $8m^2$, or ca. 1% of the development area.

The location of the test pits targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The locations of the test pits was, however, slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The test pits were excavated to the upper interface of natural deposits. Handexcavation was required to clean up sections and to collect finds exposed during the digging of the test pits.

The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

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 features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

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. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts were acceptable.

The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein.

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. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:200 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to area 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 colour prints formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photographs was also used in this report (maximum of two photographs per A4 sheet). The photographic record followed the outlines in NAAWG 2014 paragraph A1.10.9 for site photographic guidance.

5.5 Earthwork Survey

A detailed earthwork survey of all visible earthworks within the 20m x 40m large development area was carried out. A further 15m of any potential earthworks on all sides of the proposed horse exercise area were also documented to assure the features could be understood in a larger geographical and historical context.

The location of the earthwork survey, therefore, targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The earthwork survey was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to the preserved archaeological remains.

6 **RECORDING**

- 6.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.
- 6.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:200 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 A photographic record comprising monochrome, digital and colour slides formed part of the excavation record. The photographic record followed the outlines in NAAWG 2014 paragraph A1.10.9 for site photographic guidance.

7 **RESULTS**

Test pit 1

- 7.1 Underlying all other deposits in Test pit 1 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow grey, firm clay with frequent stones and flint and occasional roots. No features or cuts could be seen in the Natural.
- 7.2 Overlaying the Natural was an up to 0.10m thick dark grey, soft silty clay deposit with occasional roots, stones and mortar (103). The layer also contained frequent Medieval pottery.
- 7.3 Layer (103) was entirely covered by an up to 0.13m thick deposit of light grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones and mortar (102). This layer also contained frequent pottery, but the pottery was in general younger and could mostly be dated to the Post Medieval period.
- 7.4 The uppermost deposit in Test pit 1 was the up to 0.17m thick Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones and mortar (101). No finds could be seen in the Topsoil.



Figure 4. Test pit 1. Section 001. Northwest facing photo.

Test pit 2

- 7.5 Underlying all other deposits in Test pit 2 was a very similar Natural as in Test pit 1, consisting of yellow grey, firm clay with frequent stones and flint and occasional roots. No features or cuts could be seen in the Natural.
- 7.6 Overlaying the Natural was an up to 0.20m thick dark grey, soft silty clay deposit with occasional roots, stones and mortar (203). The layer also contained frequent Medieval pottery.
- 7.7 Layer (203) was entirely covered by an up to 0.18m thick deposit of light grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones and mortar (202). This layer also contained frequent pottery, but the pottery was in general younger and could mostly be dated to the Post Medieval period.
- 7.8 The uppermost deposit in Test pit 1 was the up to 0.20m thick Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones and mortar (201). No finds could be seen in the Topsoil.



Figure 5. Test pit 2. Section 002. Northwest facing photo.

8 FINDS

The Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)

- 8.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 43 sherds with a total weight of 461g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern wares. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:
- F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 2 sherds, 44g.
- F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 1600. 2 sherds, 18g.
- F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 8g.
- F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 6g.
- F365: Late Medieval Reduced Ware, AD1400-?1500. 1 sherd, 3g.
- F401: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, AD1450 1550. 18 sherds, 147g
- F403: Midland Purple Ware, AD1450-1600. 2 sherds, 10g,.
- F426: Iron-Glazed Coarsewares, c late 17th 18th century. 6 sherds, 103g
- **F438:** English Stoneware, late 17th 18th century. 1 sherd, 19g.
- F1000: Misc 19th and 20th century Wares. 8 sherds, 48g.
- F1001: All Romano-British. 1 sherd, 55g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010). The bulk of the Medieval assemblage dates to the 15th and 16th centuries, with common earlier Medieval ($12^{th} - 14^{th}$ century) wares such as Shelly Coarseware (fabric F330) rare, and others, particularly Lyveden/Stanion Wares (F319, F320) entirely absent. The large sherd of Romano-British material is from the rim of a large shelly ware storage jar.

