



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

**Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to the  
Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth  
Leicestershire**

**March 2010**

**Accession Number X.A19.2010**



**Northamptonshire Archaeology**

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**Report 10/50**

**March 2010**



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological Watching brief on land adjacent to The Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire.	
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology at land adjacent to the Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire. A truncated brick-built wall was present along the southern boundary of the development area, probably dating to the 19th century. Ordnance Survey maps between 1892 and 1952 show a building was located on the area and the wall is probably part of that structure.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Former Allotments	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire	
Easting Northing	SP 6050 8183	
Area (sq m/ha)	0.037ha	
Height aOD	137.43m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)	
Project Manager	Iain Soden (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Skinner Brothers Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	03/03/2010	
End date	05/03/2010	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	X.A19.2010	Site records (1 small archive box)
Paper		
Digital		Client report PDF
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological Watching brief on land adjacent to The Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire. March 2010	
Serial title & volume	10/50	
Author(s)	Jason Clarke	
Page numbers	5 text, 8 figs	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WELFORD ROAD, SOUTH KILWORTH,  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
MARCH 2010**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land adjacent to the Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire. A truncated brick-built wall was present along the southern boundary of the development area, probably dating to the 19th century. Ordnance Survey maps between 1892 and 1952 show a building was located on the area and the wall is probably part of that structure.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) at land adjacent to the Congregational Church, Welford Road, South Kilworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 6050 8183; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Skinner Brothers Ltd and was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for the construction of three residential units, associated access, parking and landscaping.

The scope of works was outlined in a brief issued by the Historic and Natural Environment team, Environment and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council (2008) and detailed in the specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology. The objectives of the watching brief were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation. Prior to the commencement of the construction works a photographic survey was undertaken of the Congregational Church exterior elevations, both its aspect and prospect and its relationship to the development site.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Topography and geology**

The site is situated on the south side of Welford Road close to its junction with Rugby Road and North Road in the village of South Kilworth, Leicestershire and contains the Congregational Church, a non-conformist chapel built in the 19th century. The site lies at a height of 135.43m above Ordnance Datum. The land lies upon a small hilltop on the slopes of the valley in the upper reaches of the River Avon and is occupied by the core of the village. There is a sharp downward slope on the hillsides to the south-east and south-west where the village overlooks the valley and Stanford Reservoir to the south. The hillside descends more gently to the north-west.

The geology of the valley sides comprises variations between Lower, Middle and Upper Lias Boulder Clay (BGS 2001). Soils comprise Beccles 3 Association and belong to the Ragsdale series (LAT 1983). They are slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils and contain some calcareous clays on steeper slopes. The geology encountered on site was sand and gravels.

## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The application area lies within an area of archaeological interest, the medieval and post-medieval historic core of the village of South Kilworth (HER MLE16626). The village belongs to a group of similar settlements in Leicestershire that were probably established from the late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and early medieval periods onwards, alongside their open fields.

Extensive earthworks are mapped by the 1892 Ordnance Survey adjacent to the stream to the south of the village and provide details of the medieval manor, resplendent with an moat and fish ponds. These are still visible on modern aerial photographic images; ([www.leicestershirevillages.com/southkilworth/aerial-photograph.html](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/southkilworth/aerial-photograph.html)).

The medieval manor lies south of Dog Lane and it is likely that a medieval property frontage extended north from its junction with Rugby Road and North Road towards the core of the village at the junction with Welford Road where the site is situated. The 12th-century church lies north-west of this main thoroughfare, whilst Welford Road passes east and south-east of the potential frontage to link back with Dog Lane at the south-east edge of the village. The streets thus enclose the village core as a visible planning block of land. The area of land probably contained the medieval backages along Welford Road for which buildings would be expected along Rugby/North Road.

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Prior to the commencement of construction works on site a photographic record was made of the Congregational Church exterior elevations, its prospect and its aspect and its relationship to the development site. The photographs conform to the standards of archaeological recording used for building recording (IfA 2008) and comprise 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies in the traditional manner, supplemented by digital images.

The record comprises general photographs of the exterior and setting of the building including the boundary wall. They carry a 2m ranging rod for scale. Oblique views show external elevations of the structure where the new dwelling will obscure this view at a later date (Figs 4-8).

A 360° 21 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features.

A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at 1:50 scale and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. As previously, photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2008) and *Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2008). Also advice given in the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997)

## **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 General stratification**

The underlying geology was glacial till, which was encountered between 0.50,-0.70m below the modern ground surface throughout the site. This occurred as mid orange to brown sand and gravel with occasional rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles. The subsoil was mid orangey-brown silty clay and the topsoil was dark greyish-black slightly clayey silt, both soils containing occasional flint pebbles (102, 103; Fig 3).

