

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 2003

The following reports on archaeological fieldwork undertaken in Northamptonshire have been compiled from reports received by NCC's Historic Environment Team (Northamptonshire Heritage) over a period from 10th April 2003 to 30th January 2004. Where archaeological deposits from several different periods are encountered the report has been placed within the earliest time period.

PREHISTORIC

BANBURY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: WIN AREAS RA2 AND RA3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

PD Catherall

These surveys were carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation of two proposed areas of part of the Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme. Both areas contain ridge and furrow and it was initially proposed to carry out a geophysical survey and a 5% evaluation on both areas. As a result of the findings of the survey, site RA3 has now been dropped as a possible source of clay. Both RA2 and RA3 contained extensive archaeological sites which are certainly earlier in date than the medieval ridge and furrow that covers many of them. Certainly RA3 is a prime settlement site lying so close to the Cherwell and yet being free from flooding, except on its lower slopes. The morphology of the various enclosures on the hilltop does suggest the possibility of a series of settlements spanning the whole range from prehistoric to medieval before its rather more specialised use in more modern times. The WW2 anti-aircraft battery which was thought to have been destroyed during the construction of the M40 motorway is important as one of the few remaining examples in Northamptonshire and its links with the Northern Aluminium Company's factory in Banbury adds to its importance. The nature of the archaeology on RA3 is such that it has been decided to drop the site as a potential win area.

RA2 also contains archaeological sites. The most important of these is the large complex to the north and east of the present farm buildings. This site should be avoided, if at all possible, although if any evaluation is carried out on the other archaeological sites in RA2 then this complex needs to be dated in order to put it into context with the two enclosures in the northern part of the site.

COLLYWESTON QUARRY DUDDINGTON

NGR SK 995 004

Evaluation and Area Excavation
Archaeological Project Services

An archaeological evaluation followed by an excavation was undertaken at Collyweston Quarry. A series of peri-glacial cambers were the earliest features recorded and contained late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery. A penannular ditch with a causeway orientated to the south-southeast was revealed adjacent to the cambers and has been tentatively dated to the middle Bronze Age. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of the ditch. Undated pits were recorded within the ring-ditch and may have been contemporary. Their function is unknown but it is thought that they may represent robbed out burial pits or have had a totemic function. A cremation was discovered cutting the ring-ditch fill and was located to the east of the causeway. Hammerscale and tapslag were recovered from the topsoil and have been linked with the Roman iron production site recorded during the Wing-Elton pipeline.

EARLS BARTON QUARRY, WESTERN EXTENSION

NGR SP 840 628

Geophysical Survey and Evaluation Report
Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a multi-disciplinary archaeological evaluation within the area of a proposed extension to Earls Barton Quarry, Northamptonshire, for Hanson Aggregates Ltd. The most extensive activity recorded during the evaluation was middle to late Iron Age in date and comprised a series of at least four and possibly five enclosed settlements, with surrounding field systems, or enclosures. The origins of the Iron Age landscape are uncertain but the pit alignment

identified adjacent to the enclosure in Field 1, south of the present A45, indicated the presence of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age boundaries.

Roman activity appears to have been largely confined to a single area of settlement (covering 3.34ha) north of the A45. At least two phases of activity were present. The first, a track and field system, had as its primary feature a north - south track, defined by side ditches. Associated with the track was a ladder patterned field system, which comprised a series of rectilinear fields, aligned upon the track. The second phase of activity located to the east and west of the track was a series of enclosures on a different alignment. Within these enclosures evidence survived of stone structures and associated with these were significant quantities of domestic Roman pottery.

It is clear that after over a thousand years of cultivation that the study area contains no upstanding monuments, and that all archaeological features have been severely truncated only surviving where they cut the natural gravel.

A6 RUSHDEN-HIGHAM FERRERS BYPASS

NGR SP 970663 – SP 966650

Post-excavation assessment and updated project design
Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief, undertaken on a 1.5km section of the A6 Rushden-Higham Ferrers bypass, resulted in the discovery and partial excavation of two Iron Age enclosure ditches. A small quantity of pottery and other finds were retrieved. No other features were found and the overall extent and nature of the enclosures remains unclear. Proposals for further analysis and publication are presented.

A6 RUSHDEN AND HIGHAM FERRERS BYPASS SITE 3

NGR SP 967 682

Post-excavation assessment and updated project design

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Excavations ahead of road construction on the A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass examined part of an Iron Age and Roman site lying to the east of Higham Ferrers. The results suggest a complex series of settlement related enclosures dating from the middle Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD. Abundant pottery and animal bones were recovered

together with a small quantity of other finds and environmental remains.

This report presents a provisional site description, and includes a quantification and initial assessment of the evidence. It is suggested that further analysis will contribute to an understanding of the Iron Age and Roman settlement in the region. Proposals for academic and popular publication reports are presented.

