

HFHN13/001

HEATHENCOTE FARM, HEATHENCOTE

Archaeological Monitoring

for Mr R Taylor

S/2012/0128/FULL, S/2012/0607/FULL

July 2013

HEATHENCOTE FARM, HEATHENCOTE

Archaeological Monitoring

For Mr R Taylor

S/2012/0128/FULL, S/2012/0607/FULL

July 2013

HA Job no.:	HFHN13/001
NGR:	471216 /247942
Parish:	Paulerspury
Council:	South Northamptonshire
OASIS ref.:	Headland4-151588
HER enquiry number.:	
Archive will be deposited with:	Headland Archaeology

Project Manager:	Joe Abrams
Author:	Julian Newman
Fieldwork:	Julian Newman
Graphics:	Anna Stromwasser
Approved by:	Joe Abrams – Project Manager

CONTENTS

1	.....INTRODUCTION.....	5
2	.....SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.....	5
3	.....AIMS & OBJECTIVES.....	5
4	.....METHODOLOGY.....	5
4.1	Site works.....	5
4.2	Recording.....	6
4.3	Reporting and Archives.....	6
5	.....RESULTS.....	6
5.1	Discussion.....	6
5.2	Conclusion.....	6
6	.....REFERENCES.....	7
6.1	Bibliographic sources.....	7
7	.....APPENDICES.....	8
7.1	Appendix 1 – Site registers.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 – Site location

Illus 2 – General shot of site

Illus 3 – General shot of foundation trench

Illus 4 – Trench section

HEATHENCOTE FARM, HEATHENCOTE.

Archaeological Monitoring

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed biomass energy centre at Heathencote Farm, Heathencote, Northants in order to provide information on its archaeological potential. No significant archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mr R Taylor (the client) has been granted full planning consent (S/2012/0128/FULL, S/2012/0607/FULL) for the conversion of farm buildings into holiday lets at Heathencote Farm, Heathencote, TL 471216 / 247942; henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA) (*Illus 1*).

The local planning authority (LPA) is advised on archaeological matters by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AO). Due to the archaeological potential of the DA the AO has instructed that archaeological monitoring and historic building recording would be required prior to construction of the development. These works were requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) and encapsulated in two briefs for building recording (NCC 2013 a) and monitoring (NBCC 2013b).

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for monitoring (Headland Archaeology 2013), undertake the site works and prepare a report (this document) on the results. The WSI was approved by the AO prior to commencement of the project.

Building recording was undertaken by Archaeological Building Recording Services under a dedicated WSI. The results are presented in a separate report (ABRS 2013).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The DA lies in southern Northamptonshire to the northeast of the hamlet of Heathencote which forms part of the parish of Paulerspury. The development includes the conversion of several standing farm buildings in order to create holiday let units with associated access and services. The geology of the site is Boulder Clay, and lies at a height of 94m AOD.

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In general the purpose of the investigation was to record and enhance understanding of the significance of

heritage assets before they are lost (NPPF para 141). This was to be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The national research context is provided by English Heritage (1991 and 1997) and regionally by Cooper (2006) which refers to the need for more research into medieval rural settlements, supplemented by Knight, Vyner & Allen (2012). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

Specifically the aims of the investigation include:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site.
- Establishing the relationship of any remains to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- Recovering artifacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site works

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken over the course of one day on the 5th June 2013. One rectangular footing trench measuring 19.5m by 7.5m, was excavated by a tracked machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket removing the topsoil and subsoil in controlled spits. Machine excavation continued until the top of the underlying geological sediments or the first significant archaeological horizon were encountered.

The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2013). Namely involving continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording during all groundworks unless agreed otherwise with the AO.

4.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The trench and contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was compiled. The site plan was accurately tied in to the National Grid and a scale version is shown in Illus 1.

A digital photographic record was taken and a metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

4.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (Headland4-151588).

There is currently no provision for long-term archive storage in this part of Northamptonshire. Until such time as provision is available, the archive (finds and records) will be retained by Hedland Archaeology. All archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Discussion

The technical detail of contextual information can be found in the Appendix 1. The following narrative is designed to interpret that technical detail and attempt to categorise its significance. Context numbers for deposits are expressed in parenthesis, i.e. (001), cuts of features are expressed in brackets, i.e. [003].

The footing trench covered an area of 146.25m² to a maximum depth of 0.9m below ground level (Illus. 2). The natural boulder clay was truncated at the northern end of the trench by modern pit [003] which contained brick, string and a fence post. Both of these deposits were sealed by made ground (001) approximately 0.5m thick (Illus. 4).

No significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified, furthermore no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring.

The construction of a new access road and excavation of a service pipe trench (Illus. 3) running along side this were completed prior to the watching brief (being undertaken). The AO was informed that this piece of work had been completed without archaeological

monitoring. The trench was inspected during the monitoring works and was found to contain no archaeological deposits.

