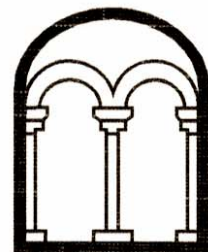


**LAND OFF ROCKINGHAM ROAD
COTTINGHAM
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INVESTIGATION**

Albion
archaeology



**LAND OFF ROCKINGHAM ROAD
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INVESTIGATION**

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Compiled by	Approved by
Richard Gregson	Drew Shotliff

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Produced for:
Mr & Mrs A McKenzie



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Mr Andrew McKenzie and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue (Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor), who also prepared this report. The illustrations are by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>13/02/2015</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

DA	Development area
AAA	Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (14/00419/DPA) was granted by Corby Borough Council for the construction of a four-horse stable building, associated access road and parking, on land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham, Northamptonshire. As the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition (no. 5) was attached to the planning permission (in line with NPPF paragraph 141), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, which had to be secured before the commencement of any development. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the works.

Archaeological monitoring took place between 20th and 27th January 2015. An area measuring 36m by 12.5m was stripped of topsoil, under archaeological supervision, within the footprint of the new stable building and associated parking and access. Following on from this, ground reduction, mainly in the south of the development area, revealed the remains of post-medieval quarrying. Further data on the extent and depth of these features was recorded within the foundation trench for the stable building.

The archaeological remains recorded during the archaeological investigation are of local significance to the village of Cottingham, as they provide information about a nearby source of building material that was probably in use during the post-medieval period. However, the remains have no further potential to address regional archaeological research objectives.

The project archive will be retained by Albion Archaeology until deposition at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this opens.

A digital copy of the site archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-198959).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (14/00419/DPA) was granted by Corby Borough Council for the construction of a four-horse stable building, associated access road and parking, on land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham, Northamptonshire.

As the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition (no. 5) was attached to the planning permission (in line with NPPF paragraph 141), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, which had to be secured before the commencement of any development.

The Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) stated that a mitigation programme of archaeological strip, map and sample investigation was required, concentrating on the areas of new construction.

In response to the statement by the AAA, Albion Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the methods and resources for the archaeological works (Albion 2014).

This report presents the results of the archaeological strip, map and sample investigation.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The village of Cottingham lies in the north-east of Northamptonshire, close to the Leicestershire border (Figure 1). Corby lies *c.* 3km to the south-east, whilst the village of Rockingham is situated *c.* 2.5km to the north-east.

Rockingham Road enters Cottingham from the north-east and the development area (DA) lies on its north-west side (Figure 1), centred on grid reference SP 8500 9070. At present the DA is surrounded by fields on all sides.

Cottingham is situated on a scarp that leads up to a limestone plateau and slopes down towards the River Welland to the north. The underlying geology consists of Whitby Mudstone Formation Bedrock with no superficial deposits recorded¹. As the River Welland lies to the north of Cottingham, superficial deposits are likely to consist of boulder clay overlying the limestone plateau.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Cottingham is situated on the postulated route of a Roman road that ran between Godmanchester and Leicester. Evidence for Roman activity within Cottingham was identified between 1961–3 on the western side of the village and comprised corn-drying kilns and an iron-working site, thought to be part of a villa (EH Monument no. 346248).

Settlement in the Saxon period is also known to have existed on the west side of Cottingham, adjacent to the site of Bury House, the former medieval Burystead

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]



Manor House (Foard et al. 2009, 199–201). To the east of the DA a possible Anglo-Saxon settlement has been identified through finds collected during field walking, although no extensive excavation has been carried out to confirm its location. It is possible that this settlement could extend into the DA.

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1066 Cottingham was within Stoke Hundred and existed as one of two townships, the other being Middleton to the west. Together these formed the manor and parish of Cottingham, held by the abbot of Peterborough until the dissolution (*ibid*). The Domesday entry recorded Cottingham as 7 hides and land for 14 ploughs held by the church, and 4 slaves, 29 villagers and 10 small holders with 10 ploughs held by the lord of the manor. A mill, 12 acres of meadow and woodland were also recorded.

Evidence of medieval agriculture, in the form of ridge and furrow, is still visible in some of the fields surrounding the village and the 12th-century church still stands on the southern side of the settlement.