LIME STREET IRTHLINGBOROUGH

NGR SP 949 708

Area Excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Excavations on land off Lime Street Irthlingborough, found activity from the early-middle Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. Part of an Iron Age settlement comprised some pits and a roundhouse ring ditch set within a small concentric enclosure. A scatter of residual pottery, some minor ditch systems and a small pit group represented Roman activity. The commencement of late Saxon occupation in the 11th century was marked by a sparse group of small postholes and pits. A system of boundary ditches may have its origins at the same time or slightly later, but through the 12th and 13th centuries activity was still sparse, comprising a scatter of pits, some of which were deep quarry pits. However, a pit containing a primary pottery assemblage of early 13th century date denotes the nearby presence of a house.

By the early 14th century a group of three buildings were established: a long malthouse/barn to the south, a circular dovecote to the west, and a building to the north with mortared walls that might have served as a kitchen/bakehouse range. The malting oven was certainly used for malting barley, but may also have been used as a more general drying oven. Contemporary pit groups contained a range of materials including an animal bone assemblage suggesting that sheep were being slaughtered nearby. These buildings are clearly appropriate to a manorial farm, and probably served a nearby manor house. Later documentary evidence indicates that the land was owned by the Bataille manor of Irthlingborough. The scale of the malthouse suggests it was being used for commercial production. These buildings and the associated pit groups were abandoned at the end of the 14th century, after less than a century of use. After partial robbing the site seems to have been left undeveloped

until terracing and further robbing occurred in the 18th century. The site was an allotment garden prior to redevelopment.

BURTON WOLD FARM KETTERING

NGR SP 4918 2744

Evaluation

Cambrian Archaeological Projects

A previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey had identified and located an area of cropmarks denoting an enclosure. The evaluation trenches revealed the outer ditch of the enclosure to the north of the proposed turbine location and a series of pits and possible internal enclosure ditches to individual livestock pens. All of the features encountered date from the late Iron Age/ early Roman period with the site appearing to have gone out of use by the mid 2nd century.

BRACKMILLS LINK ROAD, NORTHAMPTON

NGR SP 7723 5737

Radiocarbon Dating

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an open area excavation and watching brief on the route of the Brackmills Link Road. The road corridor affected the environs of an early Bronze Age round barrow and during the excavation a satellite cremation was discovered located c 27m away from the barrow. The pit had evidently been truncated and the presence of the larger pieces of cremated bone at the exposed surface suggests that the bulk of the cremated bone may have been lost to ploughing. The charcoal recovered from the cremation was radiocarbon dated to 1270-1020 cal BC, while the date obtained for the charcoal from the barrow ditch was dated to 1685-1525 cal BC, illustrating how respect for early Bronze Age barrows could be retained for hundreds of years in this case well into the middle Bronze Age.

PITSFORD QUARRY BOTTOM SHEEP DALE FIELD

NGR SP 4765 2666

Watching Brief and Excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological recording action covering c 3.7 ha was carried out in three stages at Pitsford Quarry

on land located to the south of Pitsford village and west of Moulton College, within Bottom Sheep Dale field. The methodology employed comprised watching brief followed by excavation. A series of excavations provisionally dated to the mid-late Iron Age were excavated and recorded.

The first phase of activity on the site was a pit alignment, comprising 85 pits aligned NNW-SSE, none of which produced any diagnostic artefacts.

The pit alignment was superseded by a ditched curvilinear boundary constructed on a roughly north-south alignment. This feature was maintained over time as a series of re-cuts.

To the northwest of the boundary a series of substantial ditches defined a number of large adjoining rectilinear enclosures, probably representing a field system. Within these large enclosures were a number of smaller rectilinear enclosures, ring gullies, probably representing the remains of round houses, and several pit groups. Excavation again showed that considerable effort had gone into the maintenance of these features, with numerous re-cuts identified.

To the east of the boundary occupation was defined by the construction of discrete intercutting rectilinear enclosures and pit groups. Several of the enclosure ditches had been re-cut.

The excavations at Bottom Sheep Dale Field revealed a complex sequence of landscape development and occupation in the mid-late Iron Age. It is proposed that a full programme of post-excavation works be undertaken to analyse and disseminate the results.

LAND TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF STANWICK

NGR SP 971 075

Desk Based Assessment

Archaeological Services and Consultancy

An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken on land to the south west of Stanwick. The available evidence on the previous land use of the area is unusual in its extent and quality. The results of an extensive programme of field walking permits a high degree of confidence that most of the proposed golf course saw relatively little occupation or activity from the prehistoric period onwards. Nevertheless, there are two areas of crop marks on the western side of the site which suggests the presence of activity associated the late Iron Age-Roman settlement that lay to the west, beneath and beyond the A45.

