

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 2011

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Contributions from Northamptonshire Archaeology,
Archaeological Services & Consultancy, Archaeological Project Services
and John Moore Heritage Services

PREHISTORIC

BRACKLEY, BRACKLEY SAWMILLS

NGR SP 590 384

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray on 6.9ha of land at Brackley Sawmills. Archaeological features of possible Iron Age date were found in five trenches in the north-west part of the evaluation area. The features included postholes, the terminal of a ditch and remnant buried soils, which produced small quantities of Iron Age pottery.

CHURCH STOWE, MAIN ROAD

NGR SP 636 579

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Jim Burke undertook a watching brief of lower field, off Main Road. The work was carried out during the construction of a pond in the field. No archaeological features were encountered, although a small number of worked flints and prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and remains of subsoil.

IRCHESTER, GIPSY LANE

NGR SP 922 661

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones on land off High Street and land off Gypsy Lane. Part of an Iron Age enclosure was found.

GREATWORTH, STUTCHBURY, SPRING FARM RIDGE

NGR SP 573 432

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

During an evaluation by Simon Carlyle at Spring Farm Ridge a single Iron Age ditch was found, although further undated features may be contemporary.

NORTHAMPTON, UPTON PARK

NGR SP 714 597

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Ian Fisher undertook geophysical survey by magnetometry followed by a trial trench evaluation by Paul Mason of 32 hectares of land at Upton. A previously evaluated Bronze Age barrow was re-located by geophysical sur-

vey. Prehistoric features including pit alignments and ditched field divisions were dated by small assemblages of pottery to the Iron Age. Possible structural remains were also present.

TANSOR GRANGE

NGR TL 074 904

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Two blocks of land, with a total area of *c* 3.8ha, were subject to detailed magnetometer survey by John Walford in advance of the construction of a wind turbine and access road. This work revealed a substantial complex of enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date associated with a boundary ditch that has also seen as a cropmark.

THRAPSTON, HUNTINGDON ROAD

NGR SP 013 788

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological geophysical survey by Paul Clements, on 5ha of land proposed for a Rural Agricultural Centre (RAC), identified two archaeological features; a faint circular ring ditch, interpreted as a possible Bronze Age barrow ditch, and an oval enclosure, probably also of prehistoric date, both situated at the highest elevation. The trial trench evaluation by Anne Foard-Colby confirmed the presence of the oval Iron Age enclosure, which produced a modest assemblage of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. An undated linear gully was also identified, and this coincided with the western side of the possible circular ring ditch.

ROMAN

BENEFIELD, HARLEY WAY, CHURCHFIELD QUARRY

NGR TF 006 879

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A magnetometer survey by Ian Fisher on land adjacent to Churchfield Quarry identified a complex of ditched enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date. In the subsequent evaluation by Anthony Maull, Romano-British ditches and a single pit with the fragmentary skeleton of a human newborn were excavated, all dating to the 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. The general paucity of artefacts and complete absence of finer pottery indicates that it was probably a low status rural farmstead.

BRIXWORTH, NORTHAMPTON ROAD

NGR SP 745 699

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The geophysical survey by Ian Fisher identified three enclosures, possible pits, and substantial areas of disturbance. The trial trenching by Carol Simmonds found the ditches of three Roman enclosures as well as two pits with burnt stone, one of which had a quantity of charred grains. The Roman pottery recovered was of mid/late 1st century to late 2nd century date. Small scale quarrying truncated the enclosures, and is suspected to be of Roman date.

CHURCH STOWE, MAIN ROAD

NGR SP 636 579

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Jim Burke undertook a watching brief of lower field, off Main Road. The work was carried out during the construction of a pond in the field. No archaeological features were encountered, although a small number of Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil and remains of subsoil.

CORBY, PRIORS HALL, ZONE 3

NGR SP 928 902

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Chris Jones on land at Priors Hall. This followed on from geophysical survey. The proposed development area was bisected by a deer fence. South of the deer fence there is a complex of Roman stone buildings and enclosures. The evidence points to the presence of at least one high status building, a villa, which may contain intact floors. Quantities of painted wall plaster and other building materials were recovered. The other stone buildings, probably contemporary and associated with the villa, lie nearby. Metalworking debris indicates that iron smelting was being carried out in the vicinity.

GREAT DODDINGTON, HIGH STREET

SP 884 648

Excavation

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

A strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief were undertaken by Calli Rouse at 23 High Street, in advance of the residential development of the site. Five phases of activity were identified, ranging from the Roman period to the 15th century. Phase 1 represented Roman activity on the site, and suggested that there was a domestic settlement nearby, though not within the site boundaries.

IRCHESTER, GIPSY LANE

NGR SP 922 661

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones on land off High Street and land off Gipsy Lane. There were two shallow Roman gullies.