1.4 Project Objectives

The general objectives of the work were to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

Specific research objectives were identified in the WSI. Due to the location of the site these objectives were focussed on understanding the origin and development of medieval settlement in Northamptonshire (Knight et al. 2012, Objectives 7.2.1 and 7.2.2). However, no data relevant to these research objectives was recovered and the results of the investigation are detailed in full in this report.

1.5 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion 2014).

The development consisted of the construction of a four-horse stable building with associated access road and parking. Archaeological monitoring took place between 20th and 27th January 2015. The groundworks involved the removal of topsoil across the whole of the 36m by 12.5m area, cutting back the higher ground in the south of the site in order to create a level surface, followed by the excavation of a foundation trench for the stable building. All groundworks were conducted under archaeological supervision using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket.

In the areas that had to be cut back for levelling, subsoil was removed initially, revealing archaeological deposits related to post-medieval quarrying. These were examined and recorded before up to 0.75m of the underlying geological horizon was also removed. Further information on the extent and depth of quarrying was obtained during the excavation of the foundation trenches.



2. RESULTS

The results are summarised below and are illustrated in Figure 2.

2.1 *Geological Deposits*

The geological deposit comprised light yellow orange sand that contained varying amounts and sizes of stones, interspersed with occasional outcrops of solid bedrock.

2.2 *Overburden*

The overburden comprised dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil that was up to 0.3m thick and mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil that was up to 0.18m thick.

2.3 *Post-medieval Quarrying*

A large irregular area of quarrying [4], measuring at least 16m by 12m, covered most of the footprint of the new stable building. A small part of a second area of quarrying [7] was exposed in the southern corner.

Most of the quarrying was less than 0.5m deep, although in a few places it was up to 1m deep. The geological deposits immediately around the quarrying generally contained more stones than the sandy deposit in the base of the quarry suggesting that the quarrying was targeting the stones, presumably as building material.

The backfilled deposits within the quarries, varied from mid grey-brown clay silt to dark grey-brown sandy silt. Three small pottery sherds (18g) were recovered from the fills of quarry [4]. One is a Staffordshire slipware rim sherd (Northants. CTS Code F409) of late 17th to 18th-century date. The others are two body sherds from a mid 18th- to early 19th-century creamware vessel (F415).



3. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Groundworks associated with the levelling of the site and the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches for the stable building revealed archaeological deposits associated with post-medieval quarrying. Artefacts recovered from these deposits dated to the late 17th and early 19th centuries. The quarrying was likely to have targeted stones suitable for building from a geological deposit comprising a mixture of sand and stones interspersed with occasional outcrops of solid bedrock. The proximity of the quarry to the road and the short distance to the village of Cottingham suggest that the stones were for local use.

The archaeological remains identified during the strip, map and sample investigation are of local significance to the village of Cottingham since they provide information about where some of the building stone used in the village might have been obtained during the post-medieval period. However, they have no potential to address regional archaeological research objectives.

The project archive will be retained by Albion Archaeology until deposition at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this opens.

A digital copy of the site archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-198959).



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2014, *Land off Rockingham Road, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation*. Report no: 2014/221

Knight, D. Vyner, B. and Allen, C., 2012, *East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*. University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.

Foard, G., Hall, D. and Partida, T., 2009 *Rockingham Forest: An Atlas of the medieval and early modern landscape*, Northamptonshire Record Society



5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

5.1 OASIS ID: *albionar1-198959*

Project details

Project name	Land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Corby Borough Council for the construction of a four-horse stable building, associated access road and parking, on land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham, Northamptonshire. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the works. An area was stripped of topsoil, under archaeological supervision, within the footprint of the new stable building and associated parking and access. Following on from this, ground reduction, mainly in the south of the development area, revealed the remains of post-medieval quarrying. Further data on the extent and depth of these features was recorded within the foundation trench for the stable building.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2015 End: 27-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RC2539 - Contracting Unit No. 14/00419/DPA - Planning Application No. ENN107890 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	QUARRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CORBY COTTINGHAM Land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham
Study area	450.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 8500 9070

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Written Scheme of Investigation Produced
Project director/manager	Drew Shotliff



Project supervisor Richard Gregson

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC)
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Physical Archive notes	To be deposited with NARC once this opens
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing",' Miscellaneous Material',' Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Paper Archive notes	To be deposited with NARC once this opens

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Rockingham Road, Cottingham, Northants.: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Gregson, R' /'Shotliff, D'
Other bibliographic details	2015/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford

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Entered on 13 February 2015

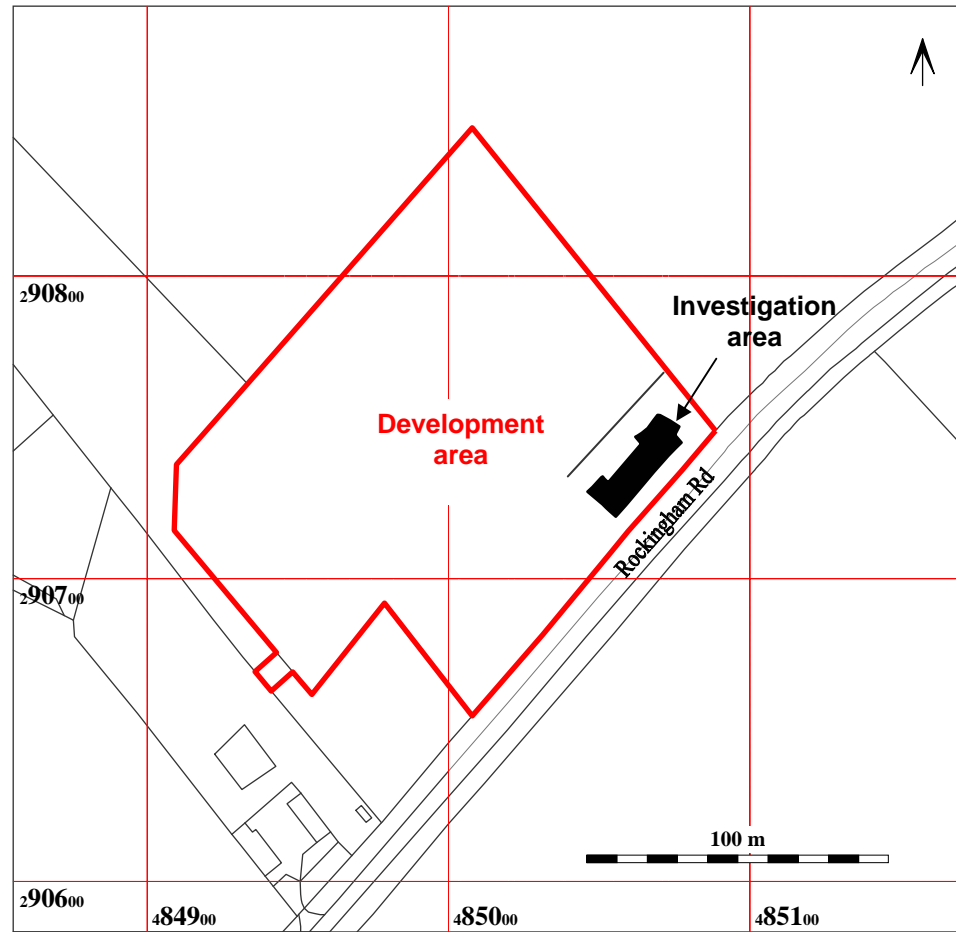
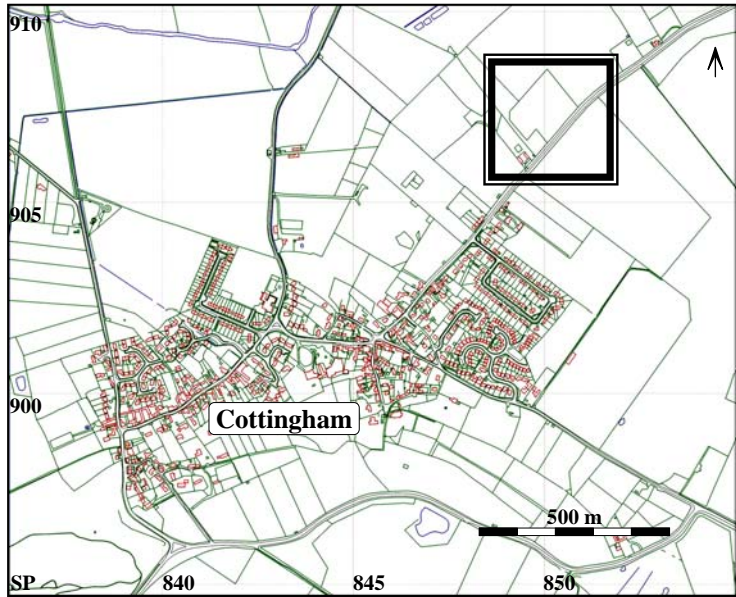
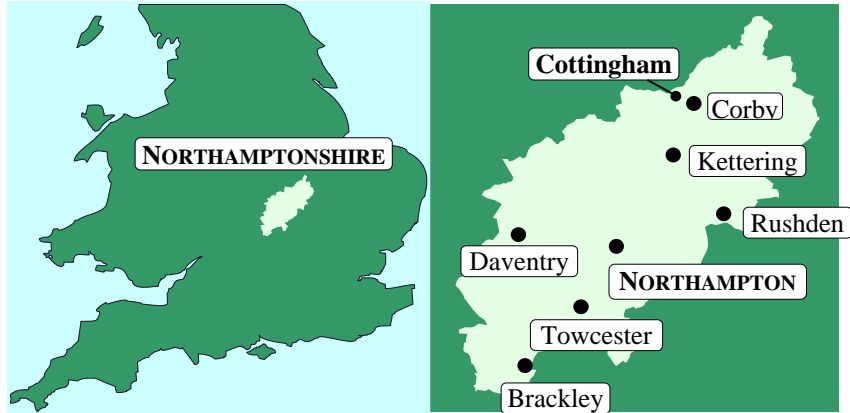
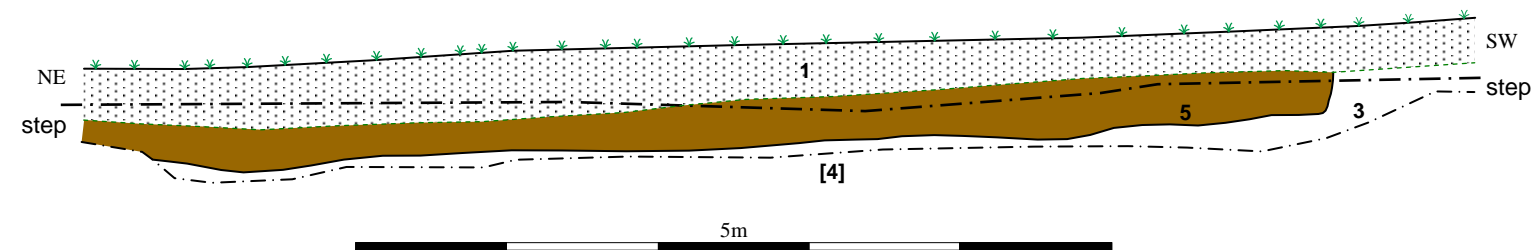