LAND NORTH OF WEEDON ROAD UPTON

NGR SP 7166 6038

Desktop Assessment

Oxford Archaeology

A desktop appraisal was undertaken to assess the archaeological implications of the construction of a new link road, immediately to the north of the A45 Weedon Road, Upton. The area of proposed development has been subject to a limited programme of archaeological evaluation by means of test-pitting which recovered finds dating to the prehistoric, late Iron Age, Roman, later medieval and post-medieval periods. It has been established that the area has potential to contain archaeology dating to the Iron Age, while the presence of earlier prehistoric archaeology is uncertain and any medieval and post medieval archaeology may only be of local significance.

ROMAN

ROWLER MANOR ESTATE, CROUGHTON

NGR SP 550 355

Heritage conservation and Management Plan

CGMS Consulting

The document provides the management framework for the display of the Bellerophon mosaic, part of the Croughton Roman Settlement. The plan, a condition of the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, describes the monument at Rowler Manor Estate. It provides the context for and reasoning behind policies which will underpin the future management, successful display, conservation and presentation of the Bellerophon mosaic and provide for the long-term conservation of the SAM

BELLEROPHON MOSAIC AND CROUGHTON ROMAN SETTLEMENT, ROWLER MANOR ESTATE

Post Field Work Assessment and The Updated Project Design

CGMS Consulting

Part 1: The report comprises an assessment of potential for the analysis and publication of the Bellerophon mosaic at Rowler Manor Estate, Northamptonshire in its archaeological context. The assessment draws on four episodes of survey, including desk based assessment, geophysical survey, field artefact collection and contour survey, and four excavations from initial discovery through

to full excavation of the Bellerophon mosaic in 2002. In the first part of the assessment of potential we conclude that analysis of the body of evidence recovered over the past twelve years is adequate to enable the presentation of the villa at Rowler and its mosaic in its landscape, temporal and regional context. The assessment also quantifies the subsidiary objectives which reflect the contribution individual data classes will make to the overall analysis.

Part 2: The updated project design will provide the basis for an archaeological report to be published.

PLOT 1, MIDDLEMORE FARM, DAVENTRY

NGR SP 56 65

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks in advance of residential development on land at Middlemore Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire. The only archaeological features lay at the western end of Plot 1, to the north of the modern farm buildings. These comprised two linear ditch systems that contained a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building tile spanning the late 1st to 4th centuries. These features, together with the results of previous excavation, indicate the former presence of a small Roman settlement occupying an area of at least 1ha lying under and around the present farm buildings.

KINGS MEADOW LANE HIGHAM FERRERS

NGR SP 9544 6921

Project Design for Post-Excavation Assessment

Oxford Archaeology

Between August 2002 and March 2003 OA undertook a programme of archaeological work on part of an important Roman roadside settlement at Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers. The excavations revealed a substantial part of the settlement, including 18 buildings, which formed a 'domestic core', along with outlying enclosure systems and small cemeteries. In addition, a shrine defined by a temenos was comprehensively excavated, and produced large quantities of structured finds deposits, including a number of rare votive objects. This formed the second known religious component

of the site, as a probable temple building had already been excavated further to the north during earlier excavations in 2001.

OAKLEY BANK FARM, PLUMPTON

NGR SP 6072 4856

Excavation

University of Leicester Archaeology Services

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in 2002, during topsoil stripping and groundworks for new stock buildings at Oakley Bank Farm, Plumpton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP6072 4856). The work revealed two Roman ditches with butt-ends, positioned at right angles to each other. In addition, a small, shallow, pit was uncovered nearby, containing first century pottery, charcoal and burnt animal bone. The remains are particularly significant because they represent the first evidence of late prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity. The nearest Roman town is Towcester, located approximately 10 miles to the south east.

RADSTONE TECHNOLOGY SITE, TOWCESTER

NGR SP 691 485

Desk-based Assessment

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

Prior to development of the site by David Wilson Estates a desk-based assessment was carried out. The proposed development lies in the south-west of Towcester where the line of the Roman town's defensive ditch may cross the east part of Block B (to the east of the site). If such features are present they would be of regional importance. Block A has evidence of Roman occupation and two burials within its boundaries and the accepted alignment of the major Roman Alchester Road also passes across the south-east ends of both Block A and Block B.

ANGLO-SAXON

LAND OPPOSITE WINDMILL BANKS HIGHAM FERRERS

NGR SP 9599 6926

Archaeological Excavation Interim Report

Oxford Archaeology

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology on land opposite Windmill Banks, Higham Ferrers revealed

Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation and activity. The most significant features were a Middle Saxon enclosure ditch, a late Saxon sunken-featured building and the remnants of a fifteenth century pottery kiln.