The assemblage is generally in good condition, and appears securely stratified.

		R	В	F2	00	F3	30	F3	60	F3	29	F3	65	F4	-01	F4	03	F4	26	F4	38	F10	000	
ТР	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date												
1	(102)																	5	87			8	48	MOD
1	(103)			1	33			1	6					16	120	2	10							M15thC
2	(202)					1	8			1	6			2	27			1	16	1	19			L17thC
2	(203)	1	55	1	11					1	12	1	3											L14thC
	Total	1	55	2	44	1	8	1	6	2	18	1	3	18	147	2	10	6	103	1	19	8	48	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context byfabric type

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire. The investigation showed that well preserved stratigraphy exists within the area, and that the deposits mainly contain finds from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods.
- 9.2 In the two test pits that were opened up in the central parts of the development area a large number of pottery sherds were uncovered in two different layers. The later pottery was on top of the older, with little evidence for mixed materials, and the scientific potential of the site appears to be good.
- 9.3 The fact that no features were encountered in any of the test pits is interesting, but it is important to remember that only a very limited area was covered by the two test pits. Archaeological features, such as houses, ditches, pits and hearths, can therefore still exist within the site.
- 9.4 The oldest pottery from the test pits indicates human activity within the village since at least the Norman Period. This date fits nicely together with the date of the nearby Norman village church. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery may, however, indicate older activity in the area.
- 9.5 The fact that Modern pottery was found in the upper layers of especially test pit 1 is equally interesting, as this raise the question of exactly when the northern parts of the village was deserted. Since a large part of the settlement still exists it is possible that the youngest pottery, which was in general found higher up in the test pits, could be fairly recent domestic waste from the still standing properties in the village.
- 9.6 The earthwork survey indicated that there are a large number of preserved earthworks within the area. Most of the visible earthworks are probably remains of house platforms, backfilled drainage ditches and/or smaller pits. Some of the largest and deepest of these features are luckily located just outside the development area, which in general is fairly flat. The possibilities to preserve the largest earthworks, even after that the development is complete, must therefore be seen as being very good indeed.

10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

<u>Paper Record</u> The project brief Written Scheme of Investigation

The project report 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.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Test pit 1		
(101)	0.17	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots and stones.	(102)	-
(102)	0.13	Light grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones, mortar and Post Medieval pottery.	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.10	Dark grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones, mortar and Medieval pottery.	Natural	(102)
Natural	-	Yellow grey, firm clay with frequent stones and flint and occasional roots.	-	(103)
		Test pit 2		
(201)	0.20	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots and stones.	(202)	-
(202)	0.18	Light grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones, mortar and Post Medieval pottery.	(203)	(101)
(203)	0.20	Dark grey, soft silty clay with occasional roots, stones, mortar and Medieval pottery.	Natural	(102)
Natural	-	Yellow grey, firm clay with frequent stones and flint and occasional roots.	-	(103)

FINDS LIST

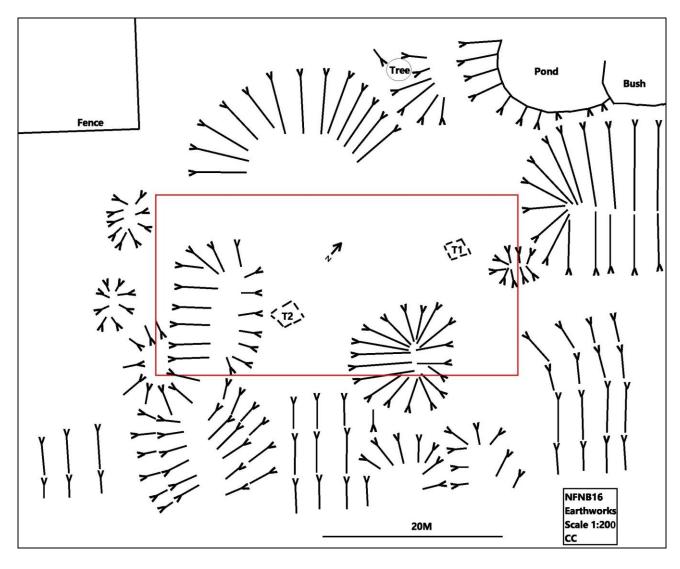
Find nr	Context	Material	Object	Description	Period
1	(103)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware	AD1000-1200
2	(203)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware	AD1000-1200
3	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Potterspury Ware	AD 1250-1600
4	(203)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Potterspury Ware	AD1250-1600
5	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1400
6	(103)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares	AD 1100-1400
7	(203)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Reduced Ware	AD 1400-1500
8	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
9	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550

