

Former Site of Japonica Cottage,
76 High Street, Gretton,
Northamptonshire, NN17 3DF
(NGR 489943, 294150)

Archaeological Investigation

Northants HER Event No ENN109595
Planning App. Ref. 17/00566/DPA
Souterrain Project SOU19-661



October 2020

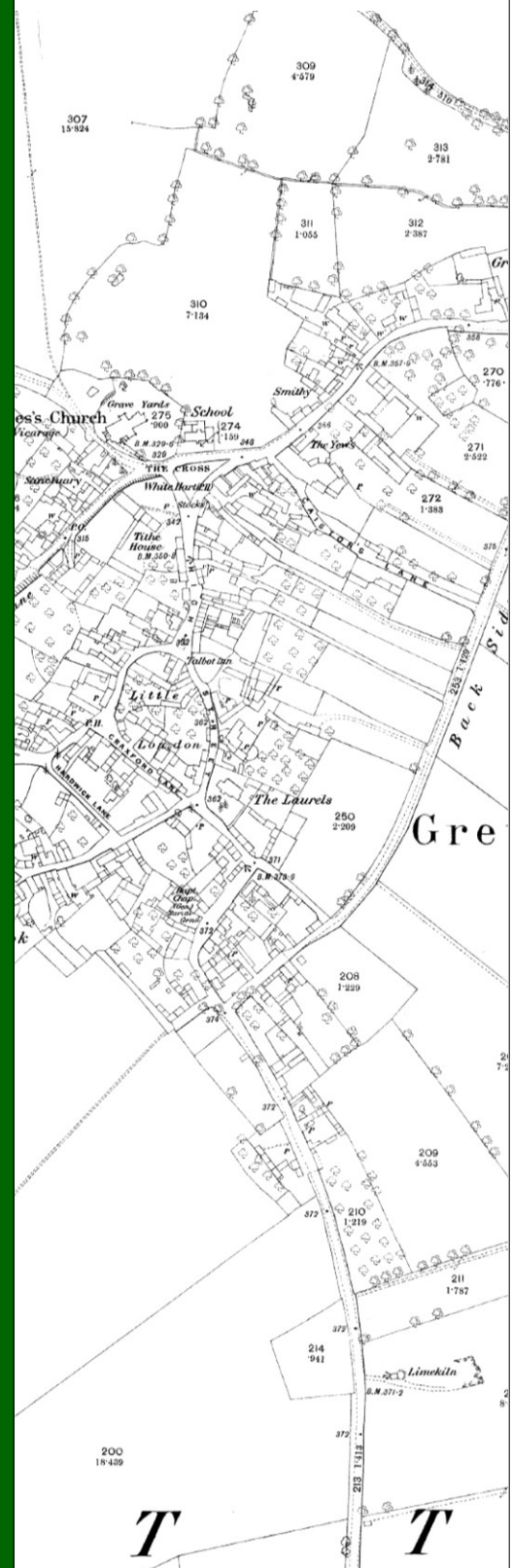
Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

SMC (Midlands) Ltd

Souterrain

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Summary

In March & June 2020, an archaeological investigation was carried out by Souterrain during groundwork for a new dwelling on a plot of land (c. 300 sq. m) in High Street, Gretton, Northamptonshire.

A historic characteristic of the site is its stone boundary wall fronting the road, which is formed from a cottage that was demolished in the mid- 20th century. Other archaeological interest stems from a late 16th century map which shows a tenement in existence approximately at this location. In view of this, the main purpose of the investigation was to examine and record any buried archaeological evidence pertaining to the former occupancy of the site, and to attempt to ascertain its date.

The investigation confirmed the remains of an L-shaped building that had occupied the site for around two and half centuries. From at least the late 19th century the building had comprised two separate dwellings.

The archaeology comprised of remnants of lower wall courses built of coursed rubble, floor surfaces, including a pozzolanic surface, and a cellar. The cellar was long and narrow, over 2 m in depth, and appears to have been timber-lined. It was in-filled in a single event. Pottery sherds from the fill denote a redundancy date in the late 1600s or early 1700s. A construction date for the cellar was not established. Neither could a date be ascertained for the construction of cottage. It was confirmed that a portion of one cottage remains buried and apparently undisturbed.

Historical research revealed that the two dwellings were known as Japonica Cottage, at least from the late 19th century onwards, when they were occupied by two Baptist families, the Colemans and the Spendloves. The report includes photographs of some of the main residents of Japonica Cottage of this period.

The analysis incorporates a reconstruction of the broad planimetric layout of the cottages, achieved by combining the 2020 archaeological site survey with historic mapping, while utilising knowledge from historic photographs (from private collections) which are also included in the report.

Overall the results of the investigation open a new window to the history of this High Street plot.

Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of information 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 statements or opinions expressed in this document.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents an illustrated record of archaeological observations made during groundwork for a new dwelling at a plot of land to the rear of 76 High Street, Gretton. It has been prepared by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) on behalf of SMC (Midlands) Ltd, Gretton, Northamptonshire (the Developer), in accordance with a Condition attached to a Planning Permission.
- 1.2 The report and archive is to be available as a public-accessible record.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Corby Borough Council (CBC) Planning Permission 17/00566/DPA has been granted, subject to Conditions, on the 19th January 2018¹ for '*Demolition of existing garage/store and proposed new dwelling at land to the rear of 76 High Street Gretton, NN17 3DF*' (the Application Site). The area and layout of the proposed development is defined on the *PWArchitects* drawings (final versions), submitted with planning application². The footprint of the proposed new building will occupy the western end of the site, the ground levels in the eastern half to be retained for the new rear garden.
- 2.2 Consulted by the Planning Officer prior to the decision, Liz Mordue, NCC's Archaeological Advisor, highlighted the potential for remains of archaeological interest relating to medieval and post-medieval settlement to survive on the Application Site, albeit truncated by more recent activity³. Thus, in view of the archaeological sensitivity of the site and locality, planning consent has been granted with a Condition (No. 5) attached for a programme of archaeological mitigation work. The reason for the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴ and North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy policy 2.
- 2.3 A programme of archaeological work in the form of a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)*⁵ was submitted by the Developer for the acceptance of Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Planning, Northamptonshire County Council and statutory consultant for Corby Borough Council (hereafter 'the Archaeological Advisor'). The WSI was subsequently endorsed by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of development work at the site.

3. LOCATION

- 3.1 The village of Gretton lies about 2.5 km north of the outskirts of Corby in Northamptonshire. It is situated on the Jurassic Ridge overlooking the valley of the River Welland to the west. The village centre is located at around 100 - 114 m OD (west to east).

¹ To the Planning Applicant, Mr & Mrs Skinner of, Lyddington, LE15 9LU

² Drawing 2017/33, Rev.02A, Sept 2027, Proposed New Dwelling; Land at 76 High Street, Gretton, NN17 3DF. Planning Drawing; Proposed elevations, Plans and Section

³ Letter: L Mordue NCC to S Devraj Corby Bourough Council, 5th Dec. 2017 Planning Ref. 17/00566/DPA

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, February 2019

⁵ Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. 2019 (29th Aug). *Land to the Rear of 76 High Street, Gretton, Northamptonshire, NN17 3DF. (NGR 489943, 294150). Scheme for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication of Works*, Planning App. Ref. 17/00566/DPA, Project: SOU19-661, produced for SMC (Midlands) Ltd., Gretton, Northants

- 3.2 The Application Site is located in the south-eastern part of the historic core of the village, within the Conservation Area, at NGR 489943, 294150 (Fig. 1).
- 3.3 The plot has an irregular shape, about 24 m in length (E-W) and between 20 m and 12 m in width (N-S), the widest part fronting High Street. Overall, it is approximately 300 sq. m. At the time of the planning application, the western half of the site was occupied by a former domestic garage and store, while the eastern half was a grassed area (views of the site shortly after demolition of the building's superstructure are shown at Figure 8). The site is bounded to the north, east and south by residential properties. Notably, the property bounding the north side is a mid to late 17th century house, which is Grade II listed⁶.
- 3.4 The topography of the site is c. 100.18 m OD on the west side rising to c. 102.95 m OD on the east side. The underlying solid geology is mapped as Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member, which '*commonly includes sandy limestone or calcareous sandstone in basal part (locally known as Collyweston Slate) and contains substantial units of mudstone*'⁷.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 4.1 The primary source of historical and archaeological information in this section is the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER)⁸.

Settlement Origins

- 4.2 Settlement at *Gretone* was first documented in 1086 when it was a relatively large hamlet/village of 22 households (15 villagers, 5 smallholders, a female slave and a priest), possibly around one hundred inhabitants⁹. Prior to the Conquest, *Gretone* was held directly by King Edward. There was enough arable land for 14 plough teams. The men worked six of their own plough teams in the common open fields and another two teams on the lord's demesne. Other assets comprised more than one league of woodland, 20 acres of meadow and a mill. In 1086 King William was recorded as its tenant-in-chief.
- 4.3 The nucleated settlement of *Gretone* may have originated during a period of widespread landscape reorganization which is believed to have taken place in England during the late Anglo-Saxon period. This event required numerous dispersed small communities to be brought together and centralised around the parish church and the manor, surrounded by a planned open field system¹⁰. The purpose for the reorganisation is not known, though is likely to have been to both improve social cohesion and increase productivity¹¹.
- 4.4 At the time of this report there have been no discoveries pertaining to the pre-conquest settlement of *Gretone*; although this likely to be a reflection of very few archaeological investigations having taken place rather than a genuine absence of archaeology.

⁶ Barn House, High Street HER 4140/10/1 - MNN110241

⁷ British Geological Survey, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> [accessed 28.08.2019]

⁸ A HER search was made of a 500 m radius of the Application Site on the 20th August 2019

⁹ Open Domesday <https://opendomesday.org/place/SP8994/gretton/> [accessed 28.08.2019]

¹⁰ See Lewis, C, 2006. 'The Medieval Period', in Cooper, N (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 191.

¹¹ op.cit.

