



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at 5 Church Street, Charwelton Northamptonshire



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County Council**

Laszlo Lichtenstein

Report 12/93

June 2012



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## QUALITY CONTROL

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Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
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**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at 5 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a dwelling at 5 Church street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire. A new house partially overlay the former garage and garden area. The ground here was disturbed. In addition to former quarrying, a modern levelling layer with mixed topsoil occurred in the western part of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. Modern finds recorded and retained from levelling layer.	
Project type	Watching Brief: Planning application No: DA/2011/0425	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/15	
Current Land use	Garden land associated with number 5/private dwelling	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval quarrying and modern ditches	
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	5 Church street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	100	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 53482 255816	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Laszlo Lichtenstein	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr John Holman	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	14/03/2012	
End date	15/03/2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Pottery, glass, tile
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (2) Black and white negative with contact prints (16) Digital photographs (16)
Digital		Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at 5 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire.	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/93	
Author	Laszlo Lichtenstein	
Date	April 2012	

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND  
RECORDING AT  
5 CHURCH STREET, CHARWELTON  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
MARCH 2012**

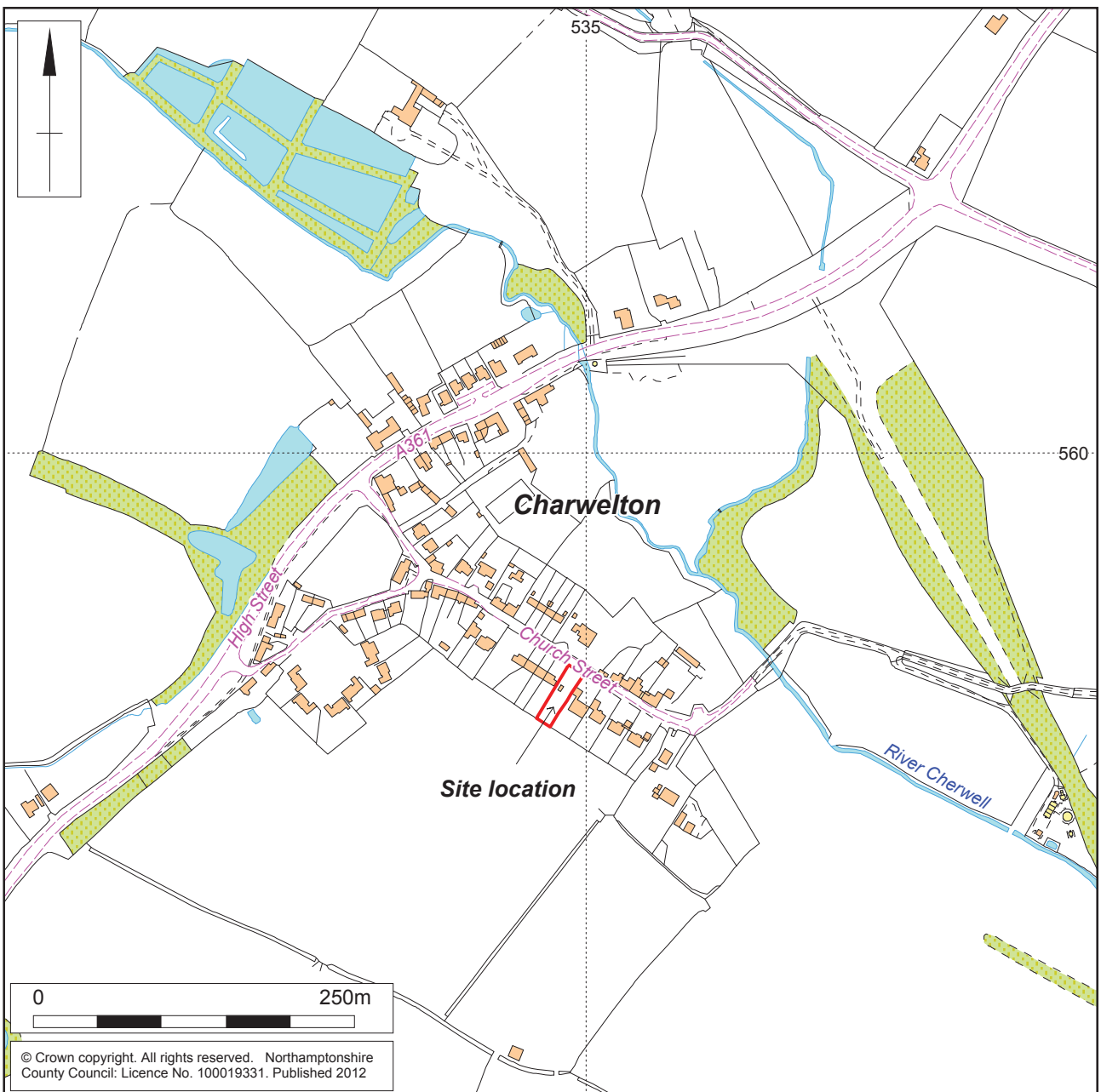
**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a dwelling at 5 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire. A new house partially overlay the former garage and garden area. The ground here was disturbed. In addition to former quarrying, a modern levelling layer with mixed topsoil occurred in the western part of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. Modern finds recorded and retained from levelling layer.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken in 14-15 March 2012 during a construction work of a new dwelling at 5 Church street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire (NGR 453482 255816; Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted for residential development on the site (DA/2011/0425). The works have been required in response to a reserved matter application submitted by Mr John Holman. The development comprises the erection of a single detached dwelling.

