Archaeological Investigation: Church Walk House, No. 2 Church Walk, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire, NN10 OSS (NGR SP997657)

Planning App. Ref. 17/00853/FUL HER Event No. ENN108839

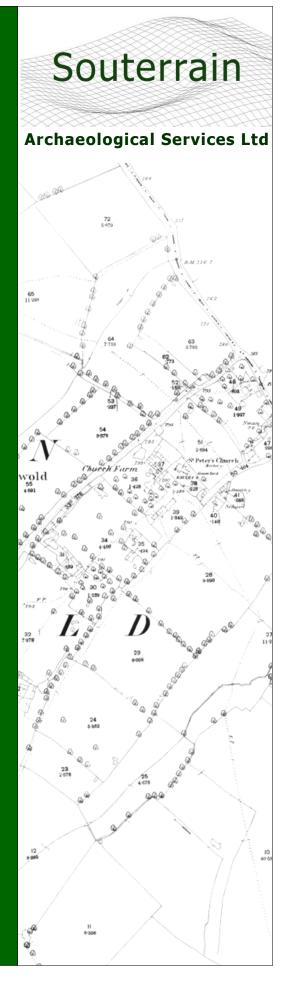


January 2018

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

Mr & Mrs C Turner (Newton Bromswold)



# Archaeological Investigation: Church Walk House, No. 2 Church Walk, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire, NN10 OSS (NGR SP997657)

Historic Environment Record Ref. ENN108839

Planning Application Ref. 17/00853/FUL
Project: SOU17-556

January 2018

Produced for:

Mr & Mrs C Turner (Newton Bromswold)

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# Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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#### **Summary**

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork preparation for a new extension to Church Walk House in the village of Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire. The investigation took place on the  $29^{th}$  of October 2017.

The property is located in the historic core of the village where extensive remains of the former areas of medieval to post-medieval settlement survive as earthworks.

The proposed site of the extension lay on the southwest/ northeast course of a postulated medieval linear earthwork.

Ground reduction took place over an area of c. 101 sq. m. The investigation revealed that the section of earthwork exposed within the footprint of the new extension was formed as a part of wider landscaping of ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House which took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There were no buried soils and no historic features or artefacts present.

A detailed topographical survey was undertaken of the immediate locality (c. 900 sq.m) in order to illustrate the aspect of the suggested earthwork and the general lie of landscaped ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House. The area of ground investigation was surveyed and photographed, and the depth of impact recorded.

#### 1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report documents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, ('the Investigation') carried out by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) during ground preparation for a new extension to Church Walk House, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire, NN10 OSS (the Application Site).
- 1.2 The investigation was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs C Turner (the Planning Applicant) of Church Walk House, Newton Bromswold, in compliance with a condition attached to planning consent. The work was implemented in accordance with a written *Scheme of Investigation*<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On the 29th of June 2017 ENDC granted planning permission 17/00853/FUL, subject to conditions, for the 'change of use of land to side of property from agricultural to garden land; and erection of a part two storey and part single storey side extension' at the Application Site. The area of the proposed development has been defined on the drawings (latest revisions) by Blueprint Architectural Design submitted with the planning application<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, planning consent was granted with a Condition (No. 3) attached for a programme of archaeological mitigation work. The reason for the Planning Condition is to ensure that any features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.3 Prior to the commencement of development work the *Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was endorsed to ENDC by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (AAA) and statutory consultant for the Local Planning Authority.