Built Heritage

- 4.5 The earliest surviving map of Gretton village was created in 1587¹². It depicts houses, closes and crofts, surrounded by open field strip-cultivation (Fig. 3). The map is pictorial with houses shown in simplified birds-eye view. Notwithstanding this, the modern village centre broadly preserves much of the same street plan and it is probable that the general arrangement of streets is not greatly different from its earlier medieval form.
- 4.6 The parish church of St James the Great is Gretton's oldest standing structure. Although greatly re-modelled and rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries, the central bays of its nave have been stylistically dated from the early and mid 12th century¹³.
- 4.7 The oldest vernacular buildings in the village date from the 17th century. Twenty in all, the majority are situated along High Street and Station Road, with three others at Kirby Road and Malting Road. Most dwellings are 2-storey, built in the local vernacular style of squared coursed limestone and roofed in Colleyweston slate. Only four buildings retain thatched roofs. These include Barn House, High Street¹⁴ a mid-17th century dwelling, the curtilage of which borders the north side of the Application Site (Fig. 2). At least two of the 17th century dwellings buildings are known to be cruck-built¹⁵.
- 4.8 At least 15 buildings of 18th century origin survive, though many with 19th and 20th century additions. The majority are in the tradition of squared coursed ironstone and limestone with Colleyweston slated roofs. The buildings are predominantly situated in the same two streets as the 17th century survivals. Four are on High Street, including Gretton House¹⁶, a mid 18th century country house, and The Old Fox public house¹⁷ of roughly the same period. Four more dwellings are located on Station Road, and another four on Arnhill Road. Three thatched dwellings survive, one roof half-shared with 20th century roof tiles¹⁸, another shared with artificial slates.
- 4.9 Nineteenth century additions to the street scene comprise: a former vicarage (1830)¹⁹ on Station Road; a cottage on Malting Road (1846)²⁰, a former school and master's house on High Street (1853)²¹; and Gretton Railway Station (1874)²². The station is built in squared coursed and rusticated ironstone with granite dressings and slate roof. The others built in coursed limestone with slated roofs. By 1870 there were 196 houses recorded in the village, with a population of 909²³. The church had been rebuilt two years earlier. A half of the village property belonged to the Earl of Winchelsea.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.10 There have been no previous archaeological investigations at the Application Site. Archaeology has, so far, added little to our knowledge of medieval to post-medieval

¹² Northamptonshire Archives Map FH272

¹³ HER 4140/1/1

¹⁴ HER 4140/10/1(SP 89949 94164)

¹⁵ No. 16 Station Rd, HER 4140/0/2 (SP 89797 94329); No. 92 High St. (Peartree Cottage) HER 4140/0/23 (SP 89927 93999)

¹⁶ Gretton House, High St., HER 4140/6/1 (SP 90153 94537)

¹⁷ The Old Fox, High St., HER 4140/0/32 (SP 89964 94385)

¹⁸ Nos. 15 & 17 High St. (Hall Cottage), HER 4140/0/24, SP 90004 94434; No. 9 Maltings Road, HER 4140/0/7 (SP 89805 94037); No. 16 Arnhill Rd, HER 4140/0/44 (SP 89792 94166)

¹⁹ Windhovers, Station Rd, HER 4140/8/1 (SP 89742 94368)

²⁰ No. 6 Maltings Rd (Ivernia Cottage) HER 4140/0/18 (SP 89835 94096)

²¹ No. 23 High St. (The Old School House) HER 4140/0/25 (SP 89916 94413)

²² Gretton Railway Station HER 7867/1/5 (SP 89484 94146)

²³ John Marius Wilson, *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*, 1872

settlement at Gretton. Only four development-led archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the Study Area. One of these was a watching brief during groundwork for pipe-laying on land north of 'Stoneleigh' in 2015²⁴, but no archaeological features or finds were present. Another comprised monitoring an excavation of a kitchen floor at 'The Yews', High Street in 2016; it revealed only a possible building foundation²⁵. In 2017, four trenches (each 30 m long) were dug in advance of a development at Kirby Road, but revealed no archaeological evidence²⁶ of earlier tenements. The results of a trial trench at No. 9 Station Road in April 2019 are pending public access.²⁷

Historic maps: the Application Site

- 4.11 The map of 1587 depicts a row of dwellings in bird's-eye view with their frontages on east side of High Street, towards the junction with Craxford Road. One of these dwellings will most certainly have been located at the Application Site. Figure 3 is an interpretive transcription of the map showing the general location of the Application Site. Significantly, the wall that bounds the Application Site on the road frontage today incorporates the front elevation of a former cottage built in coursed rubble limestone (Fig. 4). However, because of the inaccuracies of the property boundaries on the 1587 map, and the diffused nature of the inked lines, it is not possible to form a more exact correlation with the building remains.
- 4.12 The next available map of the village was drawn up for the Gretton Inclosure Award in 1837²⁸. A transcription of the zone around the Application Site is shown at Figure 5. Since the original map is the result of a chained survey, the property boundaries are deemed to be reasonably accurate. On such maps, plans of building plans are often simplified. What the map clearly shows, however, is that an L-shaped building stood on the site in 1837. This may be compared with the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps, 1886 and 1900 respectively (Figs. 6 & 7), which also depict an L-shaped building. The building was last depicted by Ordnance Survey in 1952²⁹; the building was demolished in 1959.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 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. recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions; this to be an intrinsic part of the investigation.
- 5.2 A specific objective of the investigation was to determine and record the survival of buried archaeological evidence pertaining to the post-medieval tenement shown on the 1587 map and presently observable in the west boundary wall of the property; and to ascertain the antiquity of the tenement.

²⁴ ENN109038 (SP 9004 9449)

²⁵ ENN108433 (SP 9000 9441)

²⁶ ENN108875 (SP 9014 9439)

²⁷ ENN109455 (SP 8965 9418)

²⁸ Northamptonshire Archives: Gretton Inclosure, plan 17

²⁹ OS Northamptonshire 1:10,560, sheet XI.NE, 1952 (not illustrated)

- 5.3 Other objectives were: to ascertain whether any medieval to early post-medieval specialized crafts or trades activities were performed at the site: and to determine whether ceramics recovered from the site might augment our understanding of interaction between towns/market areas and the countryside³⁰.
- 5.4 Wherever possible the investigation would attempt to recover archaeological data that may contribute to research areas, themes and priorities addressed by current *Research Agenda*³¹.

6. INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Field Procedure & Parameters of Recording

- 6.1 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out over the course of four days (4th, 5th & 23rd March 2020 & 12th June 2020). The investigation was carried out with due regard for Health and Safety. It was conducted, as far as possible, in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation, and in line with with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 6.2 Areas of ground reduction and archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum using RTK differential GPS, and a digital photographic record was made. The exposed sections and archaeological features were cleaned and investigated, and recorded as health and safety permitted. The stratigraphy of each section was hand-drawn at appropriate scales, and artefacts were recovered where possible for dating purposes. The excavation of foundation trenches was monitored in areas of archaeological significance.
- 6.3 A certain amount of ground modification and excavation, largely associated with demolition work, had taken place prior to the archaeological recording in March. Figure 8 shows three post-demolition, pre-commencement photographs of the site taken by the Developer in May 2019. Figure 9 shows general views of the site take by the archaeologist on arrival at the site on the 4th March 2020. Groundwork had comprised the removal of existing retaining walls and building foundations; excavation/reduction of ground on the east side of the existing retaining wall; excavation of an L-shaped foundation trench for a new retaining wall; and excavation of a soak-away with associated drainage trench. Unfortunately, none of the above was overseen by the archaeologist.

Observations

Building Foundations

- 6.4 Historical research in the course of the present archaeological Investigation has revealed that the L-shaped building consisted of two adjoining cottages, both known as Japonica Cottage (*post*, 7). The cottage flanking the street frontage is understood to have been of greater size. Foundations of the smaller dwelling were exposed in the south-eastern section cut back for the new retaining wall. (Figs. 10-12, Section 1). They comprised remnant lower courses of the

³⁰ Lewis, C. 2006. 'The Medieval Period (850-1500)', in Cooper, N. (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 189

³¹ 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)

two outer longitudinal walls ((013) and (024)) of the cottage, built of coursed rubble with roughly-worked facing stones. The walls were c. 0.8 m thick and survived to a height of c. 0.3 to c. 0.4 m. The internal width of the cottage was 3.3 m (10' 9").

- 6.5 Between the walls was a remnant of floor (Fig. 11), the southern half of which (017) consisted of a pozzolanic material (probably a lime-ash composition with crushed fired clay/ceramics) which lapped up the southwest side of the wall of the room by c. 0.4 m (Fig. 13). It appears to have been the original floor of the cottage. The floor level was at approximately 112.00 m OD. It was laid upon a thin (0.04 m) blinding layer of ash (018), seated at around 111.87 m OD. Similar types of pozzolanic flooring have been seen in late medieval / early post medieval buildings elsewhere (e.g. The Barfords, Hampton-in Arden, Warks³²; Much Park Street, Coventry³³). At some juncture, the northern side of the floor at this point was replaced by bricks (015). These were seated upon a blinding/bedding layer (c. 0.12 – c. 0.22 m) of seemingly puddled, greenish-brown clay (020). Above the floor were several layers of ash and sandy-silt ash (012), presumably a by-product of mid- 20th century demolition activity.
- 6.6 The cottages were evidently built on a terrace cut into the natural ground which slopes upwards to the east. The buildings stood on a layer of re-deposited fragmented sandstone (019), dirty yellow-brown in colour and of fairly consistent thickness (c. 0.18 – 0.2 m) (Fig. 11). The layer was understood to denote ground preparation for the cottage. Within this material was a single feature, a bowl-shaped hollow [025], c. 0.2 m deep by c. 0.9 m wide, in-filled with brown sandy silt and stones (026). Of uncertain origin, the feature was probably in-filled during ground preparation for the the cottage.
- 6.7 The geological stratum (023) comprised very firm sand and sandstone, considered to be an upper regolithic layer. Within the layer were two large lenses of mid orange-brown silty sand (021 & 022), up to c. 18 m and c. 0.22 m thick, respectively, which were likely to have been natural phenomena.

Post-medieval Cellar

- 6.8 On the north-eastern side of the cottage wall (013) there was a deep cut feature [009], which has been interpreted as a cellar (Figs. 10 & 11, Section 1). Unfortunately, the opportunity to determine the chronological relationship of the cottage and the cellar was lost when a soak-away trench was dug prior to the archaeological investigation.
- 6.9 The excavation of a foundation trench parallel to the retaining wall trench in March provided the opportunity to examine the full depth of the cellar, which was hand-dug to its base at this point, using machine assistance to enable safe-working area. The sides of the cellar were near-vertical, terminating at a base flat, at c. 109.36 m OD (Fig. 11, Section 3); its overall depth approximately 2.2 m.
- 6.10 Superimposition of the 2020 archaeological site survey with historic Ordnance Survey maps, reveal that the cellar flanked / respected the northeast wall of the smaller cottage (Fig. 19), which suggests that cellar and cottage may have been contemporary.

³² Barfords, Moulding Green Farm, Hampton-in Arden, Warwickshire, Souterrain Archaeological Services 1998 (Jul.) Report 3/98, p. 7

³³ Land adjacent to (north side) of 36 and 37 Much Park Street, excavated in 1998 by Coventry Museums Service

- 6.11 The full north-western extent of the feature was initially obscured by overburden³⁴. Further ground reduction (c. 0.12 m) within in the footprint of the new house, to c. 110.55 m OD, revealed the cellar to be sub-rectangular in plan, with a possible stepped access on its north side [030]. At this level, the feature was delineated by a halo of dirty silty sand and rubble (031), c. 0.16 m in width (Fig. 12). The halo, clearly discernible in plan, was also just distinguishable in section (Fig. 11, Section 4). Its presence, no less, suggested the former existence of a timber lining that had rotted *in situ*, to be replaced largely by slumped stone from the fill of the cellar. The timber lining appears to have allowed for an internal width of c. 1.5 m. The construction cut of the cellar was c. 1.66 – 1.72 m wide and c. 4.08 m long.
- 6.12 The fill of the cellar (011) comprised small to medium angular and sub-angular pieces of limestone (c. 75%) in a matrix of mid grey sandy silty soil, the whole deposit being extremely compact. Tip-lines were vaguely discernible, although it was most likely to have a single infilling event. There was no primary fill, or erosion product, other than traces of the aforementioned rotted boards (031) that had lined the sides. Amongst the rubble were occasional pieces of domestic refuse – sherds of late 17th / early 18th century date, animal bone, bottle glass and fragments of brick. Notably, the pottery sherds exhibited little or no signs of abrasion. The domestic waste may have come from a nearby midden. Overall, the artefactual assemblage suggests that the cellar was redundant in the early part of the 18th century.
- 6.13 The fill of the cellar was sealed with a compact layer of charcoal-contaminated silty sand (010), 0.2 m in thickness. The cellar was cut by a 19th century land drain and, ultimately, by a soak-away trench (Figs. 10, 11, Section 1 & Fig. 12). It was thus not possible to establish the stratigraphic/chronological relationship of this layer to the cottage wall (013).
- 6.14 Above the sealing layer (010) was an extensive layer of mid grey-brown layer of sandy silt with small stones (007), 0.1 – 0.26 m thick, which was considered to represent an occupation surface (Fig. 11, Section 1). Three pottery sherds from this layer date from the first half of the 19th century (*post*, Table 1)
- 6.15 Above the occupation layer (007) was another possible occupation layer (006), c. 0.12 – 0.16 m thick. This consisted predominantly of bricks and stone, some of which had the appearance of having been laid, perhaps as a yard surface. Notably, this material overlay a 19th century land drain ([029]).
- 6.16 All of the ground formation above layer (010) occurred post-1959, when the cottage was demolished.