PREBENDAL MANOR, NASSINGTON

Geophysical Survey

GSB Prospection

Gradiometer, resistance and radar surveys were conducted within and beyond the grounds of Nassington Prebendal Manor House. The gradiometer survey in the immediate vicinity of the house consisted of areas of magnetic disturbance and ferrous response all assumed to be attributable to modern or natural features. In the adjacent arable field a complex of enclosures and trends were obvious and largely reflected what was known to exist from the aerial photographs.

The results of the resistance survey were again largely thought to represent natural variation, though areas of possible archaeology were identified including a pit type feature, later confirmed through excavation.

The GPR survey was complicated by unfavourable near surface stratigraphy, but a number of circular and linear cut features were identified (including the pit feature seen in the resistance data). Other discrete reflectors have been classified as having archaeological potential, though these remain tentative interpretations.

PREBENDAL MANOR HOUSE, NASSINGTON

Evaluation

Wessex Archaeology and Videotext Communications Videotext Communications was commissioned by Channel 4 to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the Time Team television series in the grounds of the Prebendal Manor House, Nassington. The manor is mentioned in Saxon Chronicles as being the subject of a visit by King Cnut in the 11th century. The existing manor house is a Grade I listed building of early 13th century date, one of the earliest secular standing buildings in Northamptonshire. Previous archaeological work had indicated prehistoric, Roman and Saxon activity in the vicinity.

The present archaeological evaluation comprised a

geophysical survey, three hand-dug trenches within the present manor house and two hand-dug test pits and four machine-dug trial trenches located across the site. Geophysical survey was also undertaken on land to the south of the Prebendal Manor House where crop marks, unrelated to the manor complex, were known. The work was undertaken over three days in May 2003.

The results of the evaluation produced more evidence for the use of the site from its prehistoric origins and traced an Iron Age ditch west of its previously known extent. The most significant results provided additional data to the ground plan of the Late Saxon timber hall. It suggested that this structure might be of at least three phases with a post built phase being replaced by a building with wall trenches. Previous excavations had indicated that the wall trench phase of the timber hall was rebuilt at least once, before its replacement by a stone hall in the 13th century. The evaluation also produced the first archaeological evidence for the south wall trench of the timber hall.

Work beyond the area of the manor house produced evidence for undated ditches, a possible lynchet, a small medieval stone quarry, an 18th century rubbish pit and a post-medieval yard surface. These features relate to the agricultural use of the Manor House in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

MEDIEVAL

WINCHESTER HOUSE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY

NGR SP 58593721

Desk based assessment and trial excavation
Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological assessment was undertaken by NA at Winchester House School, Brackley in advance of the construction of new teaching facilities. Desk based research determined that the site is located in an area that contains the potential to retain archaeological evidence relating to the medieval settlement of Brackley. The excavation of two trial trenches tested this potential. A number of heavily truncated features of medieval date were identified. Post-medieval features included the remains of structures that had stood in the south-eastern part of the site and the foundations of a demolished boundary wall that had fossilised the line of former medieval tenement boundaries.

HARLESTONE QUARRY EXTENSION

NGR SP 708 635

Reconnaissance survey and fieldwalking survey
Northamptonshire Archaeology

A reconnaissance survey and fieldwalking survey were carried out in advance of a proposed extension to the north and west of the existing quarry at Harlestone (Areas B and C) within three fields of approximately 22 hectares. The reconnaissance survey produced a small amount of isolated anomalies consistent with modern ground disturbance. The fieldwalking recovered light scatters of artefacts from across the entire area comprising flint and medieval pottery, the latter probably deriving from episodic manuring.

CHAMBERLAINS FACTORY, HIGHAM FERRERS.

Supplement/ interim report-pottery assessment
Oxford Archaeology

Supplement to the interim report on the excavations carried out on the site of the former factory on the northern outskirts of Higham Ferrers. The supplement contains the assessment report and proposal for further analysis of the pottery associated with the late medieval pottery kiln revealed in the excavation.

All the material from the kiln was in the tradition of late medieval Reduced ware, which is classified in the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type Series as F365, and broadly dated to the 15th century. The range of vessel forms comprised almost entirely jars, pancheons, jugs and cisterns, although fragments of a very few dripping jars were also noted.

CHURCHYARD OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON

NGR SP 7540 6094

Excavation
Northamptonshire Archaeology

Plans to remove and rebuild an unstable 9m stretch of the north cemetery wall at the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton, entailed a reduction of the surrounding burial ground level by up to 3m. Archaeological excavation within this area uncovered three burials from the Victorian period, cut through 4 to 5 feet of imported burial soil, into a pre mid-19th century horizon. The underlying burial soil contained disarticulated human bone, suggesting that the graveyard may also have been landscaped. The lower burial soil contained pottery,

glass and tile dating from the 13th century through to the post-medieval period, and an assemblage of bone tentatively ascribed to tannery waste. Although the graveyard was apparently closed in the mid-19th century, burials continued to be interred until the late 19th century.

