

**14 LOWICK LANE,  
ALDWINCLE,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NGR REF: TL 00751 81405**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING***  
**(OASIS ID: independ1-286488)**

**MAY 2017**

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## **Summary**

*Archaeological monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages and improved access drives at 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire. The development area contained no finds or features of archaeological interest.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The site was located at 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 00751 81405) (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 2015), 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 (15/01795/REM) for a new development at 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire. The development comprised the construction of two detached houses with garages and access.
- 2.2 The development site was located in the central parts of the small village of Aldwinckle. It enclosed an area of some 600m<sup>2</sup> at an average height of 33m AOD. The development site was within an area of garden land, and was surrounded by existing properties in north, west and east. Lowick Lane was adjacent to the site in the south. The geology of the site comprised Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation (undifferentiated)- Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone (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).

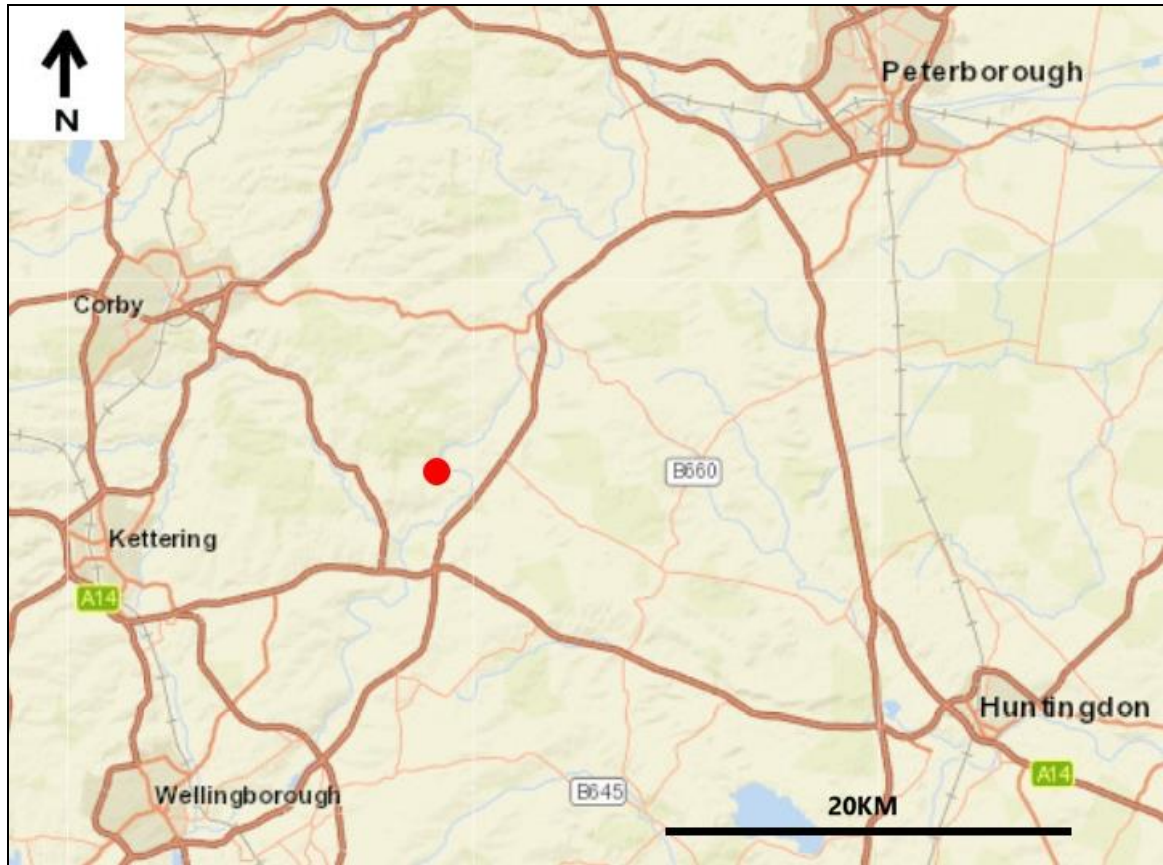


Figure 1. The location of Aldwinckle in England.