Section 2

- 6.17 There was little trace of the cottage in the south-western section (Figs. 10 & 14, Section 2). An extensive layer of fragmented limestone (036) was interpreted as a continuation of the ground preparation layer for the cottage observed in Section 1 (i.e. (019) / (008)). A change in level seemed to denote the point at which the floor of the cottage stepped down to the northwest, at which point there was a small fragment of tiled floor (050). The ground preparation layer lay directly above the geological stratum (023), sealing a number of undulations and earlier ground disturbances. Most of the latter ((40), (42) & (44)) were very irregular in a form and were either natural in origin (i.e. where trees or shrubs had once stood), or possibly the result of horticultural activities. They were filled with light brown sandy soil, and devoid of artefacts. Towards the southeast end of the section was a possible

³⁴ Site work ceased on the 23rd March due to COVID19 lockdown and resumed in June 2020.

gully [038] of uncertain origin. This was c. 0.11 wide with an overall depth c. 0.2 m. with vertical sides and a slot, or channel in its base. It was filled with light brown sandy soil (037). There were no visible artefacts. It was not sampled for fear of undermining the section.

- 6.18 Above the aforementioned ground preparation layer (036), was a firm layer of dark greyish-brown silty soil with frequent flecks of carbonised material (035). It was likely to have been an old topsoil. Its true thickness was indeterminate, obscured by the back-fill of an early 20th century land drain (034) which evidently ran along the rear of the cottage. The land drain was formed of sectional fired-clay pipes, whilst the back-filled ditch, in which it had been laid, was crammed with domestic waste – bottles, tins, etc. A representative sample was taken to ascertain an approximate date of the deposit (Table 3 & Fig. 22).
- 6.19 At the northwest end of the section was a deep cut feature, partially exposed [045]. It had been cut through both the old topsoil (035) and ground preparation layer (036) into the geological stratum. The function and origin of the feature was not clear, although a photograph taken in 1959 (Fig. 26) suggests that it may have been the site of an external doorway. Notably this feature is now below the existing ground level of in the neighbouring property to the south.

The Surviving West Wall of Japonica Cottage

- 6.20 In 1959 the cottages were demolished, or rather, dismantled by hand, as a series of record photographs show (Figs. 26 to 29). The lower half of the front wall of the larger cottage was evidently retained to serve as a property boundary wall, the doorway and windows blocked with stone and / or brick.
- 6.21 The historic wall is to be preserved in line with planning advice of the Conservation Officer, viz.:
- “The historic stone boundary wall retains previously in-filled openings to the right hand side, which must be retained, within this development, as a story of the evolution of the site and a reminder of its origins.*
- ...the previously infilled openings must be maintained in the current condition, with only a light touch repair, to ensure the clear difference in construction style, stone and surround to the main walling stone”³⁵.*
- 6.22 In 2020, vegetation (predominantly ivy) was cleared from the superstructure of the wall by the developer, subsequent to which the ground at the base of the wall (accumulated erosion products) was archaeologically cleared and investigated and a series of pre-conservation photographs were taken (Figs. 15 to 17).
- 6.23 The investigation revealed a remnant of floor layers at the south-western end of the cottage (Figs. 15, 16 & 18). This comprised 19th / early 20th red quarry floor tiles laid on a bed of lime mortar, beneath which was a thin layer of greyish brown gritty clay, c. 0.03 m thick. These floor deposits were, in turn, laid upon a bed of light brown (?puddled) clay c. 0.03 m thick, overlaying a thick deposit (at least 0.2 m) of fragmented yellow limestone, akin to layer (036) in Section 2, which was, likewise interpreted as a prepared foundation layer for the cottage.

³⁵ Conservation Officer Comments , B J Hawkins 29.12.2017, Site Address: Land to rear of 76 High Street, Gretton Ref. No. 17/00566/DPA

- 6.24 A remnant of an internal dividing wall survives between the two blocked windows (Figs. 15 & 17 A). To the right of the stone-framed window there is a notable concavity in the wall, which was not self-explanatory. This was, at first presumed to be the former location of an oven or a flue for a hearth, although this interpretation does not fit well with the configuration of the central hearth and stack that is evident from surviving photographs of the cottage (Figs. 22 & 25). It is possible that it was the location of the staircase.
- 6.25 At this point, there are two foundation courses of large roughly-shaped stone blocks, to a height of c. 0.36 m. A coin had been placed within the interstice of the two courses (location on Fig. 10); a very worn and bent halfpenny (c. 1770s) from the reign of George III (1760 - 1820). Such deposits are sometimes claimed to have apotropaic significance³⁶. Interestingly, two pennies of similar date were once found within a house wall in Hitchin, where workmen also found hidden other curious objects – a human leg bone and a cinerary jar³⁷. A more prosaic explanation, however, is that the Gretton halfpenny was placed there by a restoration builder to denote the date of his work, a habit which persists today.
- 6.26 Notably, in the northern part of the cottage wall there was another access from the street frontage (Fig. 17 C), which was already defunct in the early 20th century (Fig. 22).

The Post-medieval Pottery by Martin Wilson

- 6.27 A quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from four stratified deposits. The material was obtained during hand-cleaning of existing machine-cut sections (Sections 1 & 2) and the partial hand-dug excavation of a trench through a cellar pit. The assemblage (Table 1) falls into three broad chronological groups: late 17th / early 18 century; 18th / 19th century; and late 19th / early-mid 20th century.
- 6.28 The early period is represented by 35 sherds from the fill (011) of a large cut feature [009], interpreted as a cellar pit. The assemblage is composed of tableware and kitchenware; all earthenware. A representative sample of the assemblage is shown at Figure 20. The tableware includes four sherds of manganese glazed mottled-ware (A), most likely from tankards, which had a peak of popularity in the late 17th century to early 18th century³⁸. Other tablewares are represented by four small sherds of Staffordshire-type moulded slipware dishes (B), or plates³⁹. These have interior surface glaze only. Typically, three sherds have with trailed and combed slip decoration under transparent lead glaze, two with characteristic 'pie-crust' rims. The kitchenware sherds (C to F) derive from pancheons, large dishes, jars and a jug, all treated with black lead glaze. There are four fabric (colour) groups (Table 1), which may indicate different origins, as opposed to differential firing conditions.
- 6.29 The later assemblage was recovered from late 19th / early 20th century contexts, in particular from the in-fills of two land-drainage trenches; each of which contained extruded sectional clay pipes, typically of late 19th / early 20th century type. In this case, only a representative sample of the pottery was recovered, together with associated glass bottles and containers. The pottery vessels comprise pancheons of broadly 19th century date. The land drainage cuts are likely to have been back-filled with material from a midden.

³⁶ Hoggard B, 2019 *Magical House Protection: The Archaeology of Counter-Witchcraft* (Oxford), Ch.1

³⁷ *The Bedfordshire Advertiser*, Friday August 21st 1903

³⁸ Philpott R A 1985. 'Mottled Ware', *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*, 4:52-3

³⁹ For examples of this type see Barker D & Crompton S 2007. *Slipware in the Collection of the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery*, p.152, 1947.P59 & p.163, 2759 (London)

6.30 **Table 1. Pottery Types and chronology**

(Notes: Fabric ('F') codes refer to those of the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series; MNV = minimum number of vessels).

Context No.	Description	Wt. (g)	Period
007	X 1 body sherd Dipped ware (F 432). Cream fabric with light brown slip and mocha decoration in blue. ?bowl	4	c. 1800 -1840s
	X 1 body sherd. White salt-glazed stoneware (F 415). Moulded plate or dish.	6	late C18 - 1 st ½ C19
	X 1 body sherd. Brown-glazed earthenware (F 407), dark brown lead glaze, light reddish brown fabric.	16	C18/ C 19
010	X 1 body sherd. White salt-glazed stoneware . Moulded plate or dish. (F 429)	20	late C18 - 1 st ½ C19
011	X 4 sherds. Staffordshire-type slipware (F 409). MNV = 4		
	1). Moulded dish or plate with glazed interior, rim sherd, buff body, 'pie-crust' edge, trailed and combed decoration. Prob. Midlands. <i>c.f.</i> PMAG Acc.No. 1946, P667 (Barker & Crompton 2007, 154)	12	C18
	2). Moulded dish or plate with glazed interior, buff body, 'pie-crust' edge. Dark brown slipcoat	5	C18
	3). Moulded dish or plate with glazed interior, buff body, trailed and feathered decoration. Staffs.	4	C18
	4). Moulded dish or plate with glazed interior, buff body, trailed slip. Prob. Staffs. <i>c.f.</i> PMAG Acc.No. 1947, P59 (Barker & Crompton 2007, 152).	15	Late C17 - early C18
	X 4 sherds. Manganese mottled-ware (F 413). Prob. tankards. inc. base. MNV = 4	41	c.1670s – c.1750
	X 4 sherds (3 adjoining). Black-glazed earthenware (F 426), black lead glaze, buff fabric. MNV = 1	64	Late C17 – mid C18
	X 6 sherds Black-glazed earthenware (F426), dark greyish brown to greyish brown fabric. MNV = 2	195	Late C17 – mid C18
	X 2 base sherds (diff. vessels) & small strap handle Black-glazed earthenware (F 426), light red to reddish brown fabric, black lead glaze. Jugs/jars. MNV = 3	196	C18
	X 15 sherds Black-glazed earthenware (F 426), pale orange fabric, black lead glaze pancheons (inc. rim) / large dishes (inc. rim). MNV = 4	405	C18
028	x1 rim sherd Brown-glazed earthenware , brown lead glaze, very pale brown fabric, large dish or bowl. MNV = 1	31	C18 / C19 (residual)

Context No.	Description	Wt. (g)	Period
034	Sample only. X 3 rim /bodysherds, Large pancheon, earthenware, pinkish buff fabric, dark brown lead glazed interior, 550 mm dia.	-	C19/ early C20

6.31 **Table 2. Pottery Quantification**

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
007	3	26	3
010	1	20	1
011	35	796	18
028	1	31	1
Totals	40	873	23