**NUNN MILLS SITE, DELAPRE,
NORTHAMPTON**
NGR SP 76155983

Desk-Based Assessment

Oxford Archaeology

Oxford Archaeology has been commissioned by Terence O'Rourke to undertake a desk-based appraisal of the archaeological implications of the redevelopment of land at Nunn Mills Delapre. This appraisal incorporates summaries of a separate Deposit Model and Buildings Assessment.

No Scheduled Ancient Monument or Conservation Areas will be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed development.

The settings of a Grade II Listed Building and an English Heritage Registered Battlefield will be slightly indirectly affected by the proposed development. These sites are assessed as of High Importance although the Significance of the Environmental affect has been assessed as Minor or None.

The proposed development will have direct impacts on ten known structures, six of which may be assessed as of Low importance, with the significance of Environmental Effect assessed as moderate, and four of the structures may be assessed as Very Low Importance with the significance of Environmental Effect assessed as minor. Impacts to these structures may be mitigated by a program of recording subject to the approval of the County Council's Planning Archaeologist.

The environs of the post-medieval Nunn Mill, and any features relating to the medieval mill, its facilities, or bridges of the medieval period are assessed as of Uncertain but potentially High Importance with the Significance of the Environmental Effect assessed as possibly Major.

The results of the deposit model show that the combined depth of overburden above the natural gravel surface varies between c. 1.0 m and 7.2 m, composed of c. 0.50m to 3.50m of made ground and c. 0.50m to 3.70m of alluvium. The thickest combined overburden occurs in the western and north-east sectors of the site.

The deposit model indicates the potential of the proposed development area to include features and deposits from the Palaeolithic to the medieval period buried below alluvium deposited in the medieval period. These may be assessed as of uncertain but potentially high or very high importance, with the significance of environmental effect assessed as major or possibly severe. Also sealed below the alluvium may be palaeo-environmental deposits, including preserved pollen, plant macro-remains and insects.

Above the alluvium, the proposed development area has the potential to contain deposits and features dating from the later medieval period to the modern period. There is a higher likelihood of later medieval features in the environs of Nunn Mill. The importance of such potential features or deposits may be regarded as ranging from the very low (e.g. modern building features) to high (e.g. substantial evidence for medieval bridges).

**KINGSWELL STREET AND WOOLMONGER
STREET NORTHAMPTON**

NGR SP 7532 6033

Desk-based assessment and Trial excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation of land off Kingswell Street and Woolmonger Street was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation comprised a desk-based assessment and archaeological trial excavation. The potential for significant archaeological remains within the application area, particularly those relating to the development of the late Saxon and medieval town, was highlighted by the desk-based assessment. However, trial excavation has shown that much of the site has been extensively truncated by modern development, from the mid 19th century onwards, and well-preserved archaeological remains appear to be largely confined to the eastern edge of the site, beneath the car park. These remains, which broadly date to the 13th and 14th centuries, consisted of a stone wall, a possible hearth, a bread oven or kiln and a series of deposits, some of which appeared to contain cess and other domestic refuse. These remains were partly masked by a layer of soil that probably accumulated in the late medieval to early post-medieval period, and it is likely that further features survive beneath this layer. Mechanical

removal of this layer could not be carried out due to Health and Safety constraints. Later activity on the site consisted of the remains of a possible house dating to the late 17th century, fronting on to Kingswell Street, a pit of a similar date, and the extensive remains of 19th century buildings. No evidence was found for the 'lost' medieval lane, 'Lewnyslane' connecting Woolmonger Street and Kingswell Street.

LAND AT TOWCESTER RACECOURSE, TOWCESTER

NGR SP 7061 4764

Watching Brief, Earthwork Survey and Tree Ring Count

Archaeological Services and Consultancy

During January and February 2003 a watching brief and earthworks survey was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of new stables and associated parking on land at Towcester Racecourse, near Towcester. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and three post medieval tree stumps were recorded within the development area.

THRAPSTON TO ISLIP FLOOD ALLEVIATION

NGR SP 99099 78539

Desk-Based Assessment

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A desk-based assessment was carried out as part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment by Halcrow Ltd on behalf of the Environmental Agency, prior to a proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme at Thrapston and Islip on the River Nene. Three known archaeological sites occur within the proposed development area. The Islip Hoard of Roman pewter was found during quarrying. The exact whereabouts of a former Chapel/Hermitage of St Thomas, which stood at the western end of Thrapston Bridge, is unknown, but it may be located within this area, together with associated fishponds. The bridge itself is a Grade II listed building dating from the 12th century but subject to later and extensive repairs. Two Grade II listed houses occur on the Islip riverbank in an area which may be provided with a floodwall. The surviving embankment of the former LandNWR crosses the site and may be added onto by the proposed eastern embankment.