### **4.2 The archaeological evidence**

#### ***Wall [104]***

Aligned north-west to south-east, 5.0m long and 0.30m high. The wall comprised three courses; the two lower courses were roughly worked ironstone and river worn stones, bonded by clay. The upper course was unfrogged, handmade bricks, bonded by lime mortar. No dating evidence was recovered from the wall (Figs 2 and 3).

#### ***Wall [105]***

Aligned north-west to south-east, 3.5m long and 1.25m high. The wall comprised ten courses of brick laid in English Bond. The bricks were unfrogged, handmade and bonded by lime mortar. A frequent amount of 19th-century pottery within the topsoil and subsoil around the location of the wall was noted but discarded.

A small section of wall [105] was removed by the machine during groundworks due to its instability. The section of wall was bonded to wall [104] and was a truncated return, aligned north-east to south-west.

The walls appear to be the remains of a cellared building [105] and boundary wall [105]. A building is shown here on the Ordnance Survey maps between 1892 and 1952, suggesting the building was demolished during the latter half of the 20th century.



## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief logs	3
Context sheets	5
Colour slides	36
Other sheets	5
Permatrace sheets (A1)	1
Black and white contacts and negatives	36
Digital photographs	17

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire museum service with the Accession number X.A19.2010.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief identified no significant archaeological features within the development area.

On the southern boundary of the excavation area were two walls on the same north-west to south-east alignment. The brick construction and associated finds suggests the building was Victorian. A building is present on the 1892 to 1952 Ordnance Survey maps that correspond with the wall recorded on site, suggesting the building was demolished in the later 20th century. The current buildings on the adjacent site are newly built houses. The maps also show the development area to the north of the building was absent of structures.

No other archaeology was present on site. The excavation revealed truncation, possibly from landscaping for the nearby buildings (Fig 9).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2001 *Solid geology map, UK South sheet, Scale 1:625,000*, British Geological Survey

IfA 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

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LAT 1983 *Soils of England and Wales, Eastern England, 4, Scale 1:250.000*, Lawes Agricultural Trust

LCC 1997 *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*, Leicestershire County Council

LCC 2008 *A brief for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (an intensive archaeological watching brief), Leicestershire, October 2008*, Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council