The site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest and sensitivity. Consequently a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording within the footprint of the proposed building was implemented to meet the requirements of a brief issued by Assistant Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NA (2012). This report considers evidence from the watching brief.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on 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.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Topography and geology**

Charwelton lies just over 5km south of Daventry, in the west of Northamptonshire. The development site lies to the south of the A361 on the southern side of Church Street. The site formed part of the garden of an adjoining property. A garage within the plot has already been demolished and the topsoil has been removed.

The geology of the immediate area is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Glacial Sand and Gravels (bgs.ac.uk/). The site lies at c151m aOD.

### **3.2 Historical and archaeological background**

There are a number of features of archaeological interest within and around the development area. The site lies with the historic core of the village of Upper Charwelton (MNN3469). The village is recorded in Domesday as being divided into four manors, with a population of 11. It is thought that the population declined in the 15th century probably as a result of enclosure of arable land for sheep and the village is recorded in the 18th century as largely depopulated. Earthworks associated with the medieval village are concentrated in an area south of Charwelton House and east of the current village (MNN125875). An apparent leat (MNN125870) leads southwards on the east side of the Cherwell river to Church Charwelton, where an

extensive and complex series of earthworks relate to a series of ponds (MNN125868) and the medieval village of Church Charwelton (MNN3471).

### 3.3 Previous archaeological work

An archaeological trial trench excavation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at 5 Church Street, prior to the proposed construction of a proposed residential development on the site (Jones 2012). Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 on the driveway contained a gully and a quarry pit and Trench 2, which was positioned over the footprint of the new dwelling, contained a single ditch. Apart from this features the development area is disturbed by concrete platform for the standing garage and quarrying.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

