



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Observation, Recording, Investigation
Analysis and Publication at Kildonan, The Hollow,
Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire
February – March 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Paul Clements

Report 12/39

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STAFF

Project Manager: Adam Yates BA AlFA

Text: Paul Clements BA

Fieldwork: Paul Clements

Tim Upson-Smith BA PGDip

Illustrations: James Ladocha BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		12/3/12
Verified by	Adam Yates		14/3/12
Approved by	Andy Chapman		14/3/12

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 121027
Project name	An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the Kildonen, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire	
Short description	In February and March 2012 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for a new dwelling at Kildonen, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. The excavations encountered two ditches, neither of which produced any dating evidence.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status		
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Former dwelling	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Kildonen, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	0.4ha	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR SP 67162 70403	
Height OD	134m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Gerald Mckay	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	27/2/2012	
End date	5/3/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Paper		Site Records
Digital		Client Report (PDF)
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published, forthcoming, unpublished		
Title	Archaeological watching brief at Kildonen, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire, March 2012	
Author	Paul Clements	
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report , 12/39	
Date	9 March 2012	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION
AT THE KILDONAN, THE HOLLOW
RAVENSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012**

Abstract

In February and March 2012 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for a new dwelling at Kildonan, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. The excavations encountered two ditches, neither of which produced any dating evidence.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Gerald McKay to undertake a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication during the groundworks for a new dwelling at Kildonan, The Hollow, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire (NGR: 467162 270403) in accordance with a brief prepared by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2011).

The scope of works was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) following the guidelines in the procedural document MORPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

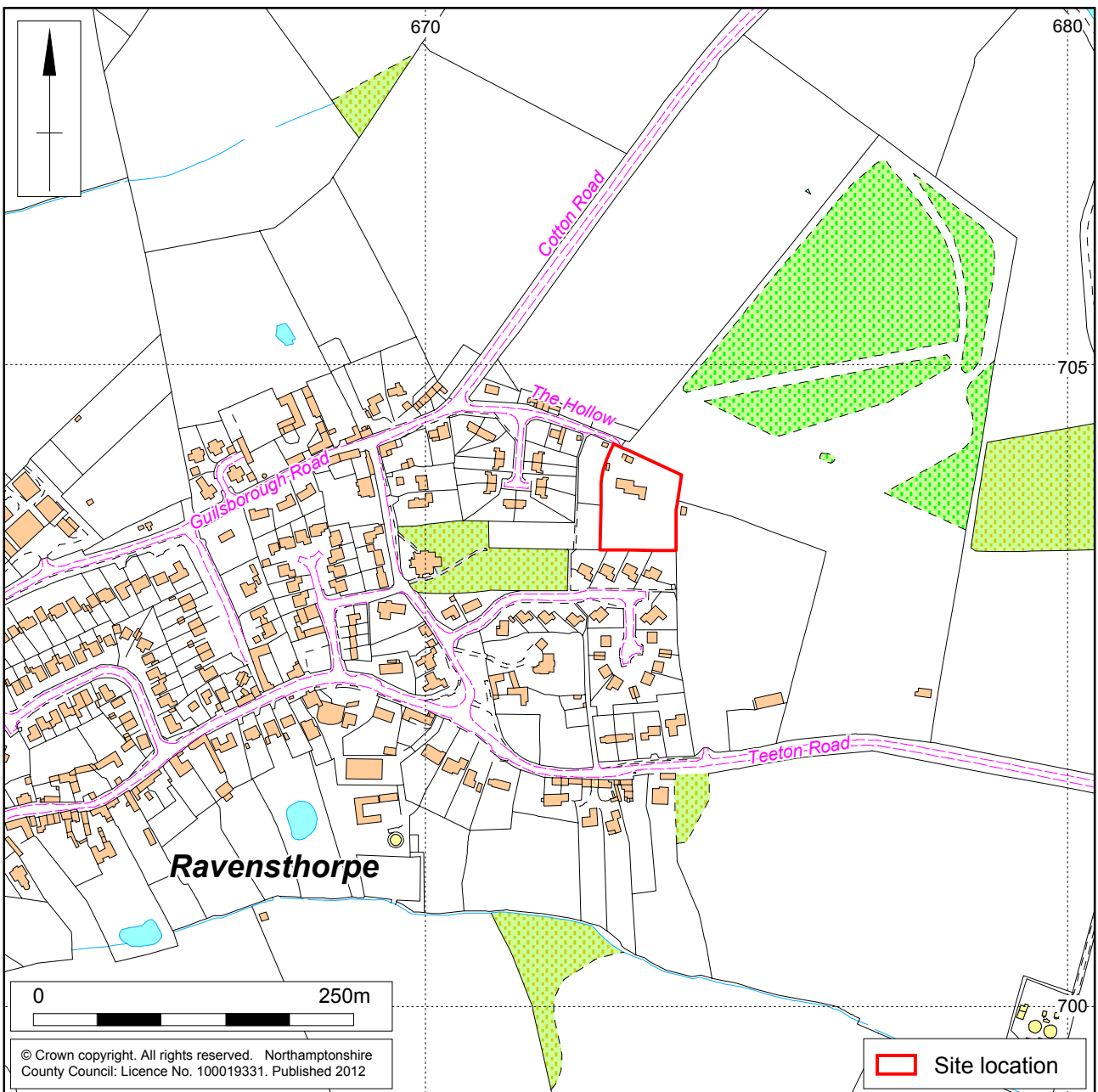
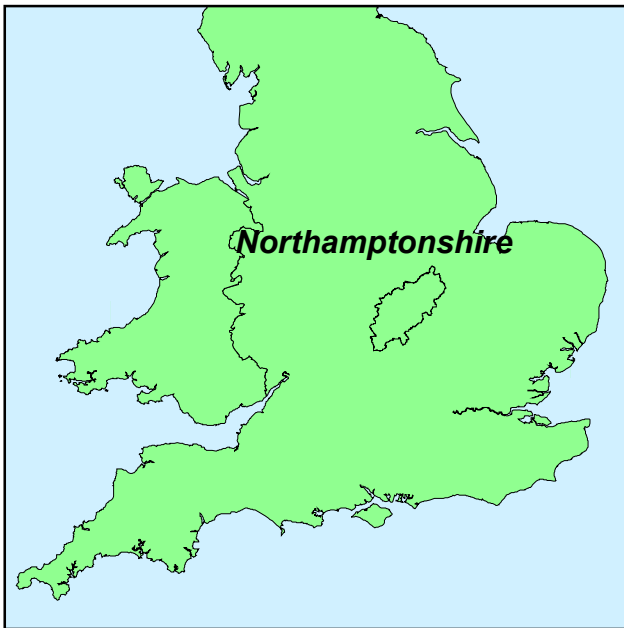
2.1 Location and topography