Other artefacts

6.32 **Table 3.**

Context	Description	Suggested Period
Interstice int. front wall (See Fig. 10)	Coin: George III halfpenny. Very worn, bent, date unclear	c. 1770s
011	x 3 brick fragments. Orange-red. Hand-made. 53 mm (2 1/8) – 58 mm (2 1/4) thick by 108 mm (4 1/4 mm) wide Total wt. 1766 g.	Early post-medieval
011	x 1 brick fragment. Orange-red. Hand-made. Finger impressions on underside. 37 mm - 39 mm thick. Wt. 381 g.	Early post-medieval
011	x 4 sherds. Bottle glass, green, poss. wine. Wt. 210g	Early post-medieval
034 (Fig.21)	Bottles / bottle glass (Sample only). - Frag. of large clear glass bottle. Relief mould 'OUNDLÉ' - Small mineral water bottle (ht. 188mm), clear glass with relief mould 'W C Cooke Ltd Kettering' - Clear glass medicine bottle, flat, ht. 213 mm - Clear glass fish paste jar, ht 74, relief mould 'REG D No. 687205' - Clear glass bottle stopper for hole dia. 133mm. Relief mould on top 'GARTON'S' (Frederick Gibson Garton – HP Sauce)	C19 / C20 Early – mid C20 Early – mid C20 Late C19 / early C20 1890s – early C20

The Animal Bones by Dr Matilda Holmes

- 6.33 A few animal bones were recovered from context 011, within a cellar fill. Bones were in good condition, and from the colour and size are likely to be at least post-medieval in date. The bones come from cattle and sheep/ goats. Most of the assemblage comes from meat-bearing bones (e.g. radius, vertebra, scapula and pelvis), but the inclusion of a cattle 3rd phalanx and possibly the skull fragments also imply primary butchery waste. This, and the presence of butchery marks suggest that most of the assemblage originated as domestic food waste. A single cattle mandible came from an animal at wear stage E – a young adult animal culled at prime meat age. The sample is too small for further comment.

7. HISTORICAL RESEARCH: JAPONICA COTTAGE

7.1 Historical research undertaken in the course of the present archaeological investigation has been able to shed some light on the former occupants of Japonica Cottage from the late Victorian period through to the early decades of the 20th century.

7.2 A written testimony of historical memory of the property made in 1994 by Mr Arnold George Weston Boon (Appendix 2), a former councillor of Gretton for 49 years, confirms that the former L-shaped building that stood at the Application Site was known as Japonica Cottage and comprised two separate dwellings.

Occupants: The Colemans

7.3 The earliest known residents of Japonica Cottage found during the present study are the Coleman family and the Spendlove family, two Baptist families, who are understood to have occupied the building from at least the mid Victorian period to the early decades of the 20th century.

7.4 The Colemans lived at the larger of the two cottages⁴⁰, which flanked the street frontage, NNE/SSW. In the 1890s and early 1900s the Coleman family consisted of James (b. 1869), originally of Barrowden and Ellen (b. 1863), his wife, formerly of Oxfordshire, and their six children - Frederick John (b. 1899), Percival James (b. 1895), Olive (b. 1896), Mary (b. 1900) and twins Charles & Johanna (b. 1901). The family photograph is circa 1900 (Fig. 24)⁴¹. James Coleman remarried a Miss Spendlove (b. 1868), quite possibly from the smaller cottage next door. Their off-springs were Daisy and May, the children shown in the photograph of the house which appears to have been taken around 1910 (Fig. 22).

7.5 In commemoration of the end of the Great War, the Gretton History Society compiled a potted history of the men of the village who served in it⁴². The catalogue includes two of, Percival and Frederick Coleman. Percival evidently enlisted prior to the war, as he was transferred to the Army Reserves on in November 1911. During the war he served in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His discharge paper gives *Japonica Cottage, Gretton* as is permanent address, although he later moved to Coventry for work. His brother Frederick, a farm labourer, was conscripted to Training Reserve in April 1917 (later serving in the Labour Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps). He had already left Japonica Cottage, giving Ironstone House, Gretton as his home address. He was still serving in the Army Reserve in 1920. Returning to Gretton, he worked as a farm labourer and milkman. He married Martha Rudkin in 1924 and, in 1939 was living at The Nook, Gretton.

7.6 Interestingly, former councillor Arnold Boon recollected that the larger of the two cottages was used as a doctor's surgery "*for many years until sometime after 1945*", whereby patients queued outside.

Occupants: The Spendloves

7.7 In 1936, elderly newly-weds Samuel and Hannah (née Norris) Spendlove lived at the smaller Japonica Cottage. Mr Samuel Spendlove, aged 73, had been born in the cottage 1862⁴³. Hannah, a 74 year old widow was also a native of Gretton. Samuel, a retired butcher and

⁴⁰ Tina Small's mother referred to the other cottage as the smaller one (pers. comm. Tina Small)

⁴¹ Kindly provided by descendant Tina Small. Tina's grandfather was James Coleman. Her mother was Ivy Chapman, nee Coleman

⁴² *Taking Stock of WW1* Gretton Local History Society (April 2016)

⁴³ *Northampton Mercury - Friday 31 July 1936*, 'Life-Long Friends Married Elderly Couple's Romance'

thatcher, was a long-standing member of Gretton Baptist Church and its Sunday School superintendent since 1916. A portrait photograph of Samuel Spendlove accompanies a newspaper article of 24th May 1939 (then aged 76), commemorating his 50 years as a preacher at the Bulwick Baptist Chapel (c. 6.5 miles east of Gretton) (Fig. 23). Interestingly, when Japonica Cottage was demolished in 1959, an item recovered was a sales and credit ledger that had belonged to Samuel Spendlove⁴⁴, recording the inhabitants and their consumption-spending habits.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The stone boundary wall fashioned from an ancient cottage in High Street is locally well known; evocative of its historic origins. Importantly, the archaeological planning condition presented the opportunity to examine and record the material evidence of the site's past, provide an insight to its origins, and draw together strands of its history.
- 8.2 The building to which the wall belonged was known as Japonica Cottage, an L-shaped building, consisting of two separate dwellings, of different size. The archaeological evidence suggests that the building stood for a period of around two and half centuries, before being taken down in 1959.
- 8.3 The cottage flanking the roadside was the larger of the two. Historic photographs show that the external wall of the smaller cottage abutted the rear wall of the larger one. Both buildings were constructed of well-coursed stone rubble. The larger cottage at least, was two-storied, its upper storey probably incorporating the roof-space. Mid-19th century photographs show that both dwellings were thatched.
- 8.4 It remains uncertain as to whether the building depicted at this point on the earliest known map of Gretton in 1587 is a portrayal of Japonica Cottage; a single dwelling is shown flanking the roadside. It is possible that it represents an earlier building that occupied the site.
- 8.5 The archaeological evidence revealed that the cottages were constructed on terraced areas cut into the rising ground to the east. These areas were prepared with a foundation layer of fragmented sandstone. The only floor layers that survive belong to the smaller cottage, the floor of which was stepped up into the slope. An *in situ* fragment of a pozzalanic floor (composed of lime-ash composition with crushed pieces of fired clay) still exists beneath the south-eastern baulk of the site, which is quite possibly a portion of the original cottage floor. Such floors have been exposed elsewhere in early post-medieval buildings (*ante*, 6.5). Over time, worn and damaged parts of the floor were patched with brick, which were set on a bedding layer of gritty silty clay. At the north-western end (i.e. front) of the smaller building the floor covering was replaced, at some juncture in the 19th or 20th century, by quarry floor tiles.
- 8.6 The earliest artefactual evidence from the archaeological investigation dates from the late 17th / early 18th century. It was recovered from an in-filled cellar. Pottery sherds indicate that the cellar went out of use at some juncture in the late 1600s or early 1700s. It is possible that the sherds were previously deposited on a nearby midden, as the deposit included fragments of animal bone (cattle and sheep/ goats) mostly derived from domestic food waste, though including evidence of primary butchery waste. For the most part, the cellar was infill with stone rubble and dirt, all of which appears to which appears to have been done in a single

⁴⁴ Pers. Comm. Elizabeth Jordan, Gretton Historical Society

event. Interestingly, in the fill were occasional large fragments of early post-medieval bricks, a building material uncommon in the village's oldest surviving buildings.

- 8.7 The cellar appears to have been timber-lined. It was deep (2.26 m), long (4.1 m), though fairly narrow once the timber lining was in place (c. 1.32 - 1.4 m). Unfortunately, relative dating of cottage foundation and cellar could not be achieved via stratigraphic analysis, owing to modern disturbance. Nevertheless, the planimetric relationship of the cottage and cellar (reconstructed by combining the Ordnance Survey 25" scale outline of the property with the 2020 GPS site survey), strongly suggests that the two features respected one another, from which it may be inferred that they were once in contemporary usage. If this was the case, the cellar was probably covered by an above-ground structure of some kind, attached to the smaller of the two dwellings.
- 8.8 A photograph taken in the early 20th century (albeit somewhat blurred) is curious, as it appears to show a smoother roof covering on the west side of the larger cottage (Fig. 22); it is difficult to see whether or not this covering was slate. This may be compared with a photograph of the rear of the building (recorded as Japonica Cottage) which is understood to have been taken in 1954 (Fig. 25). The two images present something of a dilemma. A sequence of demolition photographs taken in 1959, show clearly the removal of thatch from the rear side of the roof. It is just possible that the roof was, at some juncture, over-sheeted in corrugated iron.
- 8.9 In order to give social context to the building remains, the present report has briefly explored the history of the late 19th and early 20th century occupants of Japonica Cottage, via a combination of oral tradition and primary sources, which, in turn, should provide a useful platform for more in-depth research at local level.
- 8.10 In terms of further archaeological survival, the investigation has shown that a portion of the of the smaller cottage's foundations (lower wall courses and floor) survives of lies buried beneath the rear garden of the new dwelling between c. 112.24 m and 112.5 m OD. It may thus, be reasonably inferred that the archaeological 'horizon' continues in the northeast part of the property.