Figure 1: Site location

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Section

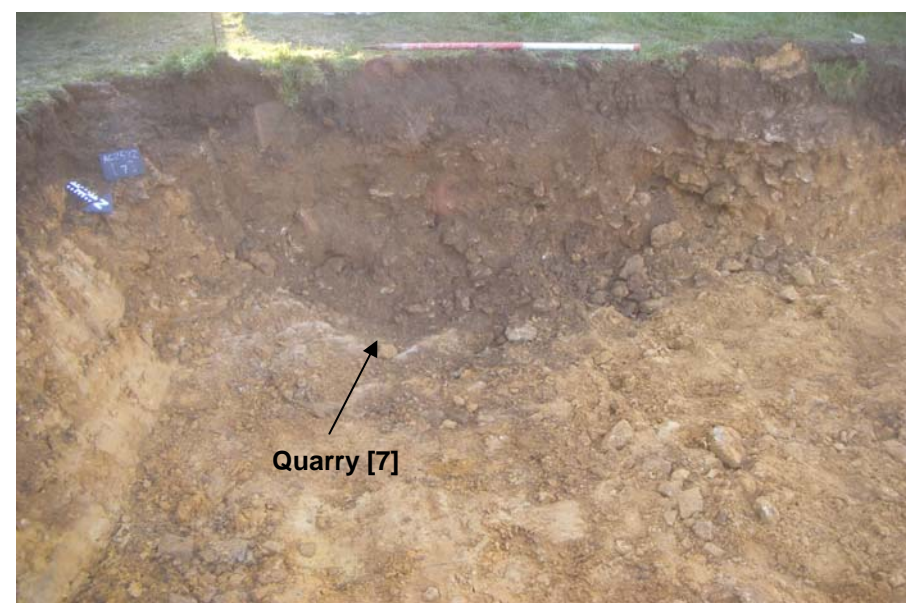


Figure 2: All features plan and photographs



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