The area of development lies on the eastern edge of the village of Ravensthorpe overlooking Ravensthorpe Reservoir at a height of c.134m above Ordnance Datum. The site was previously occupied by a bungalow which was demolished prior to groundworks commencing for the replacement dwelling. This also included the removal of several bushes (Fig 1).

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50 000 scale as Northampton Sand formed with Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone. (BGS 2012). The soils are classified as free draining, slightly acidic and loamy (Landis 2012).

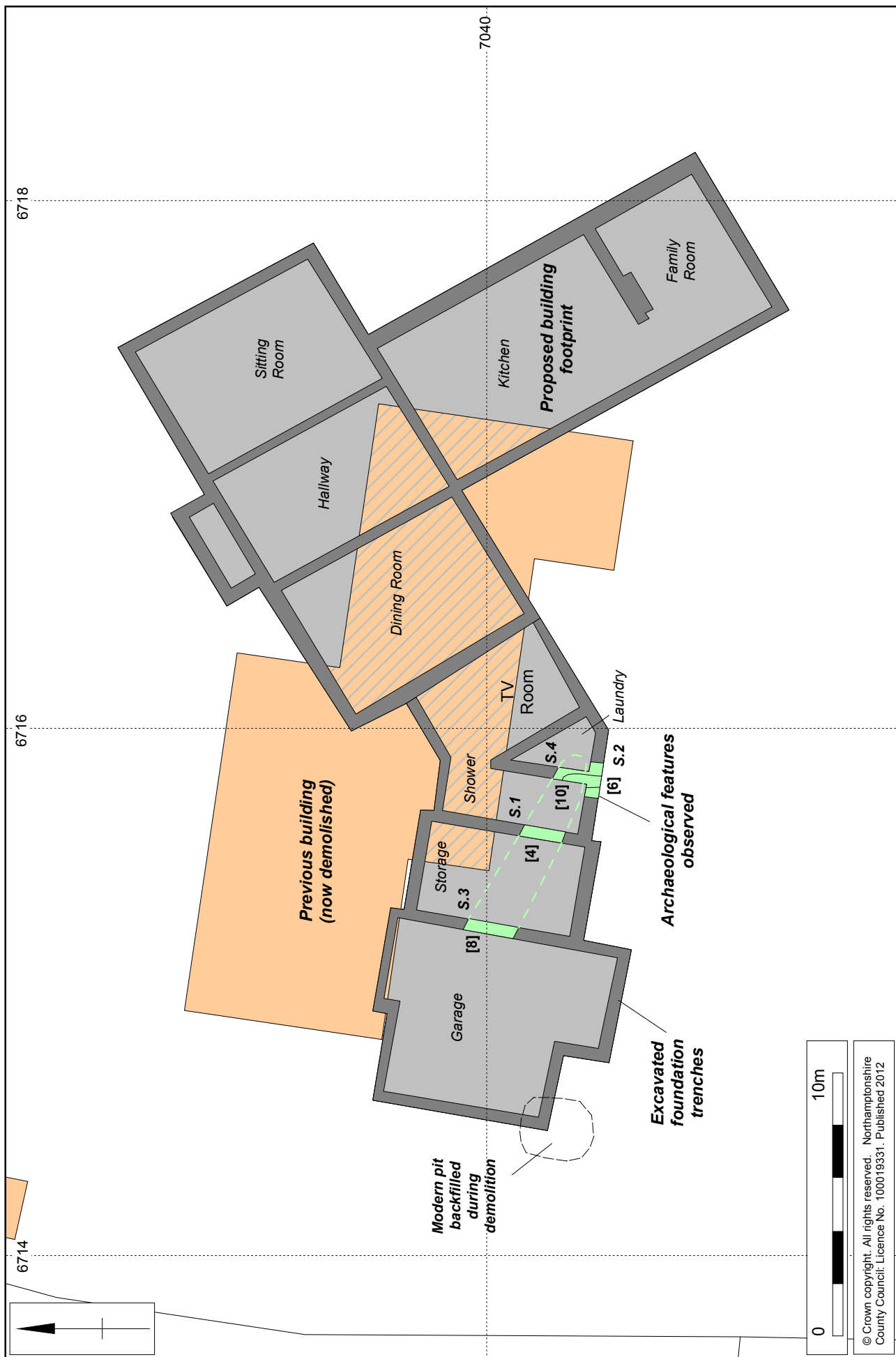
2.2 Historical background

Although no previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area, the site lies 130m west of an area where Iron Age and Roman finds have been recorded. The 13th-century church of St Denys is 170m to the west of the site (NA 2012).



Scale 1:5000 (A4)

Site location Fig 1



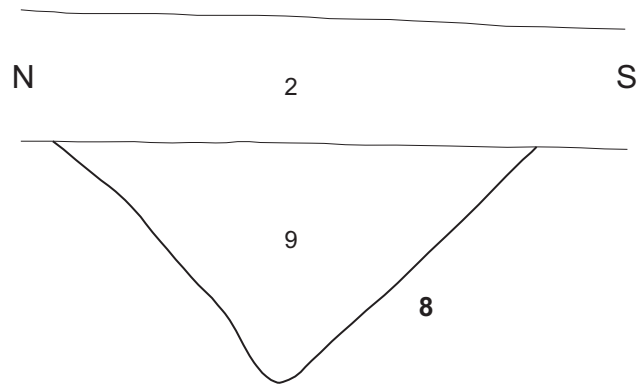
Scale 1:200 (A4)