NORTHAMPTON, OVERSTONE LEYS

NGR SP 792 655

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

and Adrian Butler

A third phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones and Carol Simmonds, following on from previous geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation. There were the remains of a Romano-British settlement dating to the late 1st to 4th centuries, comprising a number of intersecting rectilinear ditched enclosures. Within the settlement were the remains of at least three roundhouses, of which one was stone built and a length of wall that may have been the remains of another building. The artefactual evidence indicates that the settlement was a fairly low-status, rural farmstead with possible field boundaries extending away from it to the west and south. Undated ditched boundaries found in earlier phases of the evaluation may also be remnants of a wider field system.

NORTHAMPTON, UPTON PARK

NGR SP 714 597

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Ian Fisher and Paul Mason undertook geophysical survey by magnetometry followed by a trial trench evaluation of 32 hectares of land at Upton. Roman features, including a metalled trackway, have been dated to the 1st/2nd centuries AD.

STANION, BRIGSTOCK ROAD

NGR SP 924 869

Excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Jason Clarke as part of a proposed development of a waste recycling facility. The excavation revealed a late Iron Age boundary and two timber roundhouses, associated with iron smelting, which probably remained in use until the late 1st century AD. They were superseded by a Roman villa together with ancillary structures, which included a post-built aisled barn with drying oven, two further drying ovens, stone-lined wells and stone-lined water cistern. The main buildings were clearly a continuation of the building partly excavated to the west in 2002 (NAS 2008, 35, 95-136). A droveway, defined by parallel ditches, led to a partially metalled ford over the Harpers Brook. The villa, the processing area and perhaps the droveway appear to have gone out of use by the late 3rd century, when a series of ditches, some utilised for animal stock control were created, and an oven was inserted into the demolition deposits of one of the villa buildings. The villa was only abandoned in the later 4th century AD. A small amount of medieval pottery recovered from the building rubble suggests there was both pre and post-Norman Conquest robbing of the villa for building stone. Medieval cultivation was shown by remnants of ridge and furrow.

STUTCHBURY, GREATWORTH, SPRING FARM RIDGE

NGR SP 573 432

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

During an evaluation by Simon Carlyle at Spring Farm Ridge two main areas of dating to the Roman period were uncovered. One comprised probable enclosures and boundary systems, as well as a series of quarry pits. This area appeared to be in use throughout the Roman period. A second area comprised the remains of a Romano-British building of modest status and associated activity. Pottery associated with the building dated exclusively to the 2nd century, while some of the peripheral activity may have dated to the later Roman period.

MEDIEVAL

BENEFIELD, HARLEY WAY, CHURCHFIELD QUARRY

NGR TF 006 879

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A magnetometer survey by Ian Fisher on land adjacent to Churchfield Quarry identified a possible extension to the earthworks and putative rubble spread from Churchfield deserted medieval village. In the subsequent evaluation by Anthony Maull, the remains of a medieval stone building were found. Pottery associated with the building dated to the 13th century. A further spread of material in another trench may suggest that further building remains may survive on the northern boundaries of the site.

BRACKLEY, EGERTON CLOSE

NGR SP 5904 3740

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial excavations carried out by Jim Brown at Egerton Close discovered an undated ditch containing animal bone, which was overlain by a deposit likely to have been former topsoil, since buried. Three further ditches on different alignments cut the buried soil, and are dated by tile to after the 14th century, with one ditch clearly of 19th century date. Residual Roman and medieval finds were also recovered alongside quantities of animal bone.

BUGBROOKE, PEACE HILL

NGR SP 6728 5701

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Carol Simmonds carried out a magnetometer survey on 1ha of land at Peace Hill. The application area has extant ridge and furrow of medieval field cultivation surviving as earthworks. A possible ditch was recorded in the southern part of the site.

CORBY, PRIORS HALL ZONE 3

NGR SP 928 902

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried

out by Chris Jones on land at Priors Hall, Corby. This followed on from geophysical survey. The proposed development area was bisected by a deer fence. North of the deer fence there were only furrows from medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

CRICK, BURY DYKE

NGR SP 5893 7263

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological remediation works were carried out by Danny McAree on land to record disturbed archaeological horizons along the sides of two trenches cut through the earthwork remains of the shrunken medieval village at Bury Dyke, Crick. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from two of four pits exposed in the sides of the trenches.

DAVENTRY, MIDDLEMORE FARM

NGR SP 5619 6485

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

John Walford carried out a magnetometer survey on 4ha of land at Middlemore Farm. A medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system was identified running north-east to south-west across the area.

DEANSHANGER, CHURCH LANE

NGR SP 7614 3971

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation, carried out by Anne Foard-Colby, revealed a medieval pit, a medieval stone wall and pond or quarry pit, and a 17th-century rubbish pit. The ground appears to have remained as either paddock or under cultivation for many years.

