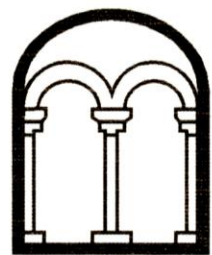


LAND ADJACENT TO
14 AVENUE ROAD
FINEDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION

Albion
archaeology



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Gareth Shane	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

26th September 2017

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Shelley Homes Ltd



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this document does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Shelley Homes Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

This report has been prepared by Gareth Shane (Project Supervisor). Fieldwork was carried out by Gareth Shane and illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Version History

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1.0	26/09/2017	n/a

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

AAA	Assistant Archaeological Advisor for NCC
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Shelley Homes Ltd
DA	Development area
HE	Historic England (formerly English Heritage)
HER	Historic Environment Record



NCC Northamptonshire County Council
WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (W/15/00658/OUT) for a proposed single dwelling with revised access to serve No 3 Church Street was approved on appeal by the Borough Council of Wellingborough on land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon, Northamptonshire.

The development area (DA) is situated in the north-west margin of Finedon, less than 100m to the east of the church. It is centred on grid reference SP 91335 72020 and covers an area of c. 0.25 ha. The DA is an open plot of land, located on the south side of Avenue Road. At the time of the fieldwork it was a largely grassed garden, bisected by a gravel access track to No. 3 Church Street, immediately to the south of the plot.

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) for Northamptonshire County Council advised that due to the archaeological potential of the site a programme of archaeological mitigation would be required. Accordingly a condition (no. 5) was attached to the appeal decision.

The entire footprint of the proposed building was stripped to the underlying ironstone geological strata on 5th September 2017. In addition, a soak-away and associated drainage run were excavated into ironstone on the same day. Notwithstanding the DA's archaeological potential, no evidence of former human activity in the form of archaeological features or artefacts was revealed during the groundworks

No further analysis or reporting is required beyond deposition of the archive and unloading of this report onto the OASIS database (ref. albionar1-290555).



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Outline planning permission (W/15/00658/OUT) for a proposed single dwelling at land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon, with revised access to serve No 3 Church Street and provision of public open space was approved on appeal (APP/H2835/W/16/3147182) by the Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) for Northamptonshire County Council advised that due to the archaeological potential of the site a programme of archaeological mitigation would be required. Accordingly a condition (no. 5) was attached to the appeal decision. This stated that:

No development shall take place within the site until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

A brief was issued by the AAA, detailing the requirements for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (NCC 2017).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the programme of archaeological works. The approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion 2017) for the project describes the circumstances in which archaeological works were carried out and confirms the procedures and methodologies employed.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The small town of Finedon lies approximately 6.5km to the north-east of Wellingborough. It is situated at the crossroads of the A510 and A6, approximately 8km to south-east of Kettering.

The development area (DA) is situated in the north-west margin of Finedon, less than 100m to the east of the church, centred on grid reference SP 91335 72020 and covers an area of c. 0.25 ha (Figure 1). Immediately prior to the commencement of the groundworks, the DA was an open plot of land, located on the south side of Avenue Road. It was largely a grassed garden bisected by a gravel access track to No. 3 Church Street, immediately to the south of the plot.

The solid geology of the area is Northampton Sand Formation - Ironstone, Ooidal.¹ There are no recorded superficial deposits. The presence of localised Glacial Till deposits was possible, although none was observed during the groundworks.

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2017]



1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The archaeological brief (NCC 2017) states that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The DA is located within the historic settlement of Finedon, which is likely to have its origins in the late Saxon period. It is located less than 100m to the east of St Mary's Church, which dates from the 14th century.

Over the course of the 19th century, Finedon expanded from a large village to a small town, with the development of boot and shoe manufacture, ironstone quarrying and smelting industries (NCC 2000). Historical mapping indicates that Avenue Road was on the northern periphery of the settlement core during this time, with the town expanding to the south and east.

The town contains a number of historic listed buildings. The nearest one to the DA is the Charity House, a Grade II* listed former girls' school with a date-stone of 1712. Several other Grade II-listed buildings, dating from the 17th or 18th centuries, are located to the south of the DA.