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Historic maps

- 1587 Northamptonshire Archives Map FH272
- 1837 Gretton Inclosure, Northamptonshire Archives, plan 17
- 1886 Ordnance Survey, Northamptonshire, 25", Northamptonshire
- 1900 Ordnance Survey, Northamptonshire, 25", Northamptonshire
- 1952 Ordnance Survey, Northamptonshire, 1:10,560, sheet XI.NE,

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Northampton Mercury - Friday 31 July 1936, 'Life-Long Friends Married Elderly Couple's Romance', British Newspaper Archives

The Bedfordshire Advertiser, Friday August 21st 1903, British Newspaper Archives

Declaration 30th March 1994, made by Mr Arnold George Weston Boon, before Ronald D Dudley, Solicitor, Oakham, Rutland (doc. possession of S Smyth, Gretton)

Historic Photographs

- Elizabeth Jordan, Gretton Historical Society Collection
- Tina Small, Gretton, Private Collection

12. Figures

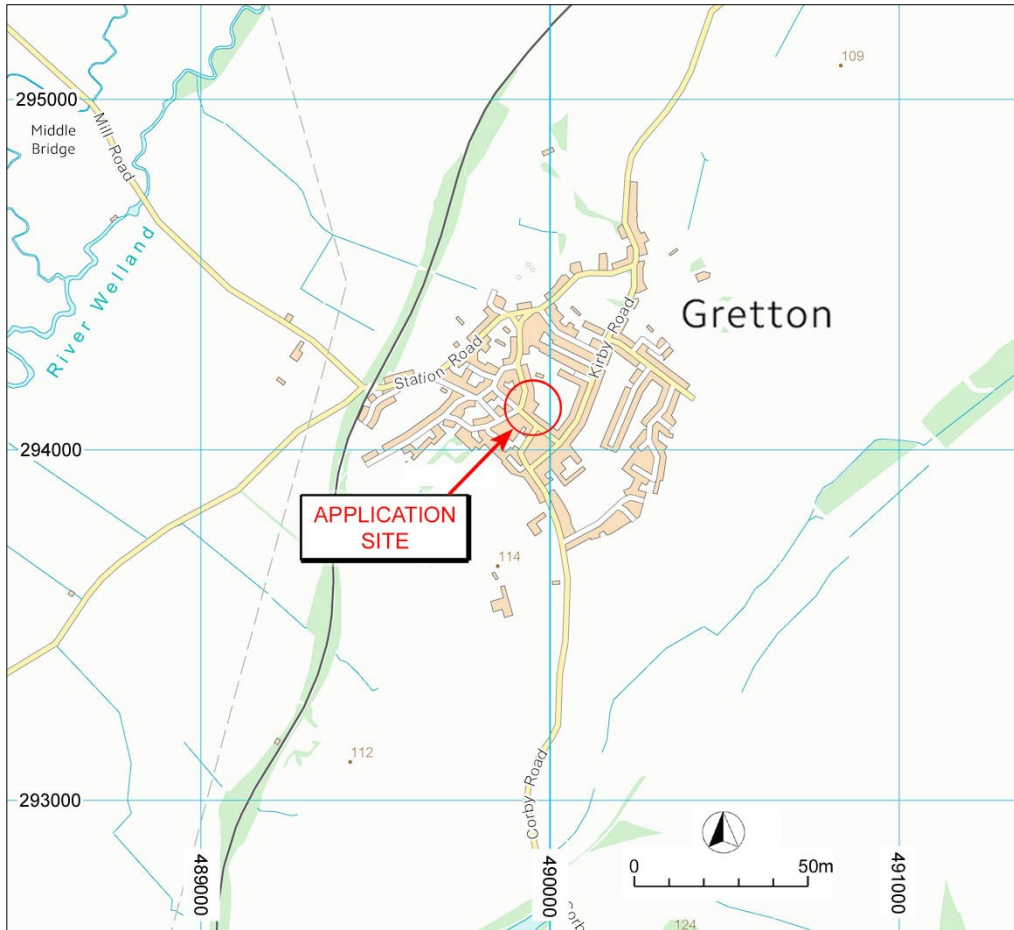


Figure 1. Location of the Application Site



Figure 2. Extent of the Application Site

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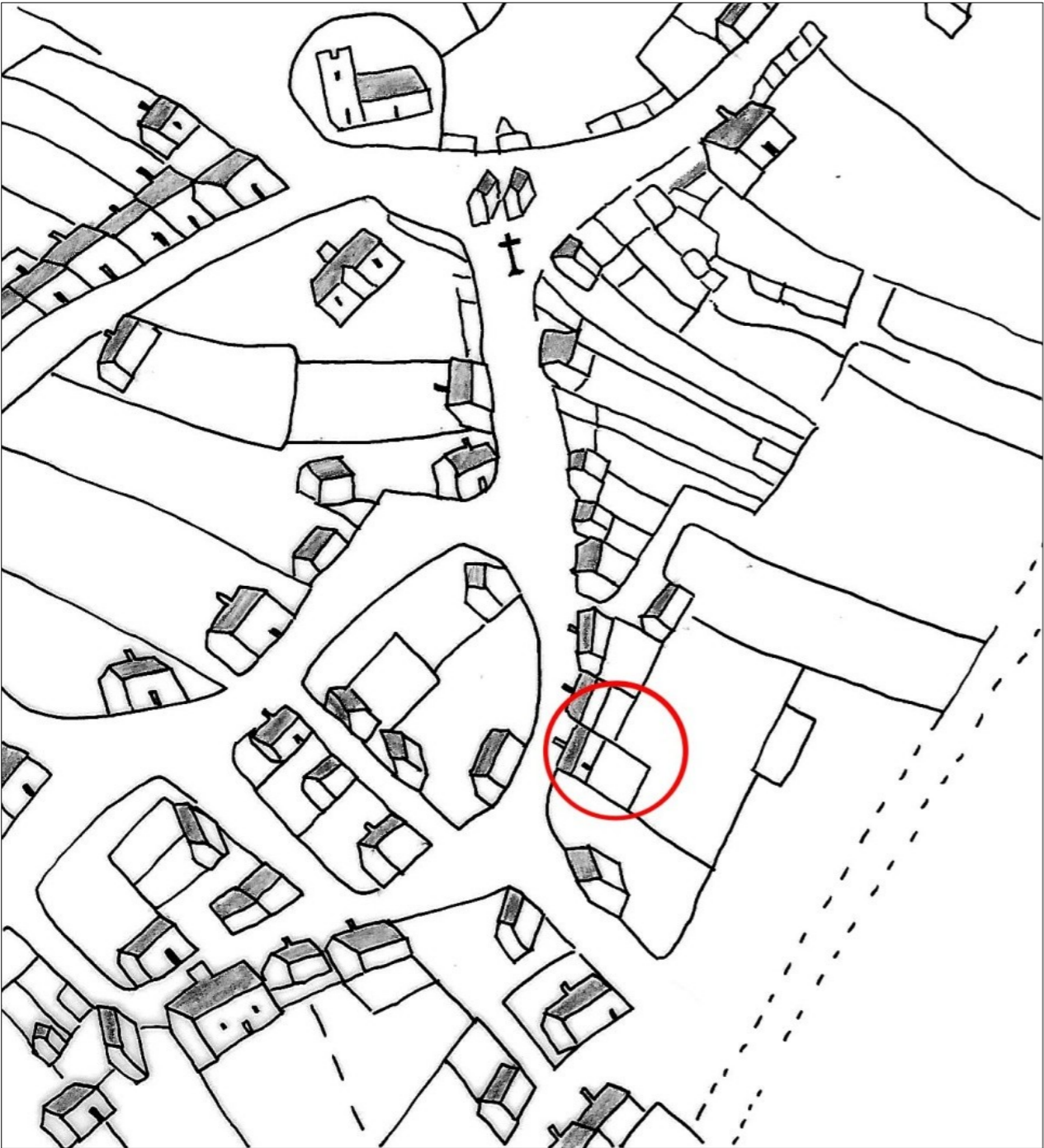


Figure 3. Interpretive tracing of a part of the 1587 map of Gretton. The approximate location of the Application Site is encircled

Northamptonshire Archives Map FH272; Re-drawn by MD Wilson



Figure 4. The boundary wall of the Application Site on High Street, incorporating blocked windows and door. Top: facing SE. Bottom: facing NE

Figure 5. Redrawn Extract of the 1837 Inclosure map of Gretton (Application Area in red)

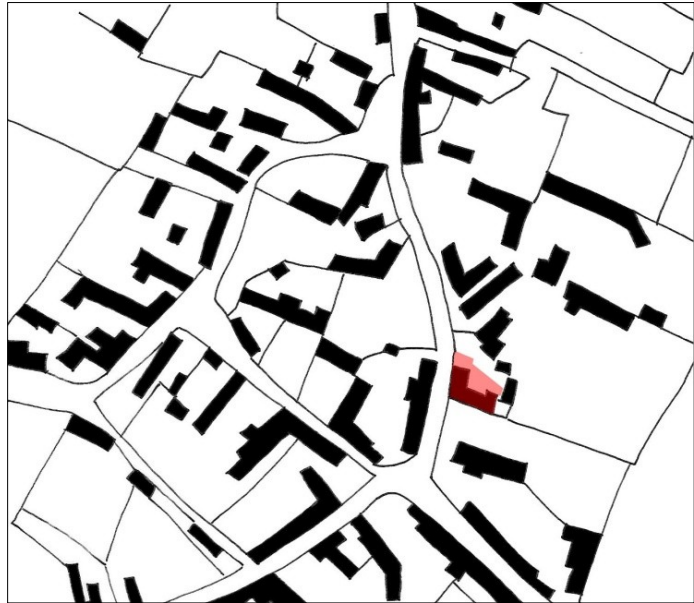


Figure 6. Extract of the OS 1886 25" map (Application Area in red)

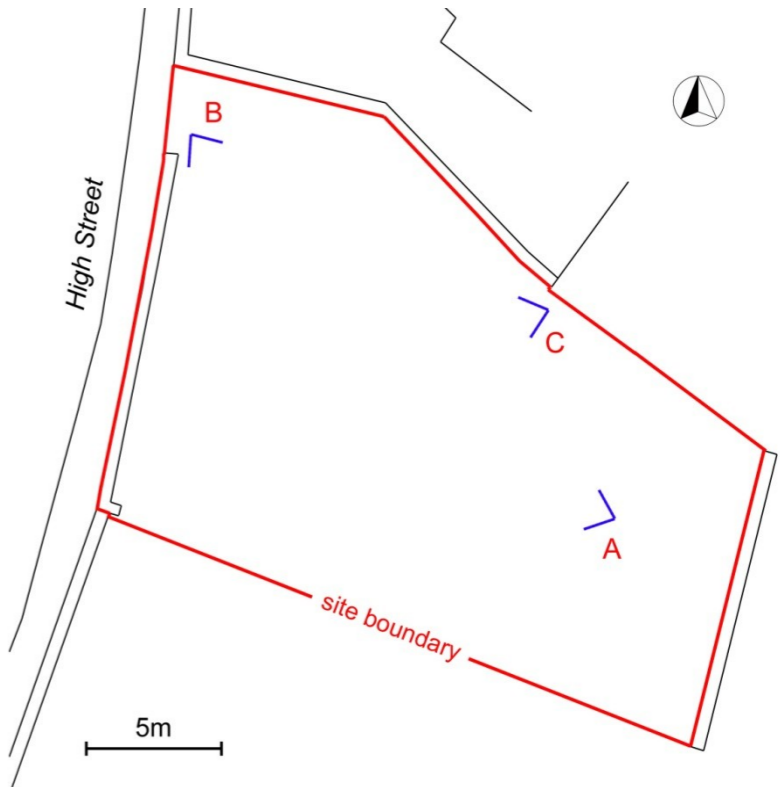
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Figure 7. Extract of the OS 1900 25" map (Application Area in red)