GREAT DODDINGTON, HIGH STREET

SP 8841 6489

Excavation and watching brief

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

A strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief were undertaken by Calli Rouse at 23 High Street, in advance of the residential development of the site. Possible property boundaries and refuse pits of the Saxo-Norman period were located not far from the road. In the 13th century there was a shift in the focus of domestic activity to the north-eastern corner of the site. By the 14th century, the density of activity had lessened, but possible boundary ditches suggest that the site assumed a more agricultural character. In the final phase, a 15th-century well was probably associated with a dwelling fronting onto the High Street. The watching brief focussed on the southern end of the site, where trenches were excavated to house underground heating pipes. Eight large features were identified during this phase of works, two of which were dated to the 13th century. No dating evidence was recovered from the remaining six features, but all contained a similar fill, suggesting they were contemporary. It is thought that these features represented either extraction or refuse pits connected with the probable settlement in the fields adjacent to the development site.

ELMESTHORPE, LAND NORTH OF CLICKERS WAY (A47)

NGR SP 459 967

Trial Evaluation

John Moore Heritage Services

(compiled by David Gilbert)

An evaluation comprising 14 trenches totalling approximately 420m in length was conducted by Paul Ricoboni and David Gilbert on land north of the A47. These trenches targeted geophysical anomalies from a previously commissioned geophysical survey by Stratascan. The earliest dated features were three ditches with pottery sherds of the medieval period. A series of undated ditches containing lighter coloured fills, may have had earlier origin. One ditch is thought to be Saxon as it is on a similar alignment to a Saxon ditch recorded on the adjacent bypass evaluation. The other dated ditches were post-medieval. A post-medieval ditch, crossing the site on an east west alignment, can be seen on historic maps from the late 19th century. This boundary ditch was sampled in three trenches and may have been contemporary with other ditches in the area.

ISHAM, 36A SOUTH STREET

NGR SP 8884 7396

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Angela Warner during the installation of a new sewer in the garden of 36a South Street. No archaeological features were encountered, although slight earthworks were visible in this garden, in the garden of the adjacent property and in the field to the east. A single sherd of St Neots ware pottery was recovered from a deposit of made-ground near the house.

LONG BUCKBY, STATION ROAD, WHITE BARN FARM

NGR SP 6155 6660

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Geophysical survey identified a possible pit group and remnant medieval ridge and furrow. Subsequent archaeological evaluation by Edmund Taylor within the footprint of the proposed wind turbines did not identify any archaeological remains.

LOWICK, COLPMAN'S FARM

NGR SP 980 795

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Paul Clements in two fields, totalling an area of 18ha, on land south of Colpman's Farm. The survey identified one linear anomaly which is likely to be a former field boundary. Ridge and furrow cultivation systems were detected in both fields.

MIDDLETON CHENEY, WATERS LANE

NR SP 505 420

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A detailed magnetometer survey by Ian Fisher over an

area of c 2.4ha, carried out in advance of a proposed development, revealed at least two ditches and a possible pit of apparently pre-medieval date. These features had been intersected by ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval origin. Pipelines and other likely modern features were also mapped.

NORTHAMPTON, OVERSTONE LEYS

NGR SP 792 655

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A third phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones and Carol Simmonds following on from previous geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation. Early/middle Saxon activity was found, a deep, flat-bottomed pit may be the remains of a substantial sunken-featured building. A further such feature was found and together they suggest a dispersed or shifting Saxon settlement. Further postholes may be the remains of more substantial timber buildings and a series of undated ditches may have been contemporary.

NORTHAMPTON, UPTON

NGR SP 719 587

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A magnetometer survey was carried out by John Walford on 0.5ha of land at Upton prior to a proposed car park development. The survey identified one possible ditch and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. However, much of the survey area was magnetically disturbed, demonstrating the widespread presence of hardcore and other magnetic debris within the topsoil. The archaeological trial trench evaluation by Anne Foard-Colby found two pits, one of which contained considerable burnt stone and flint, together with a furrow of medieval field cultivation.

PETERBOROUGH, BAINTON, BARNACK ROAD, BROOKFIELD

NGR TF 0935 0596

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The evaluation, by Anne Foard-Colby, revealed a pit or well dating to the 10th/11th centuries, from which was recovered a small quantity of pottery, mostly Stamford Ware, animal bone, mollusc shell and charred plant remains. A posthole and two gullies, probably of a similar date, and an undated ditch were also encountered.

RAUNDS, 22 ROTTON ROW

NGR SP 9987 7325

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Chris Jones on land to the rear of 22 Rotton Row. The evaluation identified the medieval north-south aligned boundary ditch, which had been identified in earlier excavations to the north and south of the proposed development area. A shallow isolated pit was the only other feature present. The evidence from the excavation would suggest that the development area contains

remains peripheral to the adjacent sites. The work was in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent.

TOWCESTER, WOOD BURCOTE, WOOD BURCOTE ESTATE

NGR SP 6976 4729

Earthwork survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A measured earthwork survey on 26ha of land, undertaken by Carol Simmonds, identified and recorded earthworks including the open field system relating to the shrunken medieval village of Wood Burcote. Later activity was represented by features associated with the landscaping of the 20th-century parkland and modern disturbance.