10	(102)	T ! 1 01			
	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
11	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
12	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
13	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
14	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
15	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
16	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
17	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
18	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
19	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
20	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
21	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
22	(103)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD1450-1550
23	(103)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD 1450-1550
24	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD 1450-1550
25	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Late Medieval Oxidized Ware	AD 1450-1500
26	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Midland Purple Ware	AD 1450
27	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Midland Purple Ware	AD1450
28	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late $17^{\text{th}} - 18^{\text{th}}$ century
29	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late 17 th – 18 th century
30	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late 17 th – 18 th century
31	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late 17 th – 18 th century
32	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late $17^{\text{th}} - 18^{\text{th}}$ century
33	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Iron-Glazed Coarsewares	Late $17^{\text{th}} - 18^{\text{th}}$ century
34	(202)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	English Stoneware	Late $17^{\text{th}} - 18^{\text{th}}$ century
35	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
36	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
37	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
38	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
39	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century

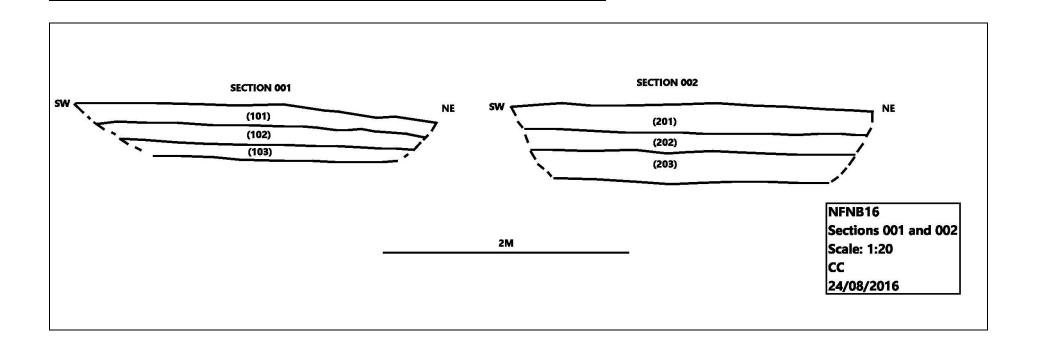
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40	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
41	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
42	(102)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	Misc 19 th and 20 th century Wares	19 th and 20 th century
43	(103)	Fired Clay	Pottery sherd	All Romano-British	2 nd -3 rd century AD



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OASIS ID: independ1-262375

Project details

Project name	Test pits and Earthwork Survey on Land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold.
Short description of the project	Digging of Test pits and an Earthwork Survey on Land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire.
Project dates	Start: 24-08-2016 End: 08-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NFNB16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	SN Medieval
Monument type	SN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CL NT Medieval
Significant Finds	CL NT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NEWTON BROMSWOLD Land to the rear of Newton

	Farmhouse, Newton Bromswold
Postcode	NN10 0SR
Study area	3500 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 99848 65921 52.281952643222 -0.536167024783 52 16 55 N 000 32 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 89m Max: 91m
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	Nothamptonshire 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","Survey "

Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Test pits and Earthwork Survey on Land to the rear of Newton Farmhouse, 12 Church Lane, Newton Bromswold
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