The area of archaeological observation

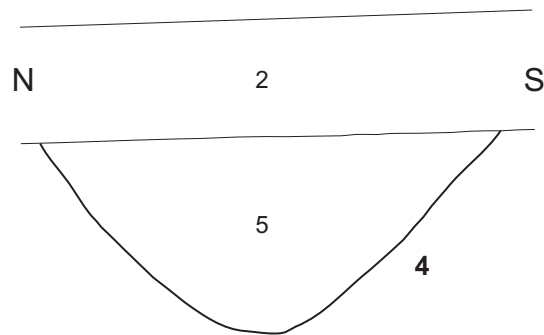
Fig 2

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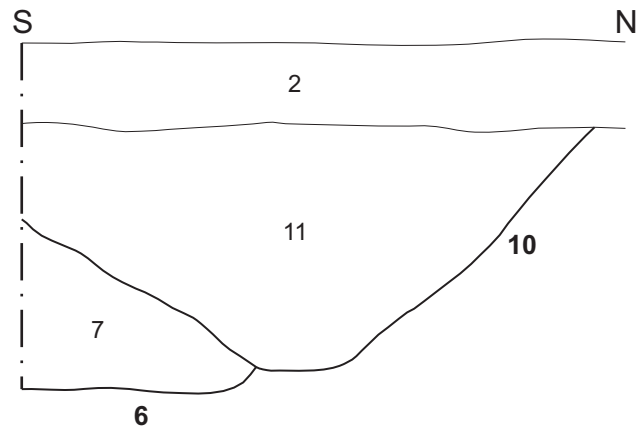
Section 3



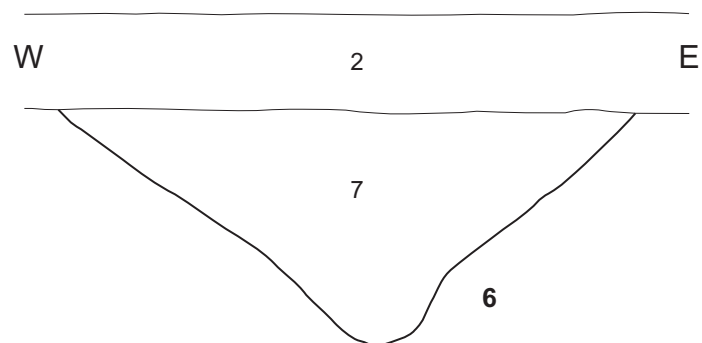
Section 1



Section 4



Section 2



3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the works were to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

The fieldwork comprised continuous monitoring of the excavations of the foundations for the new dwelling. The depths varied accordingly.

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (NA 2011). All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008). A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

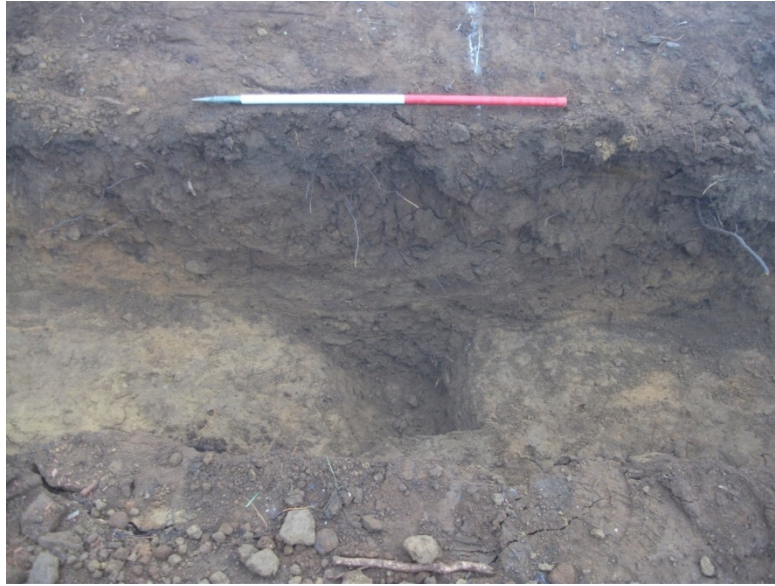
4.1 General site stratigraphy

The underlying geology was encountered at a depth of 0.40-0.65m below the modern ground surface. This appeared as mottled light orange and yellow sand. The construction trench was excavated to 1.80m at the western end of the site, due to tree roots, and to between 0.80-1.00m elsewhere. At the total depth the geology encountered included patches of sandstone and ironstone. A subsoil of mid orange-brown sandy-clay loam was observed across the whole site. The thickness of the subsoil varied from 0.20-0.50m depending upon root and modern building disturbance. Very few stone inclusions were seen, but modern building debris including bricks were noted to the north where the bungalow used to stand. A topsoil of dark brown sandy loam was only observed at the western and southern areas between 0.20-0.30m thick. It included a small quantity of rounded and angular gravels and flints no more than 50mm across.