PEARSONS GARAGE SITE, WOLLASTON

NGR SP 9066 6257

Evaluation

Woodfield A and A Services

A recording action was undertaken in advance of a housing development on land at the centre of the village. The site had previously been used as a garage, and the ground was subsequently largely disturbed due to the insertion of storage tanks. However, due to the potential significance of the site in relation to the crossroads in the development of the village, two trenches were excavated running back from the street frontages. Many of the features noted within the trenches, and pits opened up for the removal of the tanks and a stone-built well, related to the garage and earlier, 20th century cottages. However, a sherd of 11th century St Neots ware was recovered from a truncated V-shaped ditch, testifying that there was some activity in this area during the early medieval period.

SHOULDER OF MUTTON SITE, WELFORD

NGR SP 6423 8041

Excavation

Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd

During October 2003 an archaeological recording action was carried out at The Shoulder of Mutton, Welford, Northamptonshire.

Twelve archaeological features were identified and recorded. These comprised one animal burial, four pits, two of which contained significant quantities of animal bone, two postholes and five intercutting ditches. It is considered highly likely that these ditches had originally functioned as boundary markers. Excavation demonstrated that this activity could be split into several distinct phases. It is thought that these boundaries relate to divisions between the backplots of properties lining the High Street, which lies a short distance to the east.

Medieval and Post Medieval pottery sherds were recovered from archaeology at the site. The quantities of pottery, particularly of medieval sherds, were very low, especially when considering the proximity of the site to the historic core of Welford. Other artefactual material included Post Medieval horseshoes, glass fragments, two metal buttons and clay pipe fragments. It is thought that the majority of activity at the site dated to the Post medieval period. However, there remains a possibility that the earliest phases may date to the medieval period.

POST MEDIEVAL

LODGE BARN FARM HARPOLE

NGR SP 6969 6223

Building Recording

Phoenix Consulting

Architectural and historical recording of agricultural buildings at Lodge Barn Farm was undertaken prior to their conversion and extension into office accommodation. The buildings at Lodge barn Farm span nearly two centuries. The highest quality of construction is seen in the Stone Barn, which is the oldest of the structures on the site, yet is remarkably well preserved. The adjoining ranges are more crudely built, which makes their survival even more impressive. In Northamptonshire many families used to live in house-and-barn complexes known locally as 'lodges'. The name 'Lodge Barn' implies that there was once a lodge on or near the site

KINGSCOURT FOSCOTE

NGR SP 65794 47180

Watching Brief

R J Ivens

Limited earth moving during the construction of a 16 x 17 metre stable yard revealed the damaged remains of a stone track way of post-medieval date. No medieval or earlier remains or artefacts were noted.

GREENACRES, NASEBY

NGR SP 688 771

Desk-based Assessment

Martin Tingle

A desk-based assessment was carried out prior to trial fieldwork and development of the site. Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains have been found during evaluations of sites within 100m of the current development area. Earthwork and map evidence suggests that a hollow-way was aligned across the site and to the south a house may have been present, probably dating from the mid 17th century.

LAND AT GUILDHALL ROAD AND SWAN STREET, NORTHAMPTON

Desk Based Assessment

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

The desk-based assessment for the proposed

development of land at Guildhall Road and Swan Street, Northampton indicated that the site is likely to have originally been an area of medieval occupation. It is located close to a parish boundary and undated skeletons were apparently found in the north of the area in the late 1930s. Map and site visit evidence suggests that truncation by post-medieval buildings is likely to have destroyed any archaeological remains. The amount of cellarage within the area is extensive. However, it is possible that archaeological remains could survive in pockets, such as in the far south of the site which could contain evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity. The proposed development area, therefore, has a low-level archaeological potential. The buildings to be demolished as part of the proposals include elements of some architectural merit.

LAND AT THE REAR OF THE TALBOT HOTEL, OUNDLE

NGR TL 0398 8870

Desk-based Assessment Trial Trenching and Building Recording

Martin Tingle

The good preservation of the post-medieval building stock and urban topography of the historic core of Oundle served to limit any conclusions that could be drawn in the desk-based assessment. However, it was concluded that the area may have had prehistoric and Roman remains, as well as Saxon and Medieval remains. The evaluation trenches did not reveal any significant pre-modern deposits however. A single wall appears to be associated with a property boundary that went out of use in the late nineteenth century. A detailed survey of three standing buildings on the site, revealed that the largest was a row of four stables with a cart house, to which a cart shed had been added at a later date. In the south-west corner of the site a barn may have a 17th or 18th century date.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (RUSHDEN) LTD, 60 PARK ROAD, RUSHDEN

Building Survey

James Looker

The Central Electric Company, (Rushden) Ltd. has vacated the former shoe factory situated at 60 Park Road, Rushden and as a result this site has become redundant. As a consequence this has developed

into a prime site for a new domestic housing development. The analysis has highlighted the fact that, much of the construction material and fabric of the existing building dates c1889. Due to the severe lack of primary documentation at the time of recording much of the evidence is reliant on secondary references and maps.