# 3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 The parish of Newton Bromswold lies on Northamptonshire's eastern border with Bedfordshire. The village of Newton Bromswold is located 1.5 km southeast of Yelden village (Beds) (Fig. 1) and 18 km northeast of Northampton. The Application Site is a residential property of approximately 0.2 hectares. It is situated in the heart of the village (Fig. 2), about 70 m southwest of the parish church of St Peter.
- 3.2 The property is bounded to the northwest and north by agricultural land, and to the northeast by the churchyard. To the south and east it is bordered by a garden extension of the residential curtilage of Church Walk House, and to the southwest by the grounds of another residential property. The wider surrounding land-use is predominantly agricultural. There is a slope of ground from c. 88.2 m in the northwest to c. 84.95 m in the southeast.
- 3.3 The new extension is to be built at the northeast end of Church Walk House centred on NGR 499794, 265795 (Fig. 2) at approximately 85 m OD. It is to be L-shaped, occupying a footprint of c. 69.8 sq.m,
- 3.4 The underlying solid geology is the Oxford Clay Formation composed of 'silicate-mudstone generally smooth to slightly silty, with sporadic beds of argillaceous limestone nodules'<sup>3</sup>. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd 2017. Church Walk House, No. 2 Church Walk, Newton Bromswold, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 OSS, (NGR SP997657), Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication of Works, App. Ref. 17/00853/FUL, HER ENN108839, SOU17-556, Sept. 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Blueprint Architectural Design. 2017. 'Church Walk House, Newton Bromswold: Proposed Plans, Drwg No.16-081-12B

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> British Geological Survey ww.bgs.ac.uk [accessed 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.2017]

superficial geology is the Oadby Member of the Wolston Formation (Pleistocene): a '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'<sup>4</sup>.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Prior to the archaeological investigation the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER)<sup>5</sup> was examined for sites and finds of archaeological interest within a 1 km radius Study Area of the Application Site. The HER numbers in this report refer to the unique identifier for each site, monument, find spot, or archaeological event.

## **Historic Location of the Application Site**

- 4.2 The Application Site is located within the historic core of the former medieval to post-medieval settlement of Newton Bromswold. The present day settlement at Newton Bromswold is referred to as a shrunken village. The earliest mention of the village (Niwetone) is in the Domesday survey of 1086, at which time there were 14 households (8 villains and 6 small holders or cottagers smallholders). There was arable land sufficient for two ploughs and an equal amount on the lord's demesne, in addition to which there were two furlongs of woodland<sup>6</sup>. The next indication of the scale of settlement is in 1791, when there were 22 families<sup>7</sup>; approximately 100 people. The common and waste lands were enclosed in 1800. By 1831 there were 122 people living in 28 houses, the majority of whom were employed as agricultural labourers and domestic servants<sup>8</sup>. The population reached a peak of 178 in 1851 and the number of dwellings increased to 36 in 1891, but thereafter had steadily declined. By 1931 there were 18 homes housing a population of 71. Most of the present day village settlement is clustered in three locations: to the south and east of St Peter's church; to the northeast along Church lane; and mid-way along Rushden Road on the west side. At the 2011 census there were 27 households within the village, a population of 689. In the centre of the settlement is the Grade I Listed church of St Peter, which is understood to have originated in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, having been restored in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a single listed vernacular building in the village, No. 10 Church Lane, which an 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling.
- 4.3 Extensive remains of the former areas of settlement survive as earthworks around the church and continue along the southeast side of Rushden Road<sup>10</sup> (to the northwest). A large proportion of the earthworks were surveyed in the early 1970s, which comprised at least twelve large closes and some less-pronounced remains of house platforms. Further detail has since been added from the study of aerial photographs, which includes several enclosures<sup>11</sup>, closes and possible linear systems<sup>12</sup>. Figure 2 shows the pattern of linear earthworks recorded in the locality of the Application Site.