WARMINGTON, 18-20 CHAPEL STREET

NGR TL 0777 9123

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Edmund Taylor carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 18-20 Chapel Street, which revealed a small group of postholes likely to be structural elements of a late medieval building known to have fronted onto Chapel Street. To the rear of the plot there was a boundary or drainage ditch which dates from the 12th to 15th centuries.

WOLLASTON, TOWER FARM

NGR SP 9220 6235

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An area of c 2ha was subject to detailed magnetometer survey by John Walford in advance of a proposed wind farm development. The only archaeological features identified were plough furrows relating to the former open field system of Wollaston.

YARWELL, NASSINGTON ROAD, NASSINGTON AND YARWELL CEMETERY

NGR TL 0680 9726

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Trial trenching was commissioned by the Nassington and Yarwell Joint Burial Board on land proposed for an extension to the Nassington and Yarwell Cemetery. No archaeological features were recorded by Steven Morris. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

POST-MEDIEVAL

APETHORPE, BRIDGE STREET, THE GARAGE BLOCK

NGR TL 0249 9578

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A building assessment by Joe Prentice recorded the remains of a small stone and brick building which appeared to be of mid-late 19th-century date. The building has been substantially altered and partially demolished, as well as being re-roofed relatively recently. Oral evidence suggests that the building served

as a smithy/forge during the 1930s when it was also used by a wheelwright. Almost no evidence of this phase now remains within the building and it is not thought that it was built to function as such, but was simply a barn associated with the nearby Manor Farm.

BLATHERWYCKE HALL

NGR SP 8165 4492

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Blatherwycke Hall Stables were built in 1770 to serve the now demolished house nearby. During archaeological building recording in 2008 graffiti was identified on the first floor of the building, some of which dates to the late 18th century, while others relate to the installation of the now lost clock turret and weathervane during the 19th century (NAS 2010, 36, 190). As part of the Planning Condition applied to the building during conversion, a detailed record of the graffiti was required, with the work carried out by Joe Prentice. The graffiti included family names dated to the turn of the 18th/19th centuries, and a date referring to the clock, *This clocke was put up on the 6 of May 1820*, formerly on a turret and now in the nearby church. An archaeological watching brief was also carried out during groundworks for new internal walls and rainwater pipes. This revealed the existence of stable-yard walls previously known only from 19th-century maps, a culvert and levelling layers elsewhere.

BOZEAT, 6 CHURCH WALK

NGR SP 9064 5917

Excavation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Following recovery of a skull by builders, small scale excavation by Andy Chapman and Pat Chapman located the rest of the remains, still in situ, and also the remains of a second burial, running beneath the house wall, and disarticulated remains of further individuals. It is likely that they had once lain within a corner of the churchyard, which must have been taken into the present property by or before the 19th century.

BRACKLEY, EGERTON CLOSE

NGR SP 5904 3740

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial excavations were carried out by Jim Brown at Egerton Close. An undated ditch containing animal bone was overlain by a deposit that is likely to have been former topsoil, which has since been buried. One ditch was clearly of 19th century date. In addition, a post-medieval limestone rubble wall was cut into the buried soil, with its rubble collapse lying on the buried soil. All of these deposits lay below an accumulation of topsoil, formed from leaf litter and garden soil.

BRADDEN, WATER LANE, LODGE FARM COTTAGE

NGR SP 6462 4813

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A former pair of pigsties were recorded by Joe Prentice,

to the rear of Lodge Farm Cottage. The building is constructed mainly of limestone and contains two equal-sized rooms, each with a single pedestrian door and a smaller opening for the pigs, both of which are now infilled. The building has later had windows inserted into one room after its use as pigsties ended, thus making it serviceable as a workroom and store, a function it retains at present.

BRIXWORTH, NORTHAMPTON ROAD

NGR SP 745 699

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The geophysical survey by Ian Fisher and trial trenching by Carol Simmonds found remnants of post-medieval field boundaries, corresponding with fields shown on historic maps. Large industrial-scale ironstone quarrying took place in the post-medieval/modern period. The works, including a tramway, are shown on 19th-century historic maps.

COGENHOE, 76 STATION ROAD

NGR SP 827 609

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief, carried out by Anne Foard-Colby on land to the rear of 76 Station Road, found the remains of an early 20th-century subterranean brick chamber with ceramic pipework, possibly the remains of either a water storage tank or a septic tank, and a rubbish pit were found. No significant archaeology was present.

CRICK, 7 DRAYSON LANE, GREENHILL FARMHOUSE

NGR SP 5883 7282

Building assessment

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A former cattle shelter associated with a former farmhouse on the west side of Drayson Lane was recorded by Joe Prentice. The building is of mid 19th-century date and comprises, in its current form, two separate areas which contained stalls for cattle. The brick barn was built against a pre-existing stone wall. This area has been substantially altered and arched openings on the east elevation largely blocked. A later brick addition has been added at the northern end, most likely for storage.

DAVENTRY, 27 HIGH STREET

NGR SP 5732 6250

Watching brief/building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological watching brief, by Iain Soden during stripping out at the 17th-century Grade II-listed building, enabled records to be made of areas of the east and west walls of the property. The old frontage building had a rear wing added revealing a former doorway, a previous stair location and a floored-over cellar were located. All these have been covered over by the refurbishment.