Table 1: Significance of Heritage Assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench Number	Feature Number/s	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale
n/a	-	-	None

5.2 Conclusion

No evidence of significant archaeological remains was found within the DA. Other than a modern pit, the monitoring revealed no evidence for past activity of any date. It is likely that there has been considerable modern disturbance and truncation within the farmyard which encompasses the DA.

As no further ground works are required as part of the development the potential damage to any unidentified heritage assets is negligible.

Table 2: Impact on Heritage Assets (HA)

HA	Development impact	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale	Impact of development on heritage asset (None, Low, Medium, High)
n/a	Erection of biomass energy centre building.	-	None

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic sources

Archaeological Archives Forum *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (published by the IfA 2007).

Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework, Government National Planning Policy*.

Cooper N 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester/English Heritage.

English Heritage (1991 and 1997) *National Research Framework*

English Heritage 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

Headland Archaeology 2013. *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of works at Heathencote Farm, Heathencote, Northamptonshire*.

Knight D; Vyner B; Allen C 2012. *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust)

NCC 2013 a. *Brief for programme of Historic Building Recording at Heathencote Farm, Heathencote, Northamptonshire*.

NCC 2013 b. *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Heathencote Farm, Heathencote, Northamptonshire*.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

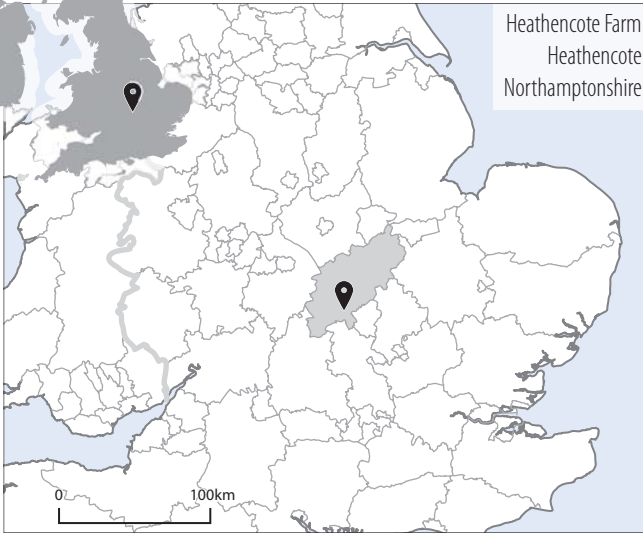
Photo number	Digital	Direction	Description
1	Yes	E	General view of site
2	Yes	SE	General view of site
3	Yes	S	General view of site
4	Yes	E	General shots of foundation trench (south E-W trench)
5	Yes	N	General shots of foundation trench (west N-S trench)
6	Yes	N	General shots of foundation trench (west N-S trench)
7	Yes	N	General shots of foundation trench (east N-S trench)
8	Yes	N	General shots of foundation trench (east N-S trench)
9	Yes	W	General shots of foundation trench (north E-W trench)
10	Yes	W	Detail of brick and wood in modern truncation (2)
11	Yes	S	General shot of trench
12	Yes	W	Trench section SW corner
13	Yes	W	Trench section SW corner
14	Yes	W	Section of modern pit [3]
15	Yes	W	Section of modern pit [3]
16	Yes	W	Trench section on east side
17	Yes	W	Trench section on east side
18	Yes	S	New access road
19	Yes	W	New access road