<sup>5</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Salzman, L. F. (ed). 1937. 'Parishes: Newton Bromswold', A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4 (1937), pp. 27-29. http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol4/pp27-29 [Accessed: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017]; c.f. Open Domesday <a href="http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SP9965/newton-bromswold/">http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SP9965/newton-bromswold/</a> [Accessed: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017]

The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire", J Bridges, 1791;

http://www.rushdenheritage.co.uk/NewtonBromswold/history1791-NBrom.html, [Accessed: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Population and housing statistics: <a href="http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit\_page.jsp?u\_id=10278855">http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit\_page.jsp?u\_id=10278855</a> [Accessed: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017]

<sup>9</sup> Church of England Research & Statistics, Newton Bromswold, http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/parish-

spotlight/newton-bromswold-st-peter.pdf [Accessed: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012] <sup>10</sup> HER 3162

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> HER 3162/0/10; HER 3162/0/11;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> HER 3162/0/12 to HER 3162/0/19; HER 3162/0/2

- 4.4 Notably, a length of one of the latterly recorded linear earthworks<sup>13</sup>, measuring approximately 20 m, is situated beneath and along the northwest boundary of the Application Site, adjacent to Church Walk. Approximately 6 m of this feature has been affected by the footprint proposed new extension. This is discussed below (*post*. 6.5; 7.1 7.2).
- 4.5 A wider study of the medieval and post-medieval landscape of Newton Bromswold was made by the Midland Open Fields Project in 1995-99 whereby ridge and furrow earthworks surrounding the village were plotted from aerial photographs<sup>14</sup>.

## **Previous Archaeological Work**

Very few archaeological investigations prompted by development have taken place within the Study Area, and little of these have been fruitful. In February 2012, a 30 sq.m area was stripped of topsoil at Twelve Oaks Farm, Rushden Road (c. 485 m SW of the Application Site), during construction of the Grafham Water Treatment Resilience Flow works<sup>15</sup>, although no archaeology was present. In May of the same year an evaluation trench (6.5 m x 1.8 m) was excavated in proximity to earthworks at The Pastures, on the east side of Church Lane (c. 270 m NE of the Application Site), but likewise, it revealed no archaeology. In August 2016, a survey<sup>16</sup> was carried out over a small tract of land to the rear of 12 Church Lane (c. 160 m NNE of the Application Site) where earthworks appeared to be the remains of house platforms and boundary ditches. Two test pits<sup>17</sup> followed, whereby a quantity of unstratified pottery was unearthed which dated from the Roman period to the modern day. In 2016, a watching brief for a new garage at 10 Church Lane<sup>18</sup> (c. 210 m NE) found no trace of archaeological remains earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 In view of the archaeological potential of the Application Site, the broad purpose of the archaeological investigation was to:
  - i. establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
  - ii. establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
  - iii. recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
  - iv. recoverpalaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental condition.
- 5.2 Specific objectives were to:
  - i. attempt to determine the function of this part of the landscape in the medieval periods;
  - ii. recover evidence that will shed light on the origin of the nucleated settlement, in line with priorities of regional archaeological research agenda<sup>19</sup>.
  - iii. recover ceramics which may contribute to understanding of interaction between towns/market areas and medieval rural settlement<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Part of monument record HER 3162/0/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> HER9349/03 to HER9349/06

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> HER ENN105569 SP 996 658 (point)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> HER ENN108830

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> ENN108831 SP 9982 6593

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> HER 3162/0/3 ENN108423 SP 9996 6592 (point)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Lewis, C, 2006. 'The Medieval Period', in Cooper, N (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, pp.191, 212; see also Knight, D, Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands, *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Nottingham/York)

#### 6. RESULTS

#### Field Procedure

- 6.1 The fieldwork was carried out on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. The investigation was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Scheme of Investigation* (ante. 2.3) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 6.2 In view of the presumed historic origin of a linear earthwork on the north-western boundary of the property (ante. 4.4; Fig. 2) a detailed topographical survey was undertaken of the immediate locality of Church Walk (c. 30 x 30 m) prior to ground reduction (Fig. 6). This would enable not only illustrate the aspect and disposition of the earthwork, but enable a better understanding of the context of any associated archaeological features found during ground work. The southeastern side of this earthwork prior to ground work is shown on Figure 3. The contours on Figure 6 are at intervals of 10 cm.
- Ground reduction was carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide grading bucket, under the direction of the archaeologist. The area of ground reduction and ground deposits (Figs. 4 to 10) were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum using RTK differential GPS. A digital photographic record was made and written descriptions were made of ground deposits using a context recording system (Appendix 1).