EYDON, EYDON HALL ESTATE, MANOR FARM HOUSE

NGR SP 5423 5002

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The Farmhouse, recorded by Iain Soden and Joe Prentice, dates to the mid 17th century with later additions and alterations, the associated farm buildings most likely date to the 18th and 19th centuries. The group of domestic buildings which currently make up Eydon Manor Farm comprise four principal phases of construction; the first to be built was the main farmhouse, the second was perhaps the lean-to on the west side of the same, the third the originally detached cottage and finally the link building connecting the cottage to the farmhouse. All are built in what is best described as a regional vernacular style using, for the most part, local stone with only the latest section, the link, using brick, a material often not widely used in predominantly stone areas until the coming of the railways in the second quarter of the 19th-century, although probably later here. The detached cart-shed, wash-house and the two sets of stables and carriage houses are 19th-century additions. The detached former stable block, listed grade II, and associated stock buildings lying to the east of the northern entrance to the estate along with further buildings to the east of the same driveway were also recorded. The stable block, built of dressed and coursed ironstone bonded in lime mortar with no plinth, but with large quoins at the corners, dates to the mid 17th century with later additions and alterations. The stone and brick range of stock buildings most likely date to the 18th and 19th centuries. Finally there are the modern steel and corrugated sheeting sheds.

FLORE, 2 KING'S LANE

NGR SP 6473 6024

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The remains of a small stone and brick building of late 19th-century date were recorded by Joe Prentice. It had been built as a stable block and coach house with a hay loft above and had a small tack room with store and privy added to the western end at a later date. It had most recently been used as a garage and store.

FOTHERINGHAY, MAIN STREET

NGR TL 0611 9326

Watching brief

Archaeological Project Services

Staff carried out a watching brief within the rear garden of the 17th-century Old Vicarage, located in the historic core of Fotheringhay, for Mr S Grace. Probable gravel layers and kerbing were revealed, together with a wide shallow rubble-filled pit. Although no dating evidence was recovered from these they are considered to be associated with the house or its garden and, hence, post-medieval or recent.

GREAT BRINGTON, THE LAST STRAW

NGR SP 667 648

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Danny McAree carried out archaeological building

recording at *The Last Straw*, a Grade II Listed thatched cottage gutted by fire. A supposed cruck blade recorded in 1977 is purported to indicate a possible medieval date, and a blocked doorway may indicate an early cross-passage design. A west wing was added prior to 1748. In the late 19th century the building was divided into three cottages. Major alterations in the 1990s returned the building to a single dwelling. The recent fire has denuded the historic fabric considerably.

HARRINGWORTH, SHOTLEY, SHORTWOOD FARM

NGR SP 9245 9720

Building recording

Archaeological Project Services

Historic building recording was undertaken by Gary Taylor for Mr K Dove and Harris McCormack Architects, on a group of farm buildings in the hamlet of Shotley. The buildings are shown on maps dating from the 1880s and later. Four ranges around a courtyard were recorded. Forming one side of the courtyard, a large threshing barn of mid-late 18th century date was the earliest building in the complex. Later, perhaps in the early-mid 19th century, an animal house or cow shed was constructed on the opposite side of the courtyard. Toward the end of the 19th century two further ranges were built. Both were open-fronted, with one functioning as a cart shed and the other as an animal shelter. Alterations had been made to several of the buildings in the 20th century.

IRCHESTER, CHESTER FARM

SP 918 668

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The fire-damaged interiors of Chester Farm's farmhouse have been recorded by Iain Soden with written, drawn and photographic records, backed up by documentary studies. The results show an east to west-aligned building which began as a 17th-century vernacular East Range with an adjacent North Range, the latter dismantled in 1925. To this was added a probably Georgian West Range with stair turret. A major remodelling in 1925 improved the house accommodation for 20th century living, gutting the East Range in the process and creating the cottages which survived to the fire.

IRCHESTER, GIPSY LANE

NGR SP 922 661

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones on land off High Street and land off Gipsy Lane. There was post-medieval and later quarrying.

LYVEDEN NEW BIELD

NGR SP 9840 8531

See Notes for further description and discussion of the concentric rings within the Moated Orchard.

Geophysical survey

Archaeological Project Services

On behalf of the National Trust, Steve Malone carried

out a programme of gradiometer survey within the Moated Orchard and immediately north of the lodge at the late 16th century Lyveden New Bield. Within the Moated Orchard the geophysical survey identified a wide rectilinear feature, perhaps the corner of an enclosure. Part of this has previously been recorded by resistivity survey as a high resistance anomaly, suggesting it is a rubble-filled feature or a foundation. Further magnetic anomalies at the eastern corner of the enclosure, and immediately to the south, probably represent other, related, archaeological remains. No archaeological features were identified in the area north of the lodge

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Joe Prentice, on behalf of the National Trust, at Lyveden New Bield within the area known as the Moated Orchard, inside the boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SM No: 69) and the Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden (1001037). The aim was to establish the presence or absence of the circular planting borders and paths laid out by Sir Thomas Tresham between 1597 and his death in 1605. A series of concentric rings can be seen on an aerial photograph taken c1944 but shortly afterwards the area was ploughed. Geophysical survey undertaken in 2011 did not reveal indications of the circular beds nor were any identified during the evaluation. The only features revealed were underlying medieval features relating to land use prior to the creation of the Elizabethan garden and surrounding canals.