Along Station Road, to the north of the church, archaeological evaluation on the possible site of the principal Saxon manor and folkmoot of the Soke of Finedon (Murray 1996) revealed only post-medieval walls and other features.

1.4 **Project Objectives**

Based on evidence from surrounding evaluations and the historic environment record, the DA had potential to contain evidence of the medieval or earlier occupation of Finedon.

The research agenda for the East Midlands states that more work is needed to understand the origin and development of all types of nucleated and dispersed medieval settlement in Northamptonshire (Knight et al. 2012 Objectives 7.2.1 and 7.2.2).

The aims of the investigation programme were:

- To establish whether any evidence for medieval, or earlier, settlement exists on the DA;
- To determine and understand the date, nature, function and character of any past activity within the development site, in terms of its cultural and environmental setting;
- To recover artefactual and environmental materials to assist in understanding the cultural and economic basis of former settlements, and indications of change over time;
- To produce a site archive for future deposition with an appropriate museum, and to provide information for accession to the Northamptonshire HER.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• English Heritage	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE) (2015)
• CfA	<i>Charter and by-law ; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> (2014)
• NARC	<i>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard</i> (June 2014)

2.2 Archaeological Investigation and Recording

Archaeological works took place on 5th September 2017. The extent of the works was agreed in advance by the AAA. There were three potential components (Figure 1):

1. The footprint of the proposed new house.
2. The drainage run and associated soak-away pit.
3. The driveway to the east of the new house. During the groundworks it was determined in consultation with the AAA that the formation level for the driveway (0.18m below ground level) would be well within the topsoil and that this component of the works would, therefore, not require monitoring.

The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ‘ditching’ bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Once archaeological remains or the upper surface of undisturbed geological strata were reached, machine excavation ceased.

All soil deposits were recorded using Albion Archaeology’s *pro formae* sheets; they were also drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits revealed were photographed and recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 1. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [**] and round



brackets to fills or layers (**). A full methodology is provided in the approved WSI (Albion 2017).

2.3 Archive

On completion of the final report, the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and records will be deposited at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref. albionar1-290555) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service. Albion Archaeology employs a full time Archives Officer to ensure that all archives are completed to the correct standards and deposited according to the relevant guidelines.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All deposits within the DA are described below, with associated plan and images shown in Figures 1 and 2.

3.2 House and Soak-away Footprint

The removal of the topsoil revealed an undisturbed soil profile above ironstone geological strata. The friable mid orange-brown sandy silt topsoil (01) was generally around 0.3m thick, increasing to 0.6m in the eastern margin of the site adjacent to the hedge line (Figure 2: image 1), suggesting that it may have been associated with the boundary. This material was homogeneous and would appear to be a former cultivation soil.

Directly below the topsoil lay the geological strata, which was composed of mid-orange ironstone (02) (Figure 2: images 1 and 2).

No archaeological features or deposits were observed either within the house footprint or the adjacent soak-away.



4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The DA is located within the bounds of historic Finedon, which is likely to have its origins in the late Saxon period. The 14th-century parish church of St Mary is situated less than 100m to the west.

The entire footprint of the new dwelling and soak-away was stripped to the undisturbed geological horizon under archaeological supervision, revealing a former cultivation soil. Notwithstanding the DA's archaeological potential, no evidence of former human activity in the form of archaeological features or artefacts was revealed during the groundworks.

No further analysis or publication of the site record is required. This document will be uploaded onto the OASIS database (ref. albionar1-290555) and the archive deposited with the NARC.