#### **Observations**

- The area of ground reduction measured approximately 101 sq. m (Fig. 7). Visibility was good throughout the process. Removal of turf from the southeast half of the new extension footprint revealed a layer of dark grey-brown clayey soil (001) with occasional modern rubble (brick, concrete, and 'MOT' material) at least 0.6 m thick. Bricks within the deposit included 20<sup>th</sup> century London Brick Company frogged 'Phorpres' type. There were no other dateable finds. This material lay directly above the geological stratum (003), the latter composed of light creamy orange-brown calcareous clay with limestone frequent fragments and occasional flint nodules. The absence of a buried historic soil suggested that the geological stratum had been truncated prior to the deposition of the modern soil and rubble (001). Prior to the groundwork, the building contractor informed the archaeologist that modern rubble and soil had been encountered during the construction of a driveway in a previous year. The location of the driveway is shown on Figures 3, 7 and 8.
- The removal of turf from the northwest half of the new extension footprint revealed a bank of homogeneous dark grey-brown clayey soil, forming the southeast side of the earthwork. It contained infrequent small pieces of brick and 'MOT' material sufficient to denote that it was fairly recent creation. This material was approximately 0.8 m deep beneath the hedge and fence on the northwest boundary of the property (i.e. alongside Church Walk) where it lay directly upon the geological stratum. The banked deposit sloped down to the southeast for a distance of c. 5 m where it merged with the modern rubble and soil layer (001) (Fig. 10 Section 1; Figs. 9 & 9).
- 6.6 The only cut feature present was a trench for a main power cable [004] which traversed the extension footprint northwest to southeast. The trench had been excavated through deposits (001) and (002).

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Lewis, C. 2006, 189

#### 7. REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 Significantly, the nature of the stratigraphic deposits revealed in the area of investigation demonstrate that the earthwork embankment (recorded in the Historic Environment Record as a part of HER 3162/0/1) was formed as a part of wider 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping of ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House. In this respect, the investigation and was able to address Objectives 5.1, 1 and ii.
- 7.2 The results suggest that the remaining c. 12 m length of this earthwork on the southeast side of the Church Walk boundary (Fig. 6) was also formed by 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping. It is further noted that there is no clear indication of other earthworks within this part of the property other than those associated with modern landscaping on either side of the driveway.
- 7.3 No archaeological material was present to address Objectives 5.1, iii and iv, and 5.2, i to iii.

#### 8. ARCHIVE

8.1 The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: www.oasis.ac.uk) identification number for this project is souterra1-306537. All survey and photographic data is contained in this report.

## 9. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 9.1 Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the Owner in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the WSI. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A licence is to be also granted to Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record for the use of all reports arising from projects for planning purposes and bona fide research requests.
- 9.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