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A



B

C

Figure 8. Pre-commencement views of the site, 28.05 2020

(photographs by Anthony Peter Stefan Smyth

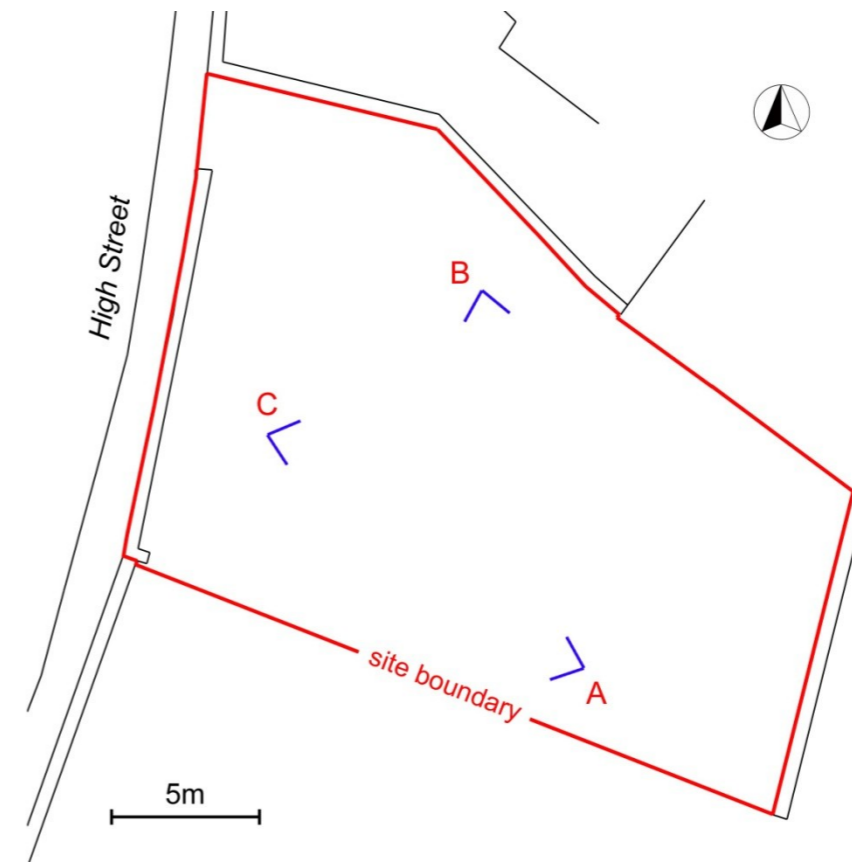
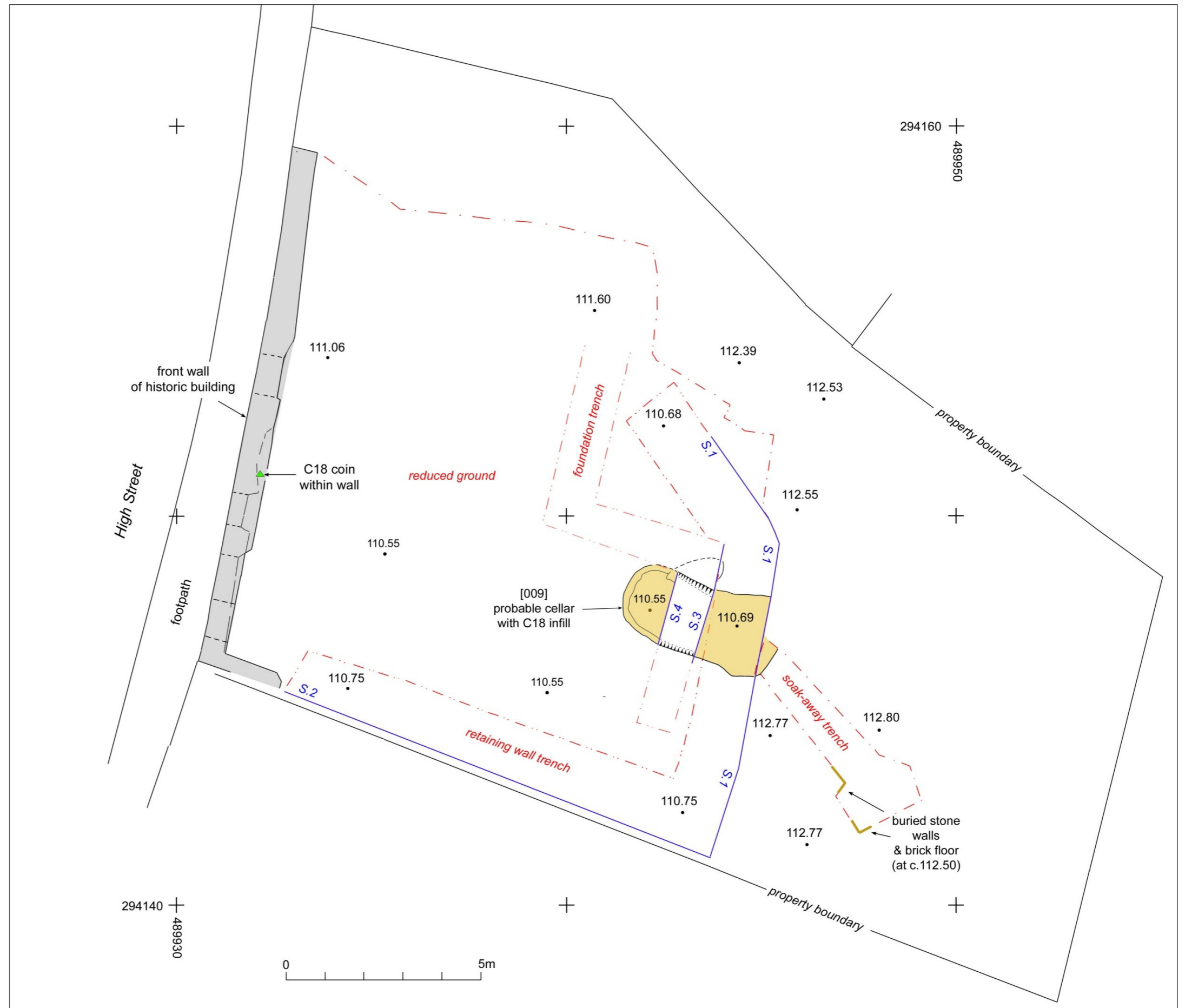


Figure 9. Pre-investigation views, 23.03.2020

Figure 10.
Plan of the site showing location of sections and area of ground reduction with levels (OD)



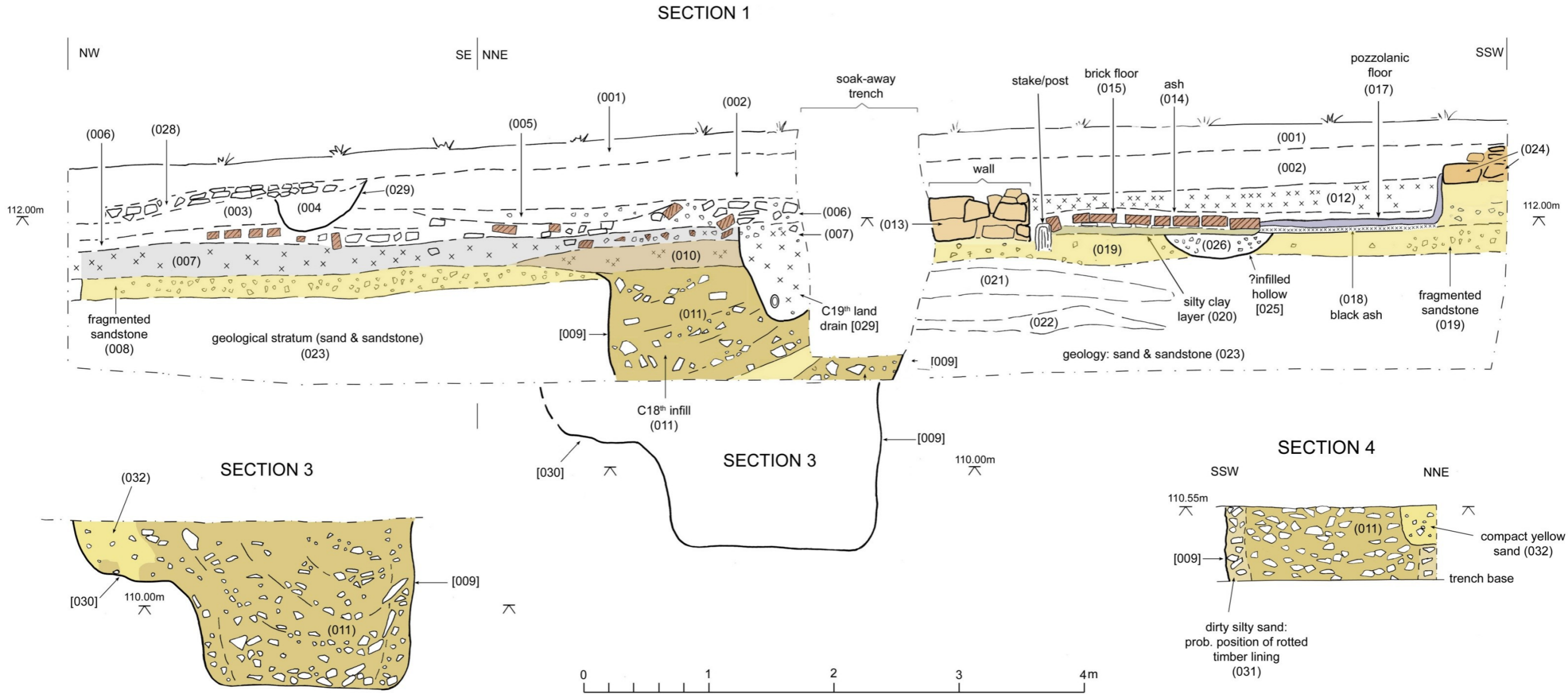


Figure 11. Sections 1, 3 & 4



Above: 04.03.2020. Upper part of cellar revealed in Section 1. New soak-away trench to right



Above: 04.03.2020. In-filled cellar revealed in new retaining wall trench



Above: 12.06. 2020. Overview, facing SE



Left:
23.03.2020.
View to NE after completion of retaining wall foundations. Section 1 in the background, Section 3 in foreground



Right.
12.06. 2020.
Western end of the cellar, exposed after ground preparation showing location of Section 4). Note. The lower part of the cellar is no longer visible



Above. 12.06. 2020. Western end of the cellar. The upper part of Section 3 to right

Figure 12. Photographs: post-medieval cellar [009]



Above: 05.03.2020. Southern half of Section 1. Post-medieval building foundations and floor. Facing SE



Right: 23.03.2020. Cottage walls exposed in new soak-away pit. Facing SW

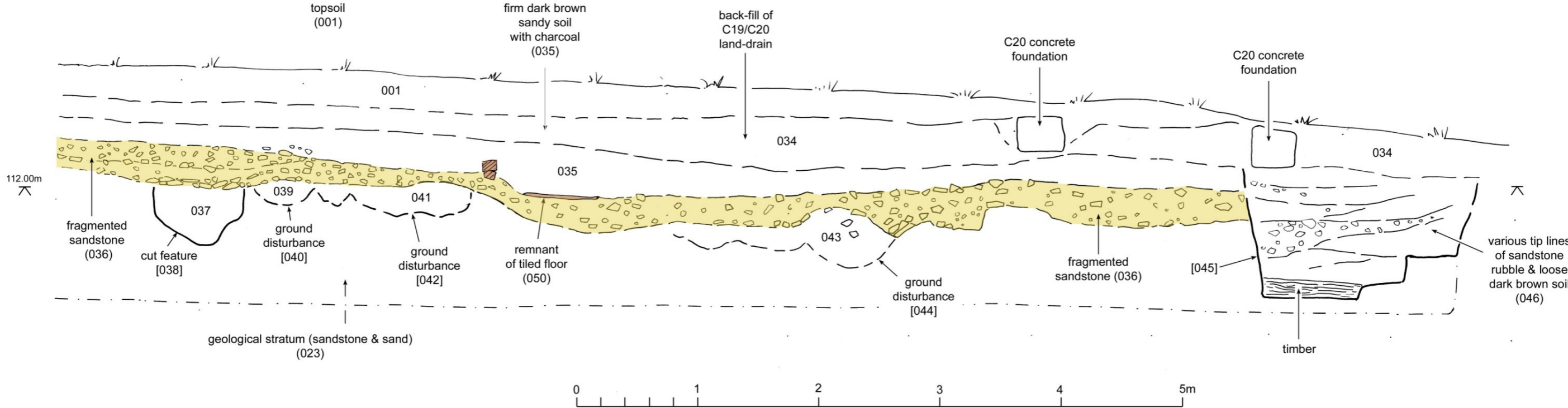


Right: 05.03.2020. Southern half of Section 1. Post-medieval pozzolanic floor. Facing SE