MILTON MALSOR, 33 RECTORY LANE, MORTIMERS

NGR SP 7344 5528

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Building recording was carried out by Andy Chapman on a coach house at Mortimers, Milton Malsor. The coach house was built in ironstone between 1885 and 1899 and comprises a carriage house with stables and an upper storey hayloft. It is roofed in slate with decorative ceramic ridge tiles. There are internal brick jambs for the doors and windows, brick floors and brick partition walls. The doors and windows and their fittings are probably original. The rainwater goods and electric light were installed in the mid 20th century.

MORETON PINKNEY, BANBURY ROAD, THE GRANGE

NGR SP 5749 4919

Strip, map and record

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological work was undertaken by Steve Morris to observe groundworks at the site of a proposed swimming pool in the private garden of The Grange, which is located within the historic core of the village. A 19th-century stone track was recorded, also pottery, ceramic building material and glass bottles of 18th-to 20th-century date were recovered.

NORTHAMPTON, DELAPRE ABBEY

NGR SP 7595 5912

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Amir Bassir during groundworks connected with a project to repair and reinstate the historic water gardens at Delapre Abbey. The watching brief revealed the remains of a 19th-century culvert and levelling layers but no pre-19th century archaeology.

PYTCHLEY, ISHAM ROAD, ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

NGR SP 860 747

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray during groundworks connected with the connection of mains services at All Saints' Church. Other than the expected grave-soil and burials, no other archaeological features were encountered. A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the grave-soil.

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

NGR SP 8679 9101

Building assessment

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The remains of the southern enclosure of the garden and dated the structure to the second half of the 19th century were recorded by Joe Prentice. The trial excavation by Tim Upson-Smith revealed evidence of planting trenches and garden paths dating to the 19th century, but no earlier activity. Three galvanised metal or zinc plant labels remain, of a classic, elegant, shape. Two are legible. The two legible labels are both on the east wall, facing west. One bears the (pencil?) inscription *Violette Hâtive*, a variety of nectarine, roundish and of medium size, yellowish-green to purplish-red in colour which ripens in early September. The second inscribed label, bears the name *Imperatrice*. This appears to be most likely a plum, *Ickworth Impératrice*, a dessert fruit with a bright purple bloom and greenish-amber flesh ready in early October.

SALCEY FOREST

NGR SP 8014 5136

Earthwork survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The Forestry Commission commissioned an earthwork walkover survey, carried out by Carol Simmonds, on four areas totalling 29ha in Salcey Forest, near Hartwell. These were targeted in order to 'ground-truth' features identified by LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging). A number of features were noted during the walkover survey, including a D-shaped enclosure, an earthwork bank and drainage ditches. A detailed measured survey of a rectangular earthwork enclosure was also undertaken.

TOWCESTER, EASTON NESTON HOUSE

NGR SP 7017 4943

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Easton Neston House is a Grade I listed mansion built by

Nicholas Hawksmoor between 1685 and 1695. Recently sold, the house was in need of repair and renovation after many years of minimal maintenance and inappropriate alterations. In addition, following the removal of tapestries long associated with the house, there was a need to introduce panelling to fill those voids. A number of 20th-century additions were removed to improve or reinstate earlier layouts. Recording by Joe Prentice was carried out prior to and during alterations.

WELLINGBOROUGH, 48 PARK ROAD

NGR SP 8919 6824

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A small brick building of late 19th-century date was recorded by Joe Prentice. The workshop at the rear of Park House, Upper Havelock Street was almost certainly built at the same time as that property in 1881. The building has been substantially altered and retains evidence of former openings on the ground floor, however, it retains almost no fixtures and fittings internally which indicate its original function.

WOLLASTON, 86 HIGH STREET, FORMER EXCELSIOR BAND CLUB

NGR SP 9078 6291

Building recording

Northamptonshire Archaeology

The former Excelsior Band Club, recorded by Joe Prentice, is listed grade 2 and comprises a stone building, formerly a domestic residence fronting onto the High Street which has been substantially extended and altered. The most fundamental change to the original building has been the removal of the entire first floor level during the 1980s. The extent of the alterations means that few early or original features now remain.

UNKNOWN/MODERN**ASTON LE WALLS, BLACKSMITHS LANE, TRINLANS**

NGR SP 4951 5101

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Ian Fisher to inform a planning application for the removal of an existing barn and the construction of a replacement barn on a larger footprint on land opposite Trinlans. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

BARNWELL, WELL LANE

TL 0464 8504

Watching brief

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

A watching brief was carried out by Calli Rouse on land adjacent to the Old Station House, during groundworks for residential development of the site. Ground reduction and footing trenches on the western side of the site revealed a probable buried land surface, suggesting that this side of the site had been built up, probably during the construction of Barnwell Station in the mid 19th century. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.