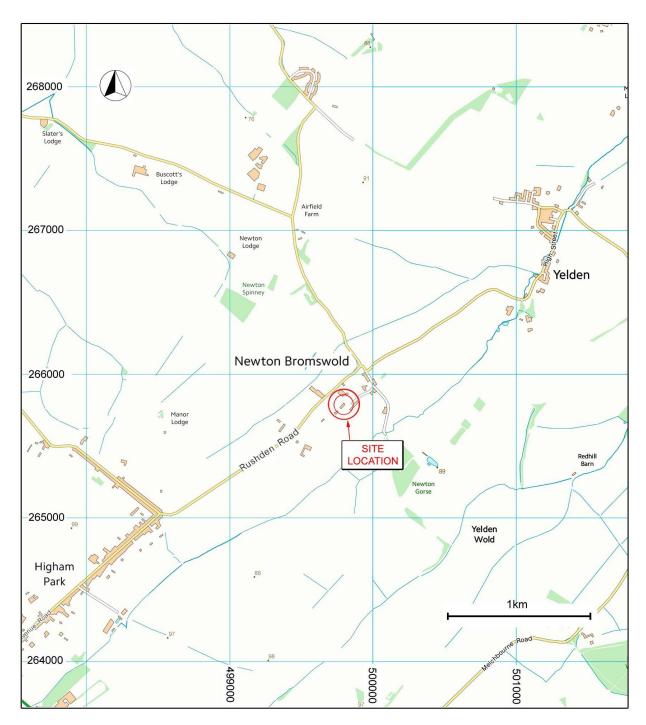


Figure 1. Location of Site

(based on Ordnance Survey Open Data mapping, © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565)

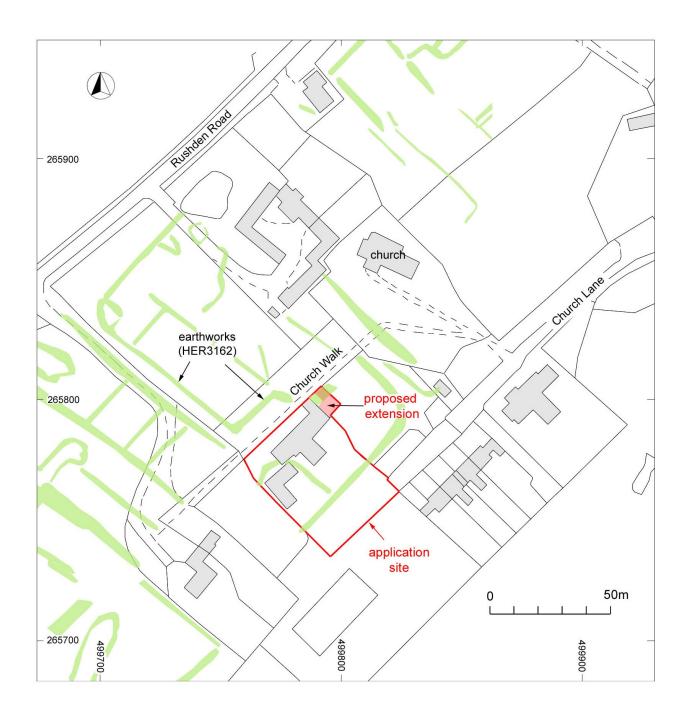


Figure 2. Location of the Application Site and proposed extension, showing the proximity of earthworks (green)

(based on Ordnance Survey mapping, © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565); Earthworks transcribed from the Northamptonshire HER)



Figure 3.
Pre-excavation overview of the site showing aspect of postulated earthwork along the northwest boundary. Facing southwest



Figure 4.