NA 2006 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

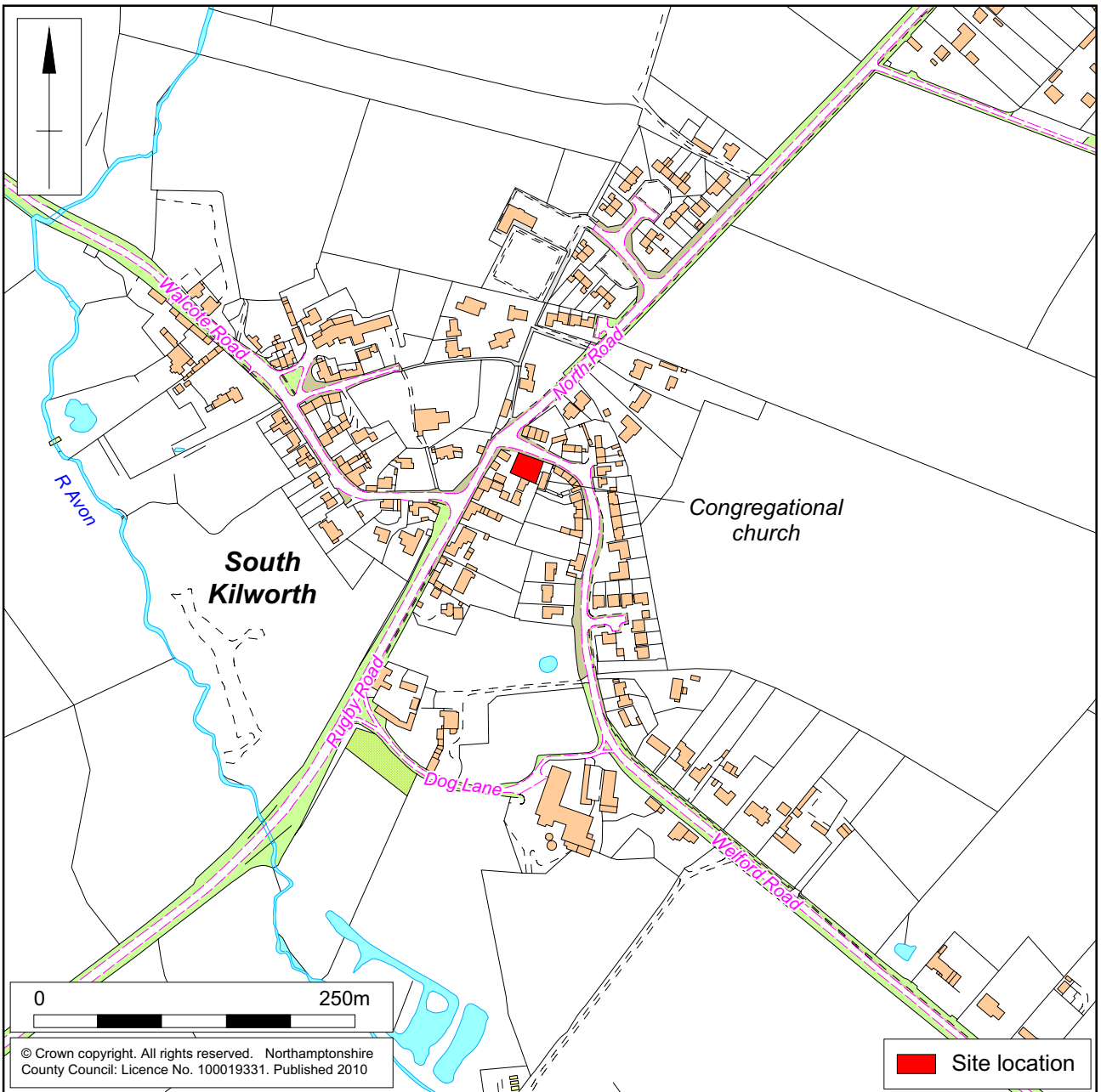
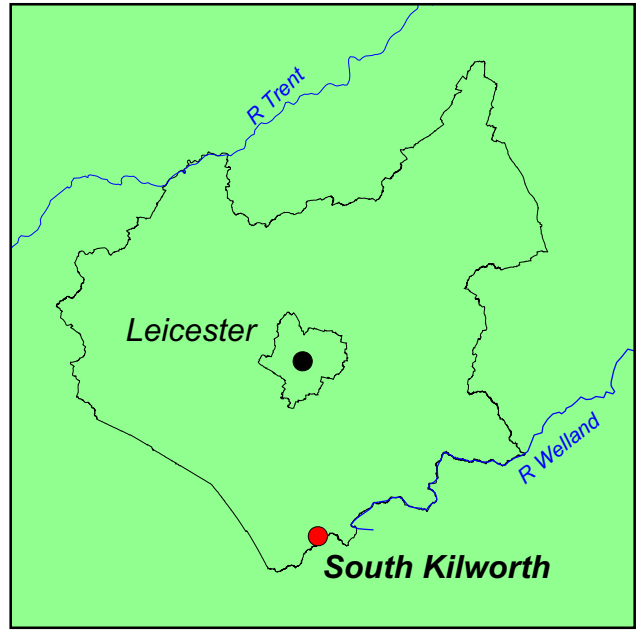
### **Websites**

[www.leicestershirevillages.com/southkilworth/aerial-photograph.html](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/southkilworth/aerial-photograph.html)

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)