4.2 The groundworks and archaeological evidence

The foundation trench was excavated to a width of 0.60m for the external walls and 0.45m for the internal. Archaeological features were encountered only in the western part of the development where the natural sand substrate was cut by ditch [4]/[8]/[10] and ditch [6].

The foundation trench for the southern walls of the laundry and shower rooms was excavated to 0.95m. The natural substrate was cut by ditch [6], aligned roughly north to south, 1.90m wide and 0.75m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig 4). The fill (7) was mid grey-brown sandy clay loam containing few small rounded gravel pieces towards the base of the fill (Fig 3, section 2). This was sealed by subsoil (2). No finds were recovered.



Ditch [6], Section 2, looking north Fig 4

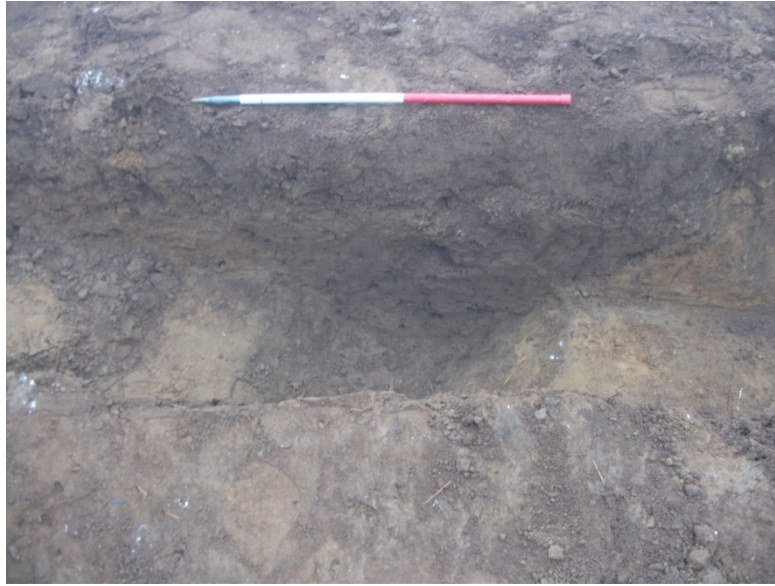
Ditch [10], aligned north-west to south-east, was 1.85m wide by 0.80m deep with a V-shaped profile, although the southern edge was shallow and more irregular where it cut through the fill of ditch [6] (Fig 5). The base was seen rising sharply west to east indicating that it terminated, the full extent of which was not exposed within the foundation trench. The fill of sterile grey-brown sandy clay loam (11) (Fig 3, Section 4) was sealed by the subsoil (2).



Ditch [10] cutting ditch [6], Section 4, looking west Fig 5

In the foundation trench dividing the shower and laundry rooms it was shown that ditch [6] was cut by ditch [10], with both ditches terminating in this area (Fig 3, Section 4).

A continuation of ditch [10], ditch [4] was located in the storage room eastern foundation trench. Measuring 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep, the edges were slightly concave and the base rounded (Fig 6). The fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay loam contained occasional small rounded gravels (Fig 3, section 1).



Ditch [4], Section 1, looking east Fig 6

The continuation of ditch [10] and [4] was identified in the north-western storeroom foundation trench. Here the cut, [8] (Fig 7), was 1.60m wide by 0.80m deep, with a steep sided, V-shaped profile (Fig 3, Section 3). The fill comprised grey-brown sandy clay loam (9) sealed by the subsoil (2). The ditch was not located further west, so potentially it could terminate under the area of the new garage. No finds were recovered from either feature. No residual finds were recovered from the topsoil.



Ditch [8], section 3, looking west Fig 7

5 CONCLUSION

The excavation of the foundations for the new dwelling revealed two undated ditches. One aligned north–south the other north-west to south-east. It was thought that the ditches were of the same feature creating a corner of an enclosure, but the excavation of the internal wall of the shower room revealed that two ditches terminated at the same point with ditch [6] cut by ditch [10/4/8]. The fills of both ditches were very similar and contained no pottery or other datable material, such as charcoal. This ditch could not be located further west than section 3, which may suggest that it terminates under the area of the new garage.

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Landis 2012 <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> Cranfield University National Soils Resources Institute



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2 Bolton House

Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

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