Area of ground reduction. Facing southwest



Figure 5.
Area of ground reduction. Facing northwest

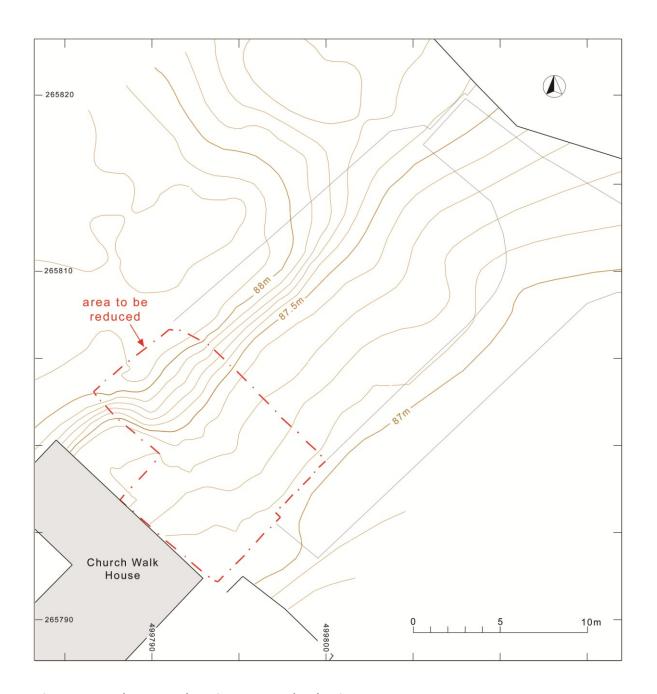


Figure 6. Local topography prior to ground reduction

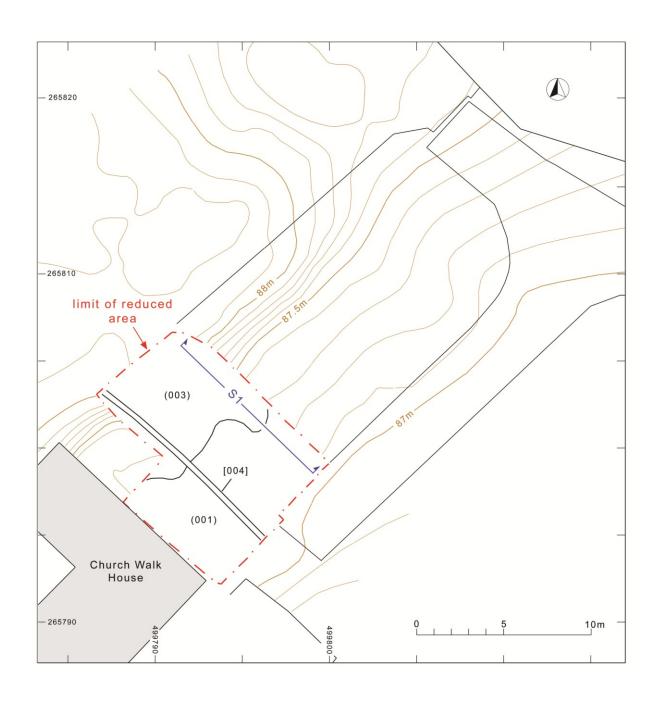


Figure 7. Area of ground reduction in relation to local topography. S1 = location of Section 1



Figure 8. Overview of Section 1. Looking southeast from Church Walk



Figure 9. Overview of Section 1. Looking north towards Church Walk

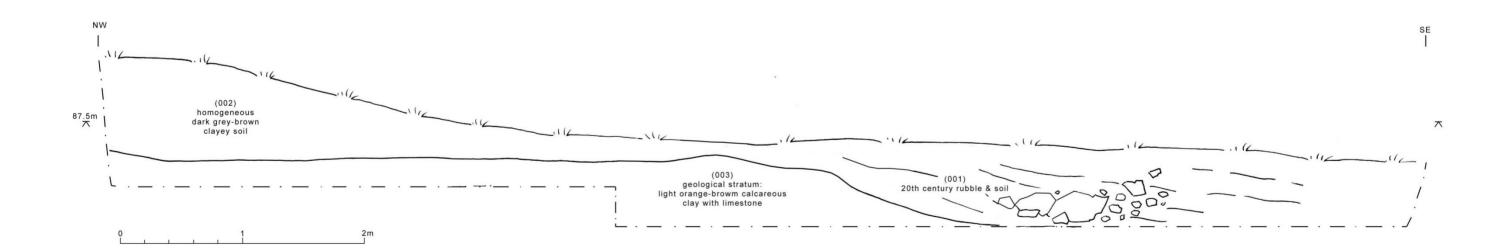


Figure 10. Section 1

# **APPENDIX 1:** List of Contexts

KEY: Relationships: a. above; abt. abuts; adj. adjoins; b. below; c. cuts; cub. cut by; co. contains; wi within