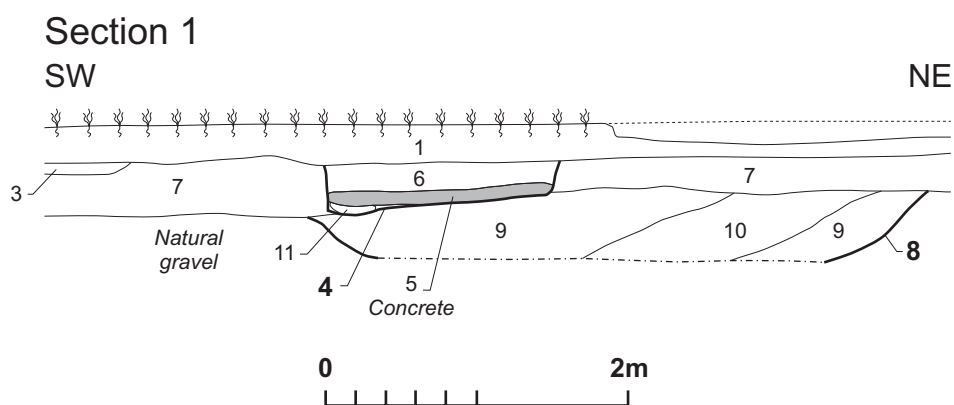
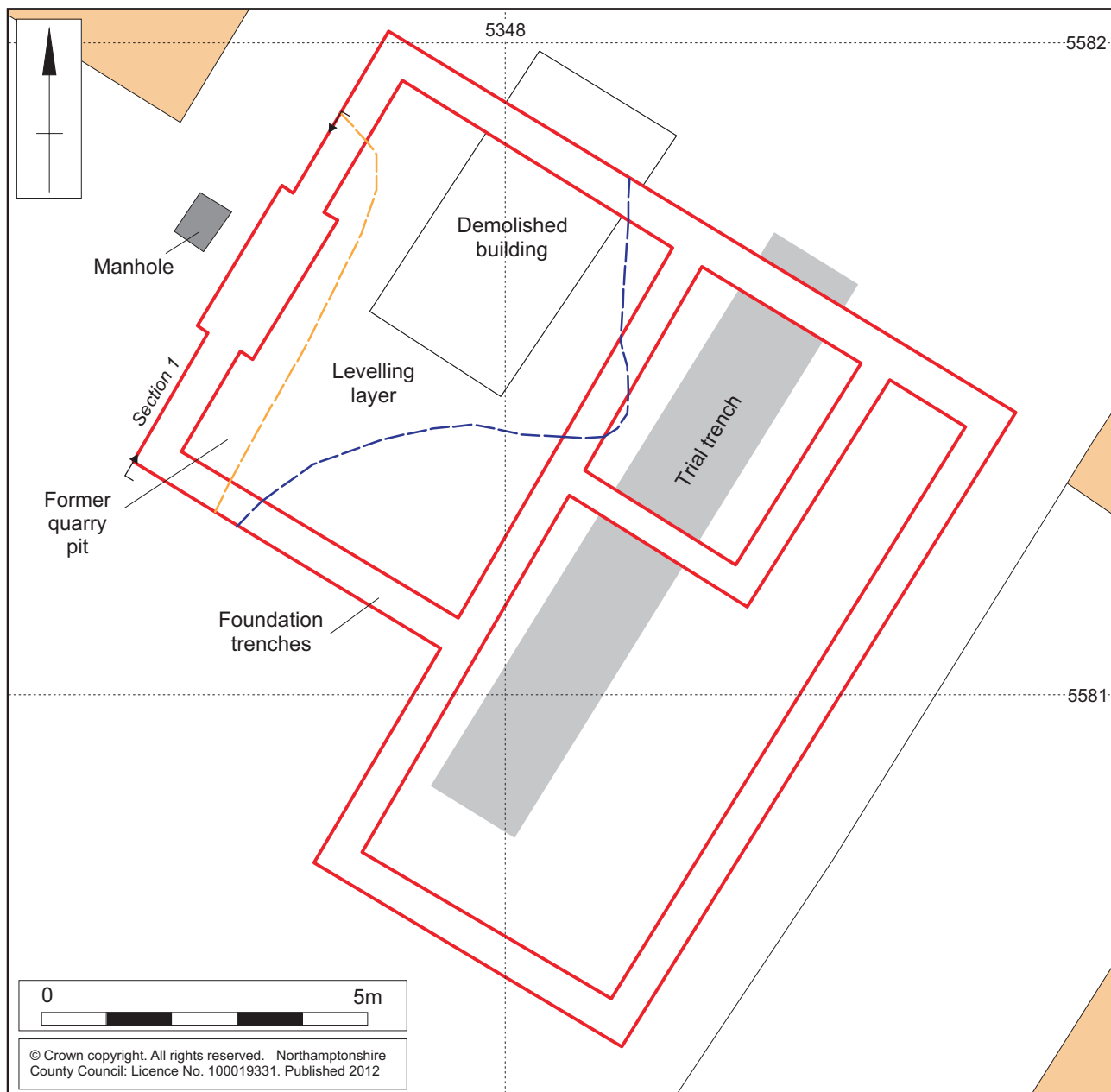
The fieldwork comprised two visits. The first, on 14 March 2012, was to view the excavation of the foundation trenches for the main range of the new house. The second visit on 15 March 2012 was to view the excavation of the remaining foundation trenches.