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6 APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: albionar1-290555

Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon
Short description of the project	<p>Planning permission (W/15/00658/OUT) for a proposed single dwelling with revised access to serve No 3 Church Street was approved on appeal by the Borough Council of Wellingborough on land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon, Northamptonshire.</p> <p>The development area (DA) is situated in the north-west margin of Finedon, less than 100m to the east of the church. It is centred on grid reference SP 91335 72020 and covers an area of c. 0.25 ha. The DA is an open plot of land, located on the south side of Avenue Road. At the time of the fieldwork it was a largely grassed garden, bisected by a gravel access track to No. 3 Church Street, immediately to the south of the plot.</p> <p>The Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) for Northamptonshire County Council advised that due to the archaeological potential of the site a programme of archaeological mitigation would be required. Accordingly a condition (no. 5) was attached to the appeal decision.</p> <p>The entire footprint of the proposed building was stripped to the underlying ironstone geological strata on 5th September 2017. In addition, a soak-away and associated drainage run were excavated into ironstone on the same day. Notwithstanding the DA's archaeological potential, no evidence of former human activity in the form of archaeological features or artefacts was revealed during the groundworks</p> <p>No further analysis or reporting is required beyond deposition of the archive and unloading of this report onto the OASIS database (ref. albionar1-290555).</p>
Project dates	Start: 05-09-2017 End: 05-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	AR3086 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	W/15/00658/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENN108791 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition



Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WELLINGBOROUGH FINEDON Land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon
Study area	0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 9134 7205 52.338526697739 -0.659197063628 52 20 18 N 000 39 33 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gary Edmondson
Project supervisor	Gareth Shane