Dimensions: le. length; wid. width; de. depth; th. thickness

| Context<br>No. | type  | Description and Interpretation   | relationships                  | dimensions                  | drawing         | Finds | Date of record |
|----------------|-------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|
| 001            | Layer | Dark grey-brown clayey soil with occasional modern rubble (brick, concrete, and 'MOT' material) at least 0.6 m thick. Extends across south-eastern half of the reduced area. Directly beneath the turf and lies directly above the geological stratum (003). This merges with the bank of soil (002), and thus may have been formed at the same time as a part of general landscaping of the entire ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House. Prior to the present groundwork, the builder informed the archaeologist that this material was encountered extensively during the construction of the driveway in a previous year.  Lies directly above the geological stratum (003) at it northwest extent, though indeterminate at its southeast extent. Bricks include LBC frogged type. No other finds | a. (003);<br>merges with (002) | Th. >0.6 m                  | S1; GPS<br>plan | none  | 29.10.2017     |
| 002            | layer | A bank of homogeneous dark grey-brown clayey soil. Rare small pieces of modern brick and 'MOT' material. Directly beneath turf. This forms the postulated earthwork. Approximately 0.8 m deep beneath the hedge and fence on the northwest boundary of the site (i.e. alongside Church Walk. The bank slopes down to the southeast for a distance of c. 5 m where where it merges with (001).  In view of the above knowledge of widespread landscaping and modification of the natural ground slope, it would appear that this is a fairly modern creation.   | b. turf;<br>a.(003)            | Th. 0.8 m NW to c. 0.1 m SE | S1              | none  | 29.10.2017     |
| 003            | layer | Geological stratum. Possibly modified/truncated. Light creamy orange-brown calcareous clay with limestone frequent fragments and occasional flint nodules  | b.(001), (002)                 | -                           | S1              | -     | 29.10.2017     |
| 004            | cut   | Linear cut on running NW-SE across site. Modern. Contains major power cable. This dug after main modern landscaping  | c.(003); (001)                 | Wid. c.25 m                 | GPS plan        | -     | 29.10.2017     |

# **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

(www.oasis.ac.uk)

#### OASIS ID: souterra1-306537

**Project details** 

Project name Archaeological Investigation: Church Walk House, No. 2 Church Walk, Newton Bromswold,

Northamptonshire, NN10 OSS

Short description of the

project

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork preparation for a new extension to Church Walk House in the village of Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire. The investigation took place on the 29th of October 2017. The property is located in the historic core of the village where extensive remains of the former areas of medieval to post-medieval settlement survive as earthworks. The proposed site of the extension lay on the southwest/ northeast course of a postulated medieval linear earthwork. Ground reduction took place over an area of c. 101 sq. m. The investigation revealed that the section of earthwork exposed within the footprint of the new extension was formed as a part of wider landscaping of ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House which took place in the 20th century. There were no buried soils and no historic features or artefacts present. A detailed topographical survey was undertaken of the immediate locality (c. 900 sq.m) in order to illustrate the aspect of the purported earthwork and the general lie of landscaped ground on the northeast to southeast side of Church Walk House. The area of ground investigation was surveyed and photographed, and the depth of impact recorded.

**Project dates** Start: 29-10-2017 End: 29-10-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Associated project reference

codes

ENN108839 - HER event no.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SOU17\text{-}556}}$  - Contracting Unit No.

17/00853/FUL - Planning Application No.

**Type of project** Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type N/A None
Significant Finds N/A None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

**Prompt** National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

**Prompt** Planning condition

**Project location** 

**Country** England

Site location EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NEWTON BROMSWOLD Church Walk House

Postcode NN10 OSS

Study area 101 Square metres

Site coordinates SP 997 657 52.27999311529 -0.538401400275 52 16 47 N 000 32 18 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 86.68m Max: 87.22m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

**Project design originator** Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

Project director/manager M D Wilson
Project supervisor M Wilson
Type of funding body Developer

Name of funding body Mrs & Mrs CTurner

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record

**Digital Archive ID** ENN108839

Digital Contents "none"

**Digital Media available** "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record

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