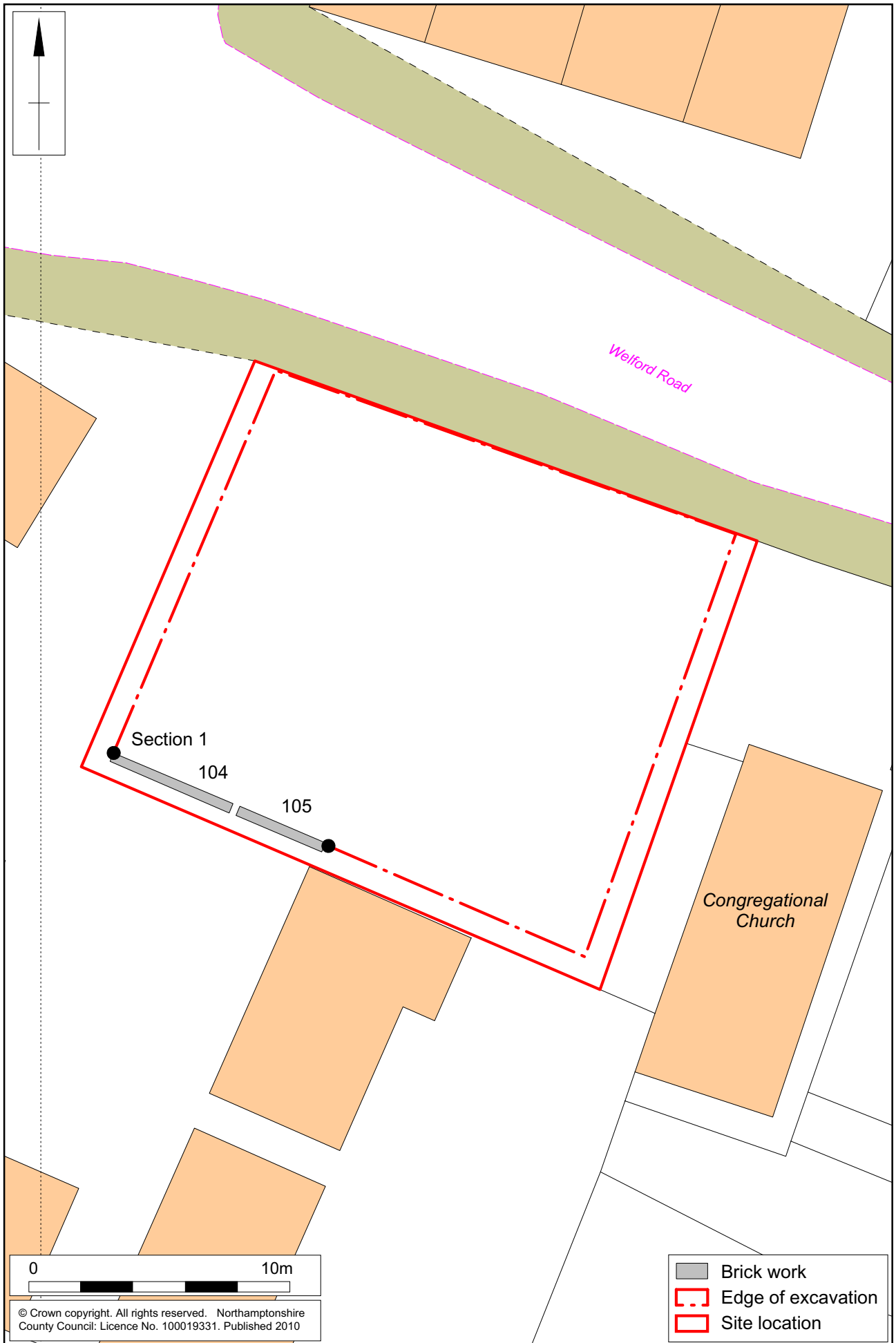
**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Deposit type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Artefact types</b>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-black silty clay. 0.10m-0.50m thick	
102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay. 0.10m-0.20m thick	
103	Natural	Mid orange-brown sand and gravel	
104	Wall	Brick and stone wall, 5m long 0.30m high	
105	Wall	Brick wall, 5.80m long, 1.20m high	



Scale 1:5000

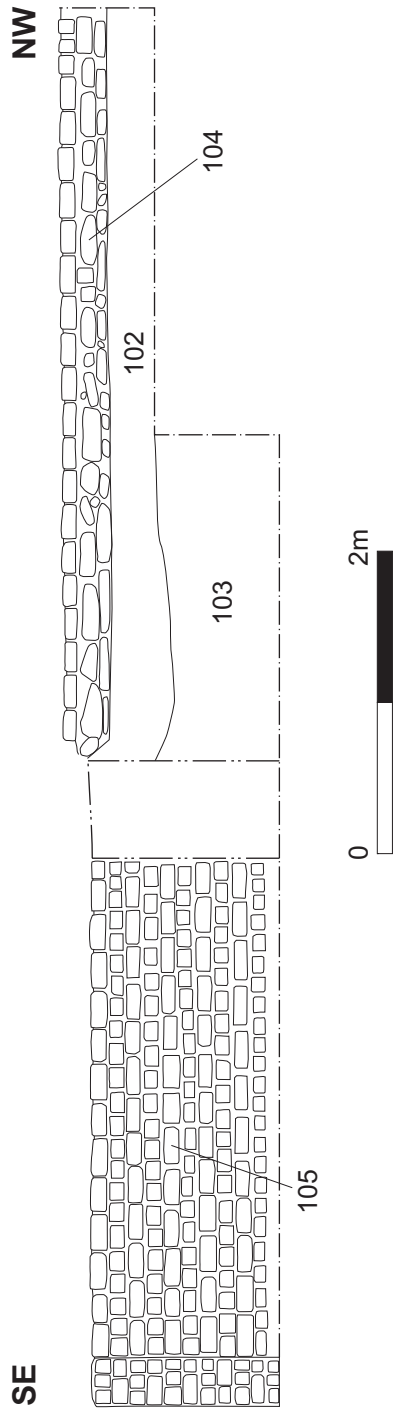
Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:200

Plan of excavated area showing the location of walls 104 and 105 Fig 2

**Section 1**



Section and elevation of walls 104 and 105 Fig 3





The Congregational Church, looking south-east Fig 4



The western elevation before development, looking south-east Fig 5





The Congregational Church, looking north-west Fig 6



View of the western elevation of the Congregational Church from the development site Fig 7





View of the western elevation of the Congregational Church in relation to the development area, looking south-west Fig 8



View of the development area, post excavation, looking north Fig 9





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