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database" ,"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet" ,"Correspondence", "Drawing" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land adjacent to 14 Avenue Road, Finedon, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Shane, G'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Edmondson, G'
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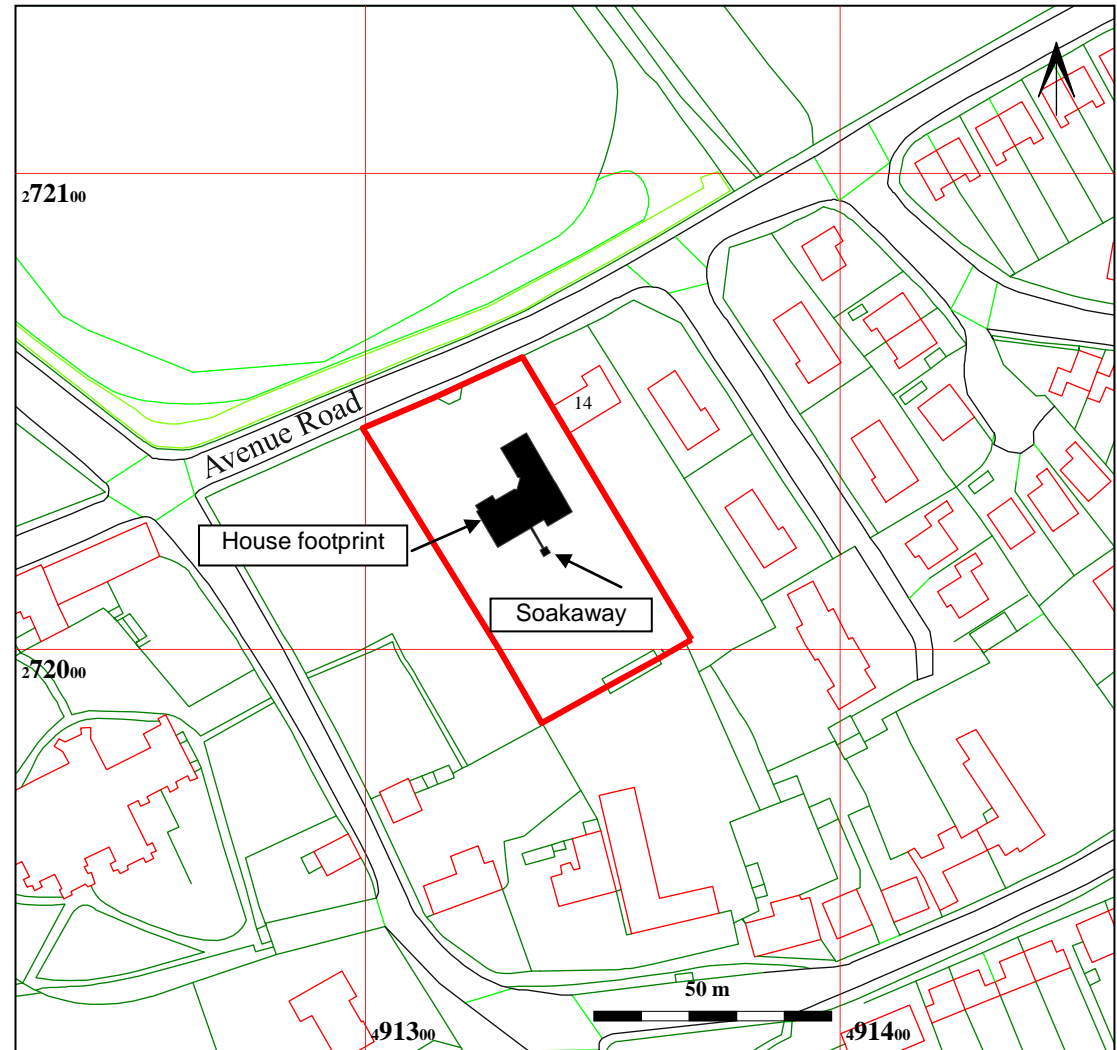
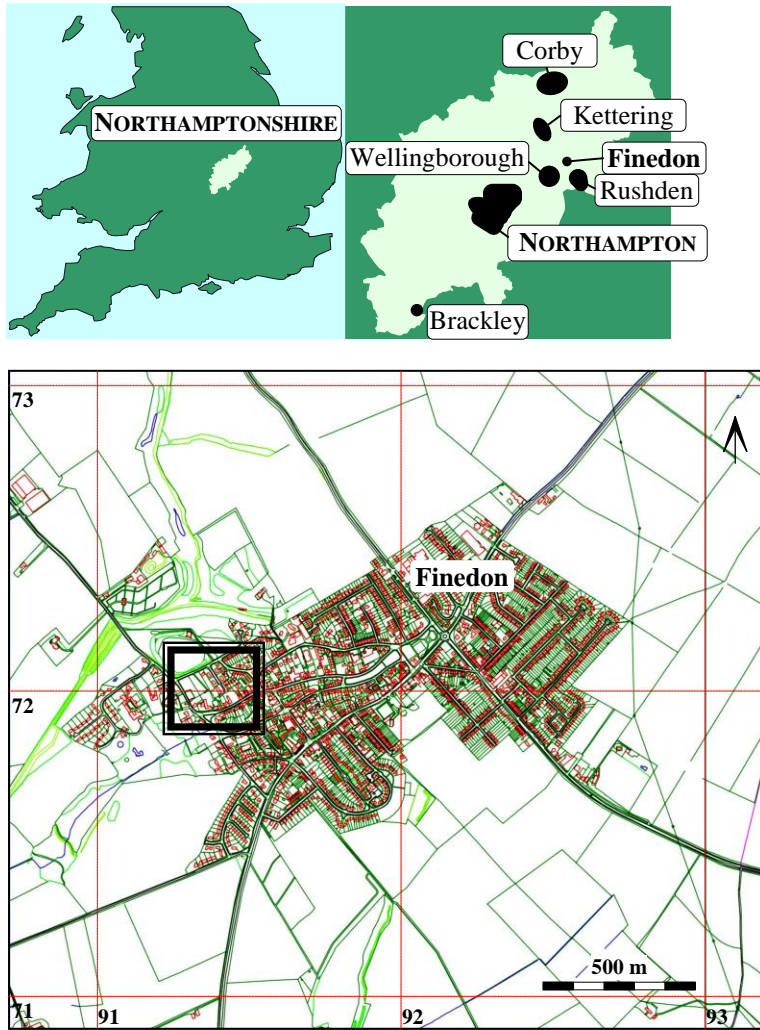


Figure 1: Site location plan

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Image 1: General view of house footprint, showing soil profile and undisturbed geological strata



Image 2: View of soak-away pit, looking northwards to narrower drainage run and house footprint beyond.

Figure 2: Selected images 1 and 2

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