Above: 23.03.2020. Cottage walls exposed in trench for new soak-away. Facing W

Figure 13. Photographs: Section 1: cottage foundations



Section 2 overview, facing SW



Stratigraphy above features [038], [040] & [042], facing SW



Section 2 overview, facing SE; feature [045] to right

Figure 14. Section 2



Figure 15. Former front interior wall of the cottages, facing NW (15.03.2020)

Figure 16.
Former front interior wall
of the cottages, facing SW
(15.03.2020)





A



C



B

A: Block front door and window (brick) of the smaller cottage. Cottage dividing wall to right of brickwork.

B: Blocked stone-framed front window of the larger cottage.

C: Blocked front doorway to the larger cottage. This entrance had been blocked prior to c. 1910 – see Figure 22



Figure 18. Remnant of floor layers in the smaller cottage (15.03.2020)

Figure 17. Photographs A to C. Former front interior wall of the cottages, facing WNW (15.03.2020)

Figure 19.
Conjectured outline of the
two cottages





Figure 20. Types of Late 17th / Early 18th century pottery from the cellar in-fill (011)

- A. Manganese-glazed mottled ware
- B. Staffordshire-type, press-moulded slipware
- C to F. Black glazed earthenwares

(background mesh: 1 x1 cm squares)



Figure 21. Sample of early 20th century artefacts from land drain (034)

(background mesh: 1 x 1 cm squares)



Figure 22.
Japonica Cottage. Circa 1910. Left: Mr James Coleman and his wife ??? (née Spendlove), their children Daisy and May; Mr Samuel Spendlove & his wife Beatrice

(photo: courtesy of Tina Small)



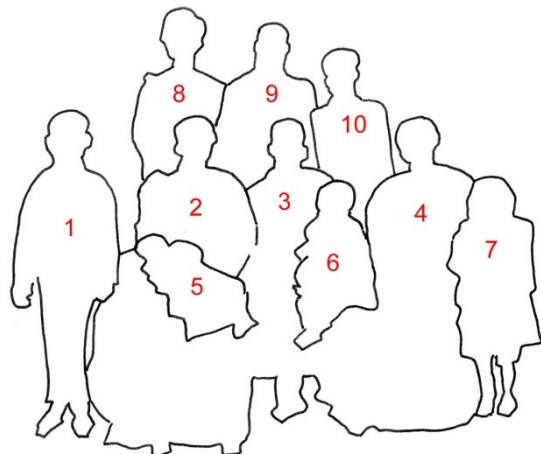
Figure 23. Samuel Spendlove of Japonica Cottage in May 1939 (aged 76)

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Figure 24.
The Coleman family of Gretton, c. 1900

- 1. Percival**
- 2. Mrs. Ellen Coleman**
- 3. Mr. James Coleman**
- 4. not known**
- 5. Mary**
- 6. Frederick**
- 7. Olive**
- 8-10. not known**



(Photo: courtesy of Tina Small)

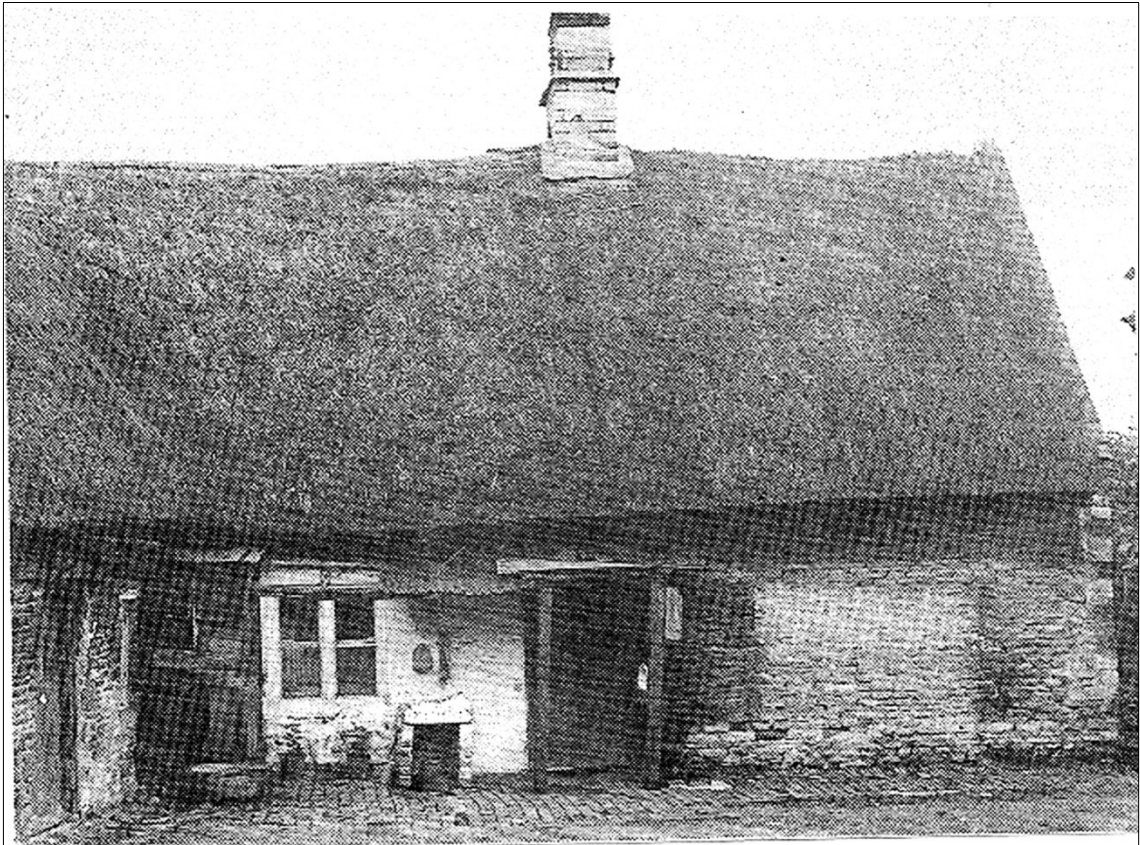


Figure 25. Rear view of the larger cottage, c. 1954



Figure 26. Demolition of Japonica Cottage, 1959

Photos: courtesy of Elisabeth Jordan, Gretton Local History Society)



Figure 27. Demolition, 1959. Removing the thatched roof of the larger cottage (Coleman's cottage). Remains of the smaller cottager to right

Photo: courtesy of Elisabeth Jordan, Gretton Local History Society)



**Figure 28. Demolition, 1959. The smaller cottage (Spendlove's cottage).
The photograph shows the SE end of the building and attached outhouse with catslide roof**

Photo: courtesy of Elisabeth Jordan, Gretton Local History Society)



Figure 29. Demolition, 1959. The SW gable end of the larger cottage

The wall on the street frontage was retained at approximately this height

Photo: courtesy of Elisabeth Jordan, Gretton Local History Society)

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 No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Suggested date	Date of record
001	LAYER	Dark brown-black sandy silt. Very loose. Topsoil	a.(002), (024), (034), prob. (035)	th. c. 0.16 –c. 0.3 m	S1, S2	-	C20	05.03.2020
002	LAYER	Mid-yellow-brown, sandy silt. compact. Subsoil. Generally 0.32 m thick	b.(001), (024) a.(003), (005), (013), (012) cub. [050]	th. c. 0.1 –c. 0.32 m	S1	-	C19/ C20	05.03.2020
003	LAYER	Dark brown to black, sooty-ashy layer. Very friable.	b.(024), (005) a.(006) cub. [050]	th. c. 0.12 –c. 0.22 m	S1	-	C19/ C20	05.03.2020
004	FILL	Very dark black, sooty ashy deposit within shallow pit	wi.[050]	th.c. 0.28 m	S1	-		05.03.2020
005	LAYER	Light sandy silty layer with small to medium stones, orange-brown. Compact			S1	-		05.03.2020
006	LAYER	red brick/stone ?floor	b. (003), (005) cub. [050]	th. c. 0.12 –c. 0.16 m	S1	-	C20	05.03.2020
007	LAYER	Mid grey-brown layer of sandy silt with small stones		th. 0.1 – 0.26 m	S1	pottery (inc. mocha-ware)	Post-med	05.03.2020
008	LAYER	Disturbed, or re-deposited natural, dirty yellow-brown fragmented sandstone. Similar to/same as (019). Fairly consistent thickness, horizontally laid, above geological stratum. possibly a ground preparation	a.(023)	th. c. 0.2 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
009	CUT	Located at c. 111.54 m OD. Near-vertical sides. Possible cut for a cellar. Feature partially exposed in the SE retaining wall trench Cut through by a late C 19 land drain.	co. (011) cub. [029] & c21 soak-away trench	de. 2.26 m wid. c. 1.66 – 1.72 m le .c. 4.08 m	S1 S3	-	Post-med	05.03.2020