BOUGHTON HALL PARK

NGR SP 7537 6647

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation by Joe Prentice was undertaken within the grounds of Boughton Hall Park, a Grade II listed Park and garden, in advance of excavation to create a new lake. The evaluation revealed the presence of an undated ironstone wall and culvert along with modern field drains.

BRACKLEY, CHURCH ROAD, STEEPWAYS

NGR SP 5899 3736

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief, by Jason Clarke on land to the rear of Steepways, recorded a modern make-up layer, probably deposited during the construction of the house extension and overlaid by stone hardcore and paving slabs. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recorded.

BUGBROOKE, 5 HIGH STREET

NGR SP 6773 5759

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Tim Upson-Smith to observe the groundworks for the construction of four houses, associated garages and infrastructure. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

BURTON LATIMER, BRIDLE ROAD

NGR SP 8922 7463

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Mark Holmes during groundworks for construction of an underground water tank at Bridle Road. A single, re-cut but undated ditch was the only archaeological feature present on the site.

COLLINGTREE, SPINNEY DRIVE

NGR SP 7509 5575

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David J Leigh during the construction of a new extension at Spinney Drive. The remains of a modern brick built out-building were noted, whilst undisturbed garden soils were present across the remainder of the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

CRANFORD ST ANDREW, CRANFORD ESTATE

NGR SP 933 789

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Anne Foard-Colby to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine on the Cranford Estate. The evaluation revealed a number of tree throw

depressions and root disturbance, however, no archaeology was present.

DEANSHANGER, CHURCH LANE

SP 7610 3965

Excavation

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

A strip, map and sample excavation was led by Gareth Shane on land adjacent to 8 Church Lane, in advance of the construction of a detached house. Constant machine supervision of topsoil stripping revealed a limestone foundation, probably a field boundary of post-medieval or modern date, extending from the south-east edge of the site on a north-south alignment. Only modern finds were recovered from the topsoil, and no other archaeological features were observed.

FOTHERINGHAY, ST MARY & ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

TL 0603 9320

Watching brief

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

A continuous watching brief was maintained by Gareth Shane at St Mary and All Saints Church, during the removal of the church gates and widening of the access. Large worked stones, possibly re-used, were revealed in the footings of the church wall and gates. No other archaeology was observed or recovered.

GREATWORTH, STUCHBURY MANOR FARM

NGR SP 5567 4363

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Magnetometer survey of fields immediately south-west of the farm by Adrian Butler identified a possible ditch. Trial trenching by Carol Simmonds found two undated ditches, probably relating to peripheral farming or land management. The mitigation works identified the extent of one of the ditches and evidence for localised limestone extraction.

GRETTON, CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT

NGR SP 8985 9441

Evaluation, watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Tim Upson-Smith carried out a small test pit evaluation and watching brief, prior to and during the installation of a new cess tank. No archaeology or burials were observed during the work.

HARDINGSTONE, 14-18 THE WARREN

NGR SP 7666 5762

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray to observe groundworks during the construction of a pair of semi-detached, and one detached house on land to the rear of 14-18 The Warren. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

IRCHESTER, CHESTER FARM

NGR SP 920 669

Auger survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An auger survey commissioned by The Environment Agency was undertaken by Ian Meadows followed by a Watching Brief of the dredging of Chester Water within the area of Irchester Roman town (Scheduled monument NN83). The works concluded the channel silts were modern in date.

KETTERING, THURSTON DRIVE

NGR SP 8663 7697

Geophysical survey and trial trenching

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Geophysical survey by Ian Fisher and trial trenching by Carol Simmonds was conducted on land proposed for development at Thurston Drive. The survey and subsequent trial trenching confirmed the presence of extensive modern disturbance. No archaeological features were recorded and no finds were recovered.

KISLINGBURY, SOUTH OF BUGBROOKE ROAD

NGR SP 6975 5920

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Ian Fisher conducted a detailed geophysical survey of land south of Bugbrooke Road which identified the corner of a possible ditched enclosure of unknown date and two ditches of putative medieval date. Subsequent trial trench evaluation by David J Leigh only recorded undisturbed subsoil. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, 53 LODGE ROAD

NGR SP 8047 5941

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Chris Jones in the rear garden of 53 Lodge Road. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

MIDDLETON CHENEY, ASTROP ROAD, MIDDLETON LODGE FARM

NGR SP 5015 4064

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Anne Foard-Colby to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine at Middleton Lodge Farm. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

MILTON MALSOR, MALZOR LANE, HOME FARM

NGR SP 7318 5561

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken by David J Leigh in advance of residential development on land at Home Farm. Modern disturbance was noted

along the north-western boundary of the investigation area, whilst undisturbed soils were present throughout the remainder. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

NORTHAMPTON, KINGS HEATH, KINGS HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL

NGR SP 7367 6253

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray on land at Kings Heath Primary School, as part of a pre-application for development within the school grounds. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present in the evaluation.