No topsoil was present, having been removed earlier, when the former garage had been demolished and the construction area had been levelled (Fig 3). The single dwelling was excavated using a JCB fitted with a 0.5m wide ditching bucket with tooth. The depths of both phases of the trenches excavations were dependent upon the level required for the correct depth of the dwellings because of the uneven surface of the construction area.

The photographic record of the fieldwork was maintained using 35mm black and white film supplemented with digital images. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008) and the provisions of the WSI (NA 2012).

All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

All deposits encountered during the course of the watching brief were fully recorded, following standard NA procedures (NA 2011). All layers and deposits were given a separate context number. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A photographic record was maintained comprising 35mm monochrome and colour transparencies, with digital photographs. Modern material were collected and retained, receiving



appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Unstratified animal bone was not retained. Sections through layers were drawn at a scale of 1:20.



The investigation area, with the garden in the background, looking south Fig 3

## **5 OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING**

### **5.1 Site observation**

The area of the new house measured 11.5m long by 11.5m wide. The foundation trenches measured 0.55-0.60m wide and on average were 0.7m deep from the levelled surface. On the south-south-east part of the dwelling area the original ground level was 0.30-0.40m above the levelled surface (Fig 4).

The natural substratum was yellow sand gravel in this part of the dwelling area (2), occurring at a depth of 0.5-0.7m below current surface. This was cut by a quarry pit [8]. It had steep sides and was at least 4.0m wide and 0.90m deep. The base of the quarry pit was not observed. The quarry pit had been backfilled sometime earlier, the dumps of backfilled material strips were seen in section. Dark red-brown silt clay backfills mixed with occasional small stone (9) alternated with yellow-brown sandy gravel redeposited natural (10).

In the north-western part of the site, the quarry pit was overlain a levelling layer (7), occurring at approximately 0.35m below ground level, although differentiations in the height of this were noticed across the north-west profile of the foundation trench (Figs 2 and 5). It comprised grey-black sandy silt containing a few sherds of 20<sup>th</sup>-century

flower pot, fragments of glass and iron nails. The levelling layer had been disturbed by a service pit (4) with concrete base (5) associated with the former building (Fig 6).



The original ground level at the garden area, looking south-west Fig 4



North-west profile of the foundation trench, section 1 Fig 5



Service pit [4] and concrete base [5] above quarry pit [8], looking north-west Fig 6



Levelling layer [7] under topsoil at the north-west corner of the foundation Fig 7

## 5.2 Finds by Iain Soden

Three sherds of 20th-century flower pot were recovered from the levelling layer (7) with a fragment of white glass and an iron nail.

Six ceramic bath tile items were collected from the surface of the disturbed levelling layer (7).

All of the recovered items are of 20th century date. No archaeological artefacts of an earlier date were present in these fills.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The dwelling area had been much disturbed during the demolition and levelling of the former building and contained fragments of building material, mainly brick and bathroom tile from the 20th century. As a result of these disturbances, only the foundation trenches at the southern area lay on undisturbed ground within the former garden, where the ground level was higher.

A quarry pit was noted at the north-eastern part of the site. No archaeological artefacts were present in its fills. The previous archaeological trial trench evaluations suggested a post-medieval origin for quarrying activity.

Archaeological observation of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new house revealed natural gravel and disturbed soils above. Examination of the layers produced modern waste and building material, which were retained. This indicates relatively modern disturbance throughout the area of investigation.

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