THE COTTONS ROCKINGHAM

NGR SP 8665 9187

Recording Action

Albion Archaeology

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Deejak Builders (Rushden) Ltd to undertake and archaeological recording action in advance of the erection of several buildings near the northern limit of Rockingham. Prior to development the site consisted of two distinct areas, bounded by Main Street to the west and a curving lane 'The Cottons' to the east. The western land parcel consisted of a disused farmyard with a paddock to the east. The paddock contained relatively well preserved remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. The earliest evidence for utilisation of the area is a possible prehistoric pit identified in the evaluation. As this feature was not exposed by the subsequent development, it was decided to preserve the pit in situ.

A substantial ditch separated the ridge and furrow from the western area. This was very close to the existing boundary fence. The only medieval feature identified within the western land parcel was a slightly curving, re-cut ditch in the north of the area. It is probable that the pit identified during the evaluation was actually a continuation of the curving ditch.

The majority of archaeological features exposed were post-medieval or later in date. The western land parcel had been severely affected by Victorian disturbance, which had modified the topography of this area, with a raised terrace to the south and an extensive depression to the north. Traces of a substantial building, though to be domestic in form and dating to the 17th-18th centuries. This building is not depicted on any maps. A well was also found in proximity to other walls. The proximity of this building to the well suggest that they were not related. Investigation of the ruined barn to the east revealed evidence that it had been modified over time. Extensive quarrying extended across the two land parcels in the central northern part of the site.

From the excavation of the service trenches along the adjacent roads, it would appear that traces of hollow-ways were present Gretton Road and Main Street. The topography of the Cottons suggests that it too may have been set within the base of a depression, possibly the remnants of another hollow-way.

TOWER BUNGALOW, YARDLEY GOBION

NGR SP 75695 44916

Watching Brief

R J Ivens

An archaeological recording action was carried out during the excavation of the footprints of a house and garage. The only archaeological feature discovered consisted of a late seventeenth century ditch., which can probably be correlated with a field boundary mapped in c 1725 and which survived until later twentieth century. The site appears, therefore, to lie outside the bounds of the village.

PERIOD UNKNOWN

BP SERVICE STATION BRACKLEY

NGR SP 593 385

Watching Brief

Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd

A watching brief and metal detector survey were undertaken in September 2003 on a site near Brackley, Northamptonshire. The work was undertaken because the site was adjacent to an area known to contain human burials and settlement features, of possible Iron Age date. The watching brief revealed a small number of undated archaeological features and a 16th century copper alloy buckle. No further burials were observed.

THE SARACENS HEAD, BROOK STREET, DAVENTRY

NGR SP 5710 6248

Watching Brief

Archaeological Services and Consultancy

A watching brief was undertaken during the refurbishment works and construction of an extension at the Saracens Head. The footprint of the new building was excavated under archaeological supervision, and it was immediately clear that the area had been extensively terraced during the 20th century. A series of modern footings were revealed as well

as a small undated feature that may have been the truncated remains of a medieval feature. No further archaeological remains were observed during work within the existing building. Map evidence shows that the plot within which the inn is situated may have been created from the combination of three medieval tenements.

BURTON WOLD FARM, KETTERING

NGR SP 9155 7514

Geophysical Survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA over 3.2ha at Burton Wold Farm. A large number of magnetic anomalies were detected indicating the presence of many buried ditches and pits, the majority within a possible large ditched enclosure.

PITS FARM, SILVERSTONE

Geophysical survey and Fieldwalking Survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A geophysical survey was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology over 1.92ha in a single area west of the A45 at Pits Farm, Silverstone. A number of magnetic anomalies were found but lacking any cohesive or identifiable pattern were attributed to geological changes. Fieldwalking carried out to compliment the geophysical survey, located only a light scatter of post medieval artefacts.

NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WERE
LOCATED DURING ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING
SITES

**LIME COTTAGE, PEBBLE LANE,
BRACKLEY**

NGR SP 5892 3730

Watching Brief

R J Ivens

**LAND AT BRITISH TIMKEN, DUSTON,
NORTHAMPTON**

NGR SP 7250 6150

Desk Based Assessment

**HIGHAM FERRERS CASTLE, OFF
MIDLAND ROAD**

NGR SP 9615 6858

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**MOTAGUE SCHOOL WEEKLY GLEBE
ROAD KETTERING**

NGR SP 876 802

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**THE LAUNDRY BLOCK AT ST MARYS
HOSPITAL KETTERING**

NGR SP 8703 7815

Building Recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

25 LADY'S LANE MEARS ASHBY

NGR SP 8386 6860

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**LAND WEST OF NEW ROUNDABOUT,
UPTON WAY, NORTHAMPTON**

NGR SP 7274 5966

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**LOWER MOUNTS AND 4, 6 AND 8 ST
MICHAELS ROAD**

NGR SP 7584 6084

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**WEEDON ROAD TO ST CRISPINS LINK
ROAD**

NGR SP 7173 6050

Watching Brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

OUNDLE ROAD, THRAPSTON

NGR TL 0067 7901

Trial Excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

PITS FARM SILVERSTONE

NGR TL 675 452
Desk Based Assessment
CGMS

LAND AT BURCOTE ROAD, TOWCESTER

Watching brief
Northamptonshire Archaeology

LAND OFF SISSINGHURST, THRAPSTON

NGR TL 0064 7904
Geophysical Survey
GSB Prospection

NENE GATES, WELLINGBOROUGH

NGR SP 9067 6726- SP 9104 6716
Watching Brief
Northamptonshire Archaeology

**THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME**

The past year has been an especially important one for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), at both a national and local level. In early 2004 the last of the open posts were filled and every county in England and Wales is now represented by a Finds Liaison Officer. The central team now also includes four Finds Advisers, each with their own specialist areas, who provide support for the network of Finds Liaison Officers. This new era for the PAS has proved to be an excellent time to get the PAS back on track in Northamptonshire, after an interim of four months in 2003 when the county had no Finds Liaison Officer.

Contact has been re-established between the new Finds Liaison Officer and the county's regular finders of archaeological material. Many of these people are members of one of the county's metal detector clubs or are independent metal-detector users, but a significant number of people also find material whilst out walking or doing their gardening. Those who were familiar with Rhiannon Harte, the county's previous Finds Liaison Officer, have been very forthcoming and the return of the PAS has been greeted with eagerness and optimism. Additionally, the last few months have seen many members of the public come forward who had hitherto never recorded finds with a Finds Liaison Officer. This has largely been a result of the amount of publicity generated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme on a national and local level, along with an increase in popular archaeology television programmes.

Regular Finds Surgeries are once again a prominent feature of the Northamptonshire Portable

Antiquities Scheme and these have been set up in Northampton, Daventry, Oundle, Wellingborough, Towcester and Kettering. Such surgeries are of great benefit as they ensure that the Finds Liaison Officer is accessible to members of the public from across the county. They also prove to be excellent forums for discussion about finds brought in, and indeed, archaeology in general.

Between September 2003 and April 2004, 517 finds have been recorded by the Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer. This brings the total number of finds from the county on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's database to 3331. Included amongst the many artefacts recorded is a very rare Roman Denarius of Galba, found by Northampton Detecting Association (NDA) member Dale Kirkton. This find is interesting not only because relatively few of these coins were minted and rarely make it as far as Britain, but also because it is a previously unrecorded variant of its type.

Further significant finds seen since September 2003 have included a beautiful medieval silver gilt brooch depicting a knight and a lion, found by Nicky Berry of Northampton Coins and Artefact Club (NCAC). Steve Kane, also of NCAC, found another fantastic medieval find - a 13th century silver cross inscribed *IESVS*. Both of these finds fall under the remit of the Treasure Act and were reported to the Finds Liaison Officer in his capacity as Treasure Adviser. They are currently at the British Museum going through the Treasure Process.

Midlands Archaeological Research Society (MARS) member Bob Kings also made a discovery of Treasure in the form of a massive and ornate silver Roman finger ring with an intaglio engraved with the image of Mercury attached. This ring

has been identified as a rare type and the British Museum have expressed interest in acquiring it.

The complete network of Finds Liaison Officers play an important role in ensuring that finds removed from a county continue to be recorded. A remarkable Iron Age linch pin from a chariot was found by NDA member Ralph Norton whilst on holiday in Cornwall and reported to the Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer. This proved to be only the second such linch pin known from Cornwall. In just such a way many finds that are removed from Northamptonshire are recorded by Finds Liaison Officers from other regions, ensuring that information about these finds is recorded. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website can be viewed at www.finds.org.uk. Search the database to see what finds have been made in Northamptonshire at www.findsdatabase.org.uk.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is run from the British Museum. The Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer is based at County Hall in Northampton, where he can be contacted care of the Built and Natural Environment Team.

Tom Brindle
Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer
c/o Built and Natural Environment
PO Box 163
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1AX
Tel: 01604 237249
Email: tbrindle@northamptonshire.gov.uk