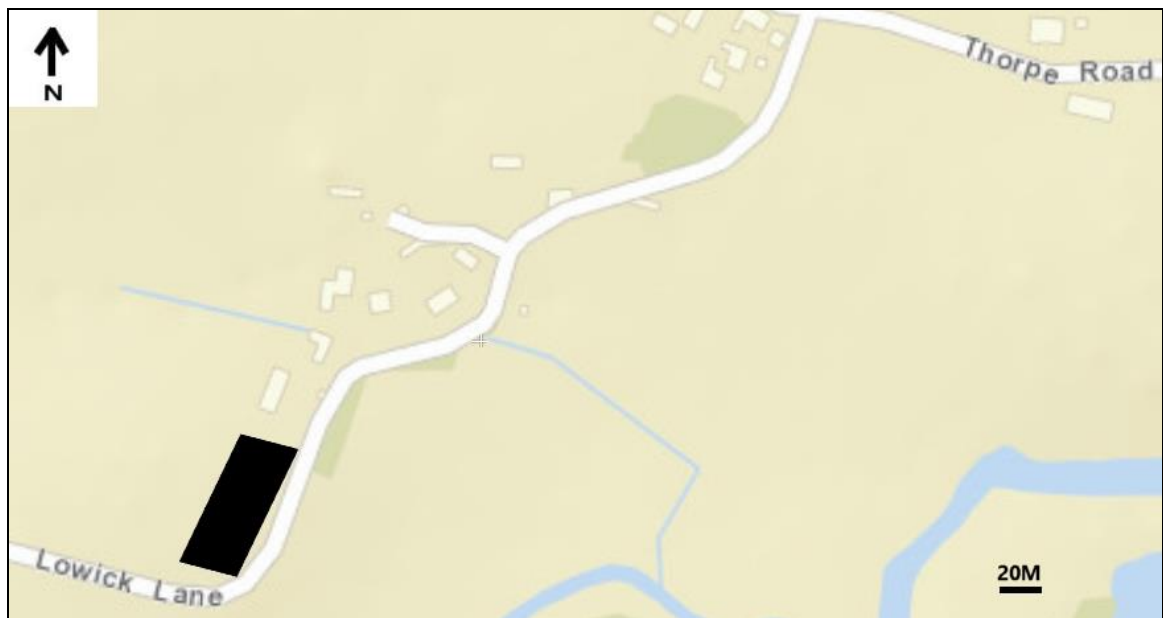


Figure 2. Site Location in Aldwinckle (Black rectangle).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The application site was located within an area of historic settlement on the north side of Lowick Lane in Aldwinckle. Possible Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval activity has been recorded in the village in the forms of cropmarks, earthworks and archaeological finds.
- 3.2 Areas of former Medieval settlement have been identified from cropmarks and earthworks (ENN2073) and (ENN2074), especially around the village church, some 200m east of the site. Possible fishponds and enclosures have also been recorded to the east of the site.
- 3.3 Further crop marks, ditches and enclosures of possible Romano-British origin have been found some 300m southwest of the development site (ENN2076) together with concentrations of scattered flints (ENN2077). Finds of scattered and unstratified flint and possible Roman finds have also been made some 200m west of the development site (ENN2075), (ENN2078) and (ENN2079).
- 3.4 The beautiful Medieval village church of All Saints has also undergone a number of restoration projects and building surveys over the last 50 years (ENN 2199). A graveyard survey of the preserved graves in the church yard was also carried out in 1978 (ENN100926).
- 3.5 Archaeological investigations have also taken place close to the village church, in the central parts of the village. A large number of Medieval pottery sherds and foundations for stone walls have been found in this area (ENN2200).
- 3.6 A number of listed buildings in Aldwinckle have also undergone extensive building surveys. This is particularly true for a group of listed buildings close to the village church (ENN102568), (ENN102651), and (ENN102651).

### **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 The aims of the investigation 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 investigation 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); *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 overburden within the development areas

The archaeological monitoring consisted of the stripping of overburden within the development areas. The monitoring was therefore concentrated to areas of development, and focused mainly on the footprints of the two new dwellings, the two new garages and the new driveway.

The stripping of overburden was conducted under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The development area was mechanically stripped to the upper interface of the natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed during the stripping.

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. When archaeological features 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 features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

### **5.3 Hand Excavation**

All man-made features 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 feature sampling were sufficient to establish the date, character and relationships with other features. 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 various deposits 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 made in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

### **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 1:100 and 1:20 were produced for all excavated features 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 archaeological monitoring at 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire uncovered no features or finds of archaeological interest. The first area to be monitored was the new driveway in the south east corner of the site. This area was necessary to reduce, and replace with hard core on geo textile cloth, to allow heavy transportations access to the site (Figure 3).

- 6.2 The ground in the northern parts of the development area was slightly higher than in the south. After the top- and subsoil had been carefully removed the ground, therefore, had to be levelled by digging about 1m into the natural deposits (Figure 4).
- 6.3 In plot 2, in the western part of the development area, a large number of north-south orientated ploughmarks were visible once the top- and subsoil had been removed. The considerable width and depths of these plough marks gave them a very modern impression, something that was confirmed when the fills of the ploughmarks were investigated, and proved to contain frequent of modern rusty nails and pieces of modern china (Figure 5).
- 6.4 The topsoil in the development area was up to 0.20m thick and consisted of dark, soft silty clay with frequent stones and roots (101). The topsoil covered the subsoil, which was up to 0.15m thick and consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent stones and roots. The natural deposits consisted of light yellow, firm sandy silt with occasional rounded stones.
- 6.5 The negative results of the archaeological monitoring indicated that no human settlement had occurred within the development area before the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Figure 3. A large area in the southeast corner of the development site was initially stripped down to natural deposits in order to allow a geotextile cloth and hardcore to be put in. This was necessary to allow access for heavy transports. The entrance area from northwest.*





*Figure 4. The ground in the northern parts of the development area was slightly higher, and in order to level the ground it was necessary to dig up to 1m into the natural deposits. Plot 1 from south.*



*Figure 5. In plot 2, in the western part of the development area modern plough marks were running north-south across the top of the natural. Several modern rusty nails and pieces of modern china were found in the fills of the various plough marks. Plot 2 from north.*

## 7 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	

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

The Archaeological Collections for Northamptonshire County Council.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDICES

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Context nr</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Younger than</b>	<b>Older than</b>
(101)	0.20	Dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent stones and roots.	(102)	-
(102)	0.15	Light brown, soft silty clay with frequent stones and roots.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Light yellow, sandy silt with occasional rounded stones.	-	(102)



## 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

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***OASIS ID: independ1-286488***

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring, 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring for a new development consisting of two new dwellings with associated garages and driveways. No finds or features of archaeological interest were found during the fieldworks.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2017 End: 23-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LLAN16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/01795/REM - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Field observation" "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ALDWINCLE 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire
Postcode	NN14 3EE
Study area	600 Square metres



## 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

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Site coordinates TL 00751 81405 52.420960892185 -0.518285779374 52 25 15 N 000 31 05 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 30m Max: 34m

### 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 "other"

Digital Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Council

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"

Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Council

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Monitoring, 14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carlsson, C

**14 Lowick Lane, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring**

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