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Suggested date	Date of record
		<p>The relationships (stratigraphic, chronological and physical) between the possible cellar feature, the stone structure (013) and building floor make-up layer is unfortunately lost due to the SE portion of the feature having been dug away for a soak-away trench prior to the archaeological investigation.</p> <p>Excavation of a foundation trench – hand-dug to base, using machine assistance to enable safe-working area. Flat base at c. 109.36 m OD. Vertical sides. Overall depth c. 2.2 m</p> <p>Further ground reduction proved feature to be sub-rectangular in plan with possible stepped access from the N side [030]. A halo of dirty silty sand with rubble, c. 0.16 m wide (031), was clearly discernible in plan at this level, and also vaguely discernible in section. This seemed to suggest the former existence of a timber lining which had rotted in situ.</p>						
010	LAYER	Layer covering the the fill of possible cellar. Mid grey-brown silty sand, speckled with charcoal flecks, compact.	a. (011) b.(007)	th. 0.2 m	S1			05.03.2020
011	FILL	Fill of possible cellar. Stone rubble (c. 75%), small to medium angular and sub-angular, in a matrix of mid grey sandy silt (c. 25%). Extremely compact. Tip-lines vaguely discernible, although most probably a single infilling event – no primary fill, or erosion product other than probable transformed remains of rotted boards lining the sides (031), appearing as dirty silty sand	wi.[009] cub. [029] & c21 soak-away trench	th. 2.26 m	S1 S3	pottery, late C17 /early C18, bone, bottle glass, brick fragments	C18	05.03.2020
012	LAYER	Mixed layer, actually containing several alternate layers of ash, sandy-silt ash. Stacked horizontally	a.(013), (014) b.(002)	th. c. 0.14 –c. 0.25 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
013	STRUCTURE	Wall. Comprised of sandstone rubble, possible roughly-worked facing stones on N side, although the true width and orientation could not be ascertained, having been disturbed by the creation of a soak-away for the present development. The structure is presumed to have been	a.(019) b.(020)	ht. c. 0.4 m wid. c. 0.8 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Findings	Suggested date	Date of record
		related to wall (024) to the S, and the floor between the two. Remains of a timber stake/post on the S side of the wall						
014	LAYER	Thin layer of ash. Overlies with brick and pozzolanic floor. possibly a later 'use' layer of the structure, as opposed to a disuse layer	a. (015), (016) b.(012)	th. 0.04 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
015	LAYER	Brick floor laid, some bricks laid on small pieces of sandstone. Bricks hand-made, each c. 70 thick mm x 210 mm long. The bricks are laid on a bedding layer of	a.(020) b.(014) abt. (017), (018)	th .0.07 m- 0.1 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
016	LAYER	Light greenish-grey ashy layer overlying floor layer ((012) and (017)	a. (018), (024) b.(002)	a. (012), (017)	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
017	STRUCTURE	Pozzolanic floor. Laps up S wall (024). Floor level at c. 111.99 m – c. 122.0 m OD	a. (019)	a.(018) abt. floor layers (020)/(012)	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
018	LAYER	Thin layer of black ash underlying pozzolanic floor. Blinding layer. Seated at c. 111.87 m OD	a. (018), (019) b.(017)	th. c.0.04 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
019	LAYER	Disturbed, or re-deposited natural, dirty yellow-brown fragmented sandstone. Similar to/same as (008). Fairly consistent thickness, horizontally laid, above geological stratum. floor foundation at at c. 111.87 m OD	a. (023) b. (018), (013), (024) cub.[025]	th. c. 0.18 – 0.2 m	S1		Post-med	05.03.2020
020	LAYER	Light green-brown gritty silty clay underlying brick floor. Bedding layer	a.(019), (026)	th. 0.03 - 0.04 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
021	LAYER	Lense-layer of mid orange-brown silty sand, flecked with carbonised material (?charcoal), apparently within the natural (023). No clear cut or shape, but not natural. Similar to (022)	wi. (023) b.(019)	th. c .0.12 – c. 0.22 m	S1	-	U/K	05.03.2020
022	LAYER	Lense-layer of mid orange-brown silty sand, flecked with carbonised material (?charcoal), apparently within the natural (023). No clear cut or shape, but not natural. Similar to (021)	wi. (023)	th. c .0.07 – c. 0.18m	S1	-	U/K	05.03.2020
023	LAYER	Natural. Geological stratum. Compact sand, some with sandstone – presumably a regolithic layer	b.8019) cub. [009], [025]	-	S1	-	-	05.03.2020

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Suggested date	Date of record
024	STRUCTURE	Wall. Comprised of sandstone rubble, possible roughly-worked facing stones on N (internal) side. The wall appeared to terminate at the end of the S baulk/ Section. Fragile nature of the overlying material precluded further cleaning of the section	a.(019)	vis. wid. c .0.48 m ht. c. 0.3 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
025	CUT	Bowl-shaped feature underlying brick floor	c.(019) b.(018) co. (026)	de. c.0.20 m wid. c. 9 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
026	FILL	Brown sandy silt with frequent stones	wi. [025]	th. c. 0.2 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
027	LAYER	Layer of re-deposited natural, dirty yellow-brown fragmented sandstone. Similar in composition to (019) and (008) in Section 1, and (036) in Section 2. Appears to be a prepared foundation for wall (024)	a. (019) b.(0124)	th. c. 0.34 m	S1	-	Post-med	05.03.2020
028	LAYER	Layer of fragmented sandstone in dirty silty soil matrix. Probable external surface.	a. (003), (094) b.(001)	th. c. 0.1 m	S1	-	C20	05.03.2020
029	CUT	Pit, presumably for hearth waste. Sealed by (028) layer of red brick and rubble stone	c.(002), (003), (006) b. (028) co.(004)	de. c. 0.28 m	S1	-	Late post-med/ modern	05.03.2020
030	CUT	Probably a stepped access from the N side of cellar pit [009]	co. (032)	le. 0.8 m de. 0.48 m	S3	-		12.06.2020
031	FILL	Inside the cut of the cellar pit [009], this a halo of dirty silty sand and fragmented sandstone rubble, which became clearly discernible in plan after further ground reduction over the new building footprint. However, only vaguely discernible in section. It is understood to be the transformed remains of a timber lining which had rotted in situ.	wi. [009] b.(011)	wid. c. 0.16 m	S4	-		12.06.2020
032	fill	Compact yellow sand – block-like deposit / upper fill of cellar pit [009] on the NNE side. Severed by foundation trench, it was difficult to determine what this deposit represented, unless just a differential in-fill of the cellar in the location of the stepped access.	wi. [009] a. (031)	de. 0.26 m wid. c. 0.25 m	S4	-	Post-med	12.06.2020
033	UNUSED							
034	FILL	Fill of a land drain. Backfilled with domestic waste – bottles, tins, etc., presumably from a midden.	de. up to 0.42 m	de.. c.0.19 – c.0.42 m	S2	Pottery, bottles	C19 / C20	05.03.2020

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Suggested date	Date of record
		Representative sample of finds taken for date						
035	LAYER	Layer of dark greyish brown firm silty soil with frequent flecks of carbonised material. Possible old topsoil. Its true thickness is indeterminate as it is obscured by the fill of a C19/C20 land drain (034) which is present throughout the entire length of Section 2. Presumably directly underlies the modern topsoil (001). Prob. same as (002)	a. (036), (050) b.?(001) cub. [045]	th. c.0.14 – c.0.4 m	S2	-	C19/ C20	05.03.2020
036	LAYER	Layer of fragmented sub-angular and angular sandstone. Visible in S2 for at least 9.9 m. Appears to be floor/ground make-up layer, covering very uneven ground surface.. Difficult to ascertain whether this was inside or outside a building. Lies directly above the geological stratum. A remnant of tiled floor (050) and a brick possible structure sit on top of it.	a. (037), (039), (041), 043, (023) cub. [045] b. (035)	th. 0.15 – 0.3 m	S2	-	Post-med, though cannot be more precise	05.03.2020
037	FILL	Light brown sandy soil	wi.[038] b.(036)	wid. c. 0.74 m th. 0.44 m max.	S2		Post-med	05.03.2020
038	CUT	Possibly a gully. Clearly defined. Probably derived from horticultural activities. Vertical sides to to c.0.2 m, before sloping to a slot/channel in base, c. 0.11 wide.	co.(037) b.(036)	de. 0.44 m max.	S2		Post Post-med	05.03.2020
039	FILL	Light brown sandy soil	wi.[040] b.(036)	th. c.0.2	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020
040	CUT	Similar to (042) and (044). Possible location of shrubs, or possibly derived from horticultural activities (e.g. bedding or drainage trench), though difficult to say whether a discrete feature or a linear. Adjoins [042]	co.(039) b.(036) adj. [042]	wid. 0.47 m de. c.0.2	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020
041	FILL	Light brown sandy soil	wi.[042] b.(036)	th. 0.16 – 0.28 m	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020
042	CUT	Very irregular ground disturbance – resonant with horticultural activity. Similar to (040) and (044). Possibly derived from horticultural activities	co.(041) b.(036) adj. [040]	de. 0.16 – 0.28 m	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020
043	FILL	Possible location of shrubs, or possibly derived from horticultural activities (e.g. bedding or drainage trench)	wi.[044] b.(036)	th. c.0.18 – c.0.5 m	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020
044	CUT	Similar to (040) and (042). Possible location of shrubs, or even derived from horticultural activities	co.(043) b.(036)	de. c.0.18 – c.0.5 m	S2	none	Post-med	05.03.2020

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Suggested date	Date of record
045	CUT	Late or modern pit-like intrusion of uncertain function. Steep sides SE side c. 85° , NW side c. 75° . Appears to have been stepped down on NW side), though the cut is only partially exposed/ defined in section	c.(046)	wid. 1.6 m – 1.85 m (top), base c.0.64 de. c. 1.1 m (not bottomed)	S2	none	Late post-med/modern	05.03.2020
046	FILL	Various tip lines of loose dark brown soil and sandstone rubble. Decayed piece of cut timber (at least 0.14 m thick) lies at the bottom	wi.[045]	th. c. 1.1m	S2	none	Late post-med/modern	05.03.2020

OASIS ID : souterra1-406533	
Project name	Former site of Japonica Cottage, 76 High Street, Gretton, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	A historic characteristic of the site is a stone boundary wall fronting the road - the remains of an early post-medieval cottage, demolished in the mid- 20th century. A late 16th century map depicts a tenement at approximately at this location. In view of this, the main purpose of the investigation was to record any buried archaeological evidence pertaining to the former occupancy of the site, and to attempt to ascertain its date. The investigation confirmed the remains of an L-shaped building, which had occupied the site for around two and half centuries. The archaeology comprised of remnants of lower wall courses built of coursed rubble, floor surfaces, including a pozzolanic surface, and a cellar. The cellar was long and narrow, over 2 m in depth, and appears to have been timber-lined. It was in-filled in a single event. Pottery sherds denoted a disuse date of late 1600s/early 1700s. A construction date for the cellar was not established. Neither could a date be ascertained for the construction of cottage. A portion of one cottage remains buried, apparently undisturbed. Historical research revealed the L-shaped building to comprise two dwellings known as Japonica Cottage. The report includes photographs (from private collections) of some of the main residents of Japonica Cottage from the late 19th century onwards. The analysis incorporates a reconstruction of the broad planimetric layout of the cottages, achieved by combining the 2020 archaeological survey with historic mapping. Overall, the results of the investigation open a new window to the history of Gretton High Street.
Project dates	Start: 04-03-2020 End: 12-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Assoc. ref. codes	ENN109595 - HER event no.
Assoc. ref. codes	SOU19-661 - Contracting Unit No.
Assoc. ref. codes	17/00566/DPA - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	SURFACE DEPOSIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	RUINED BUILDING Post Medieval
Monument type	LAND DRAIN Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England

Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CORBY GRETTON Former site of Japonica Cottage
Postcode	NN17 3DF
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 89943 94150 52.537407384892 -0.673746074702 52 32 14 N 000 40 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 111.6m Max: 112.14m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd
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	SMC (Midlands) Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Physical Archive ID	ENN109595
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Digital Archive ID	ENN109595
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Paper Archive ID	ENN109595
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Former site of Japonica Cottage, 76 High Street, Gretton, Northamptonshire, NN17 3DF (NGR 489943, 294150). Archaeological Investigation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wilson M.D
Other bibliographic details	SOU19-661
Date	2020
Issuer	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd
Place of issue	Olney
Description	illustrated technical report, A4 format, bound, with A3 fold-ins, colour, pp.53 inc. cover
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Entered on	22 October 2020