NORTHAMPTON, OVERSTONE LEYS

NGR SP 7920 6550

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Magnetometer survey was carried out Adrian Butler on approximately 2.5ha of land at Overstone Leys following large-scale evaluation to the east. A curving ditch and a linear ditch were located, although rectilinear anomalies to the north of the curved ditch are possibly geological rather than archaeological. A recently removed paddock boundary was also identified.

OUNDLE, LILFORD LODGE FARM

NGR TL 035 854

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Paul Mason undertook the first phase of a trial trench evaluation on the River Nene floodplain at Lilford Lodge Farm. No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were collected. Deep deposits of alluvium lay across the site, which forms the northern end of a proposed marina development.

RAUNDS, ST PETER'S CHURCH

NGR TL 0004 7306

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Jim Brown during the installation of a new water pipe at St Peter's Church. An unmarked grave and a brick-built crypt were identified and avoided, their locations have been surveyed for future reference. No definite headstones survive for these burials. All human bone was collected and reburied.

RAUNDS, WARTH PARK

NGR SP 9835 7315

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Tim Upson-Smith to observe the excavation of geo-technical test pits for the Warth Park Phase 2 development in Raunds. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

SHOTLEY, WAKERLEY ROAD

NGR SP 9350 9801

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Jason Clarke for the proposed sewage treatment works identified the underlying geology of fragmented ironstone, but no archaeological features of deposits were present and no finds were recovered.

SHUTLANGER, 33 MAIN ROAD

NGR SP 7293 4998

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Andy Chapman during groundworks connected with the construction of a new house. The main range of the new house almost directly overlay the former cottage. The ground here was disturbed, with mixed topsoil directly overlying natural clays. A number of ceramic drains still partially survived, cutting into the top of the natural clay. To the rear, an extension to the new house ran partly onto the former garden. Here the natural was overlain by a thin subsoil and up to 0.6m of garden soil. There were no earlier disturbances of the natural clay in this area, and no earlier artefacts were present. The only finds recorded, but not retained, were of pottery and building materials contemporary with the demolished cottage.

SILVERSTONE MOTOR RACING CIRCUIT

NGR SP 675 420

Geophysical survey

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of detailed magnetometer survey by Ian Fisher on 42.2ha at Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit located anomalies relating to recent structures and deposits, roads and tracks, reburied hard standing, service pipelines and ferrous debris. Two possible archaeological anomalies were identified in one area, putatively ditches, but equally feasibly ephemeral mod-ern features, such as drainage channels or beaten paths. Despite the extensive disturbance on the site, sufficient open areas were sur-veyed between tracks and around hard standing to dem-onstrate little significant archaeological activity.

SOUTHWICK, BULWICK ROAD

NGR TL 0107 9219

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Danny McAree on land off Bulwick Road to monitor the excavation of a single trench along the side of the roadway to transfer overhead electrical supply lines to underground ducting. The proposed works extended across the documented historic forest boundary. Apart from other modern service trenches, no artefacts were present and no archaeological features were exposed during the excavation.

STANFORD-ON-AVON, 3 CHURCH LANE, ASHLEIGH HOUSE

NGR SP 588 788

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Carol Simmonds during groundworks for the construction of a new garage on land at Ashleigh House. Made ground, probably a result of the infilling of an old water course or pond, was noted within the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

TITCHMARSH, THE CHURCH OF ST MARY

NGR TL 0200 7986

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David J Leigh during renovation works at The Church of St Mary. The work comprised the removal of the existing pews and wooden sections of flooring from the nave, south aisle and north aisle. Undated deposits were revealed containing a possible fragment of grave slab. A George V copper penny was found sealed beneath the central pews, possibly indicating the date of installation.

TOWCESTER: HIGH STREET

SP 6926 4866

Evaluation

Archaeological Services & Consultancy

An evaluation of land to the rear of 185 Watling Street was carried out by Calli Rouse in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing building. One trench and one test pit were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench cut through several layers of made ground before reaching the natural strata. The test pit was excavated to below the maximum depth of the proposed footings, and did not breach the depth of made ground. No significant archaeological features or finds were noted.

WELDON, THE OLD WOODYARD

NGR SP 929 824

Watching brief

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David J Leigh during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

WELLINGBOROUGH, OLYMPIC WAY, HARDWICK SCHOOLS

NGR SP 8724 6830

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial excavation was carried out by Joe Prentice in the grounds of Hardwick Schools, Wellingborough in advance of new building to extend the existing capacity of the school buildings. Four trenches were opened but none showed any evidence of previous archaeological activity.

WHITTLEBURY, PORTERSWOOD FARM

NGR SP 6947 4567

Evaluation

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological investigation was carried out by Ian Fisher to inform a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine, at Porterswood Farm. There were no archaeological features or finds present.