Context register

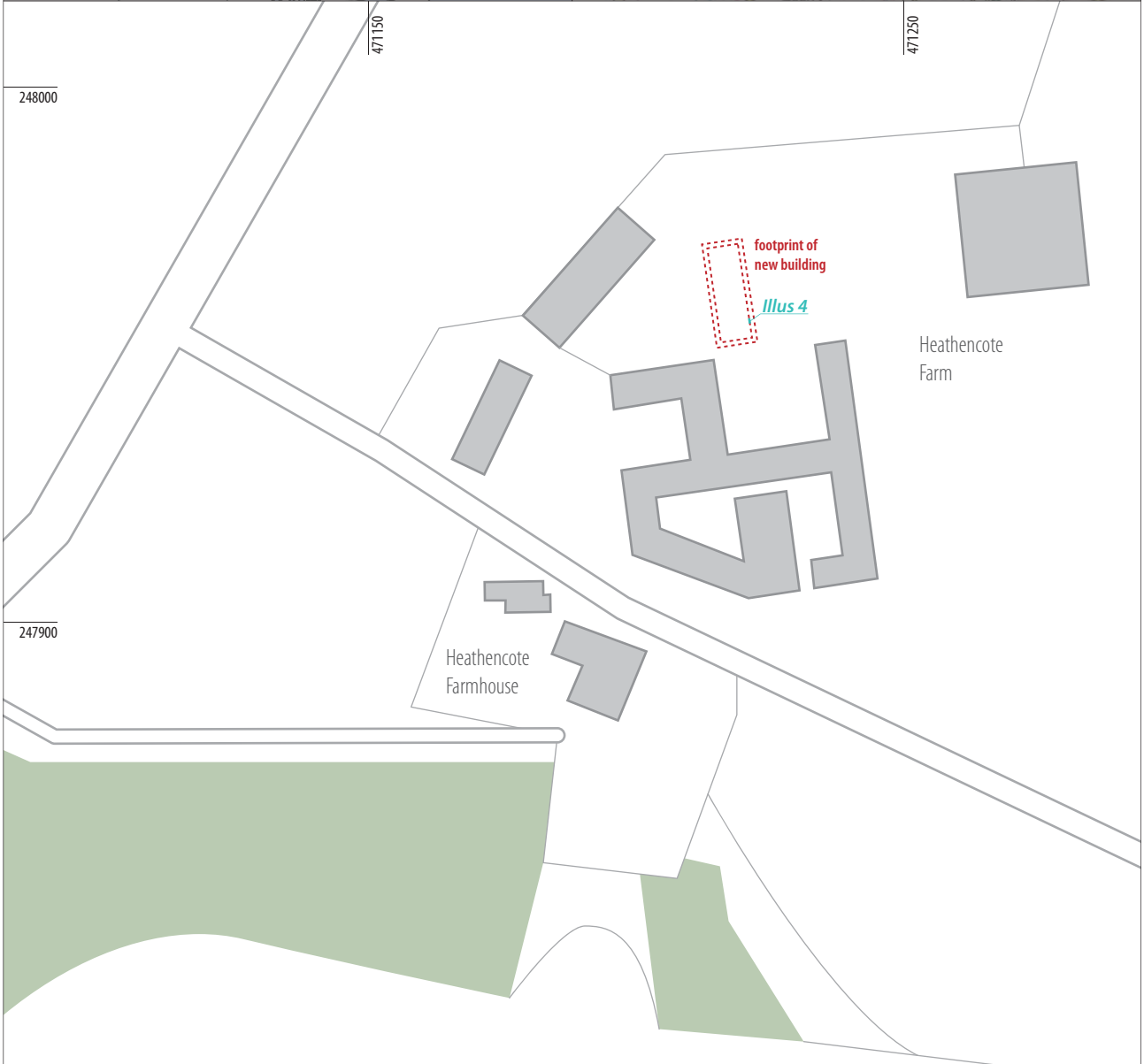
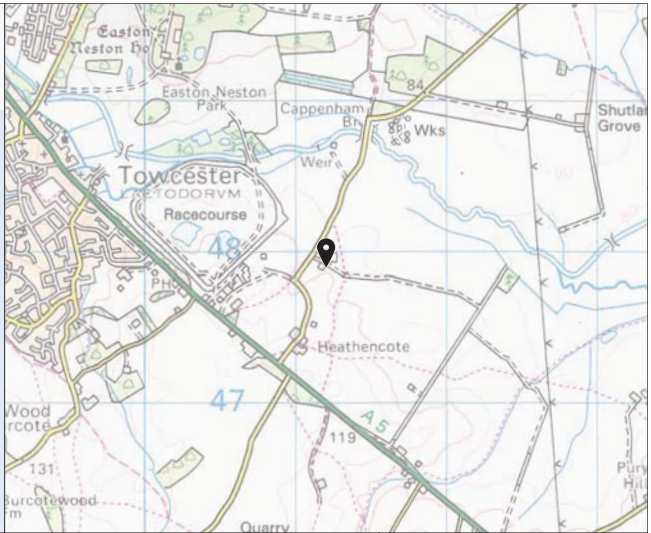
Context Number	Area	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
1	1	Made ground	Light greyey brown, clayey sand, moderately compact, high frequency of medium-large sized mixed stone inclusions. Modern plastics, metals and string. Levelled farmyard surface.
2	1	Fill of pit	Dark browny grey & dark blackey grey, clayey sand - sandy clay, loose, occasional concentrated areas of medium sized mixed stone. Modern brick, string and wood fence post. Dump deposit.
3	1	Pit cut	Steep sided, base not uncovered. Modern dump pit.

Drawings register

Drawing no.	Plan	Section	Description
1	1:50		Site plan
2		1:20	Trench section
3		1:20	Trench section
4		1:20	Section of pit [3] in trench section



Heathencote Farm
Heathencote
Northamptonshire



Reproduced using 2009 OS 1:50,000 Landranger Series no. 152 and digital data.
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL
100013329

scale 1:1,250 @ A4



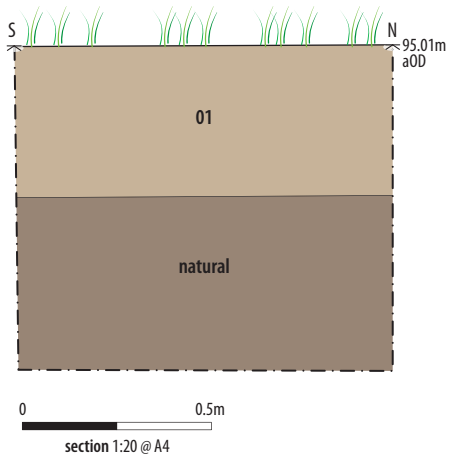
Illus 1
Site location



Illus 2
General views of site



Illus 3
General shots of foundation trenches (west N-S trench)



Illus 4

Trench section on east side