



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief at
Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland
June 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**

John Walford
Report 12/106
June 2012



STAFF

Project Manager: Steve Parry MA MfA FSA
assisted by David J Leigh BA Hons

Fieldwork: John Walford MSc

Text and Illustrations: John Walford

Project Archive: Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh BA
MA (Bham) MA (York)

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman	<i>PC</i>	7/6/2012
Verified by	Steve Parry		
Approved by	Andy Chapman	<i>AC</i>	7/6/2012

LYDDINGTON BEDE HOUSE

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No. 128034
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief on the digging of a single posthole for a new sign at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland. No significant archaeological deposits were recognised, and the only finds were four fragments of sheep bone from the topsoil.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site status	Scheduled Monument, No 1013825 Listed building, No 1264528	
Previous work	Not known	
Current Land use	English Heritage property	
Future work	Not known	
Monument type/ period	Medieval bishop's palace	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Rutland	
Site address	Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland	
Study area	c 0.00003ha	
OS grid reference	SP 8757 9699	
Height OD	c 67 m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	English Heritage	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	John Walford	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	English Heritage	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	1 June 2012	
End date	7 June 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	English Heritage	Animal bone (1 bag), Photographs
Paper	English Heritage	Record sheet and map
Digital	English Heritage	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report	
Title	An archaeological watching brief at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland, June 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Reports 12/106	
Author(s)	John Walford	
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
4	METHODOLOGY	3
5	SURVEY RESULTS	3
6	CONCLUSION	6
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6

Figures

Cover	Lyddington Bede House	
Fig 1	Site location	1:10,000
Fig 2	Location of new sign	1:500
Fig 3	The posthole and spoil	
Back cover	The new sign after erection	

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
LYDDINGTON BEDE HOUSE, LYDDINGTON, RUTLAND
JUNE 2012**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief on the digging of a single posthole for a new sign at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland. No significant archaeological deposits were recognised, and the only finds were four fragments of sheep bone from the topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by English Heritage (EH) to conduct a watching brief during the digging of a posthole for a new sign at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland (NGR SP 8757 9699; Fig 1). The fieldwork took place on the morning of 1 June 2012, scheduled monument consent having first been obtained. It was conducted in accordance with a WSI prepared by NA and approved by EH (Leigh 2012).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Lyddington Bede House is located at the centre of the village of Lyddington, immediately to the west of St Andrew's Church. It stands at an elevation of c 67m AOD and is underlain by the Whitby Mudstone Formation of the Upper Lias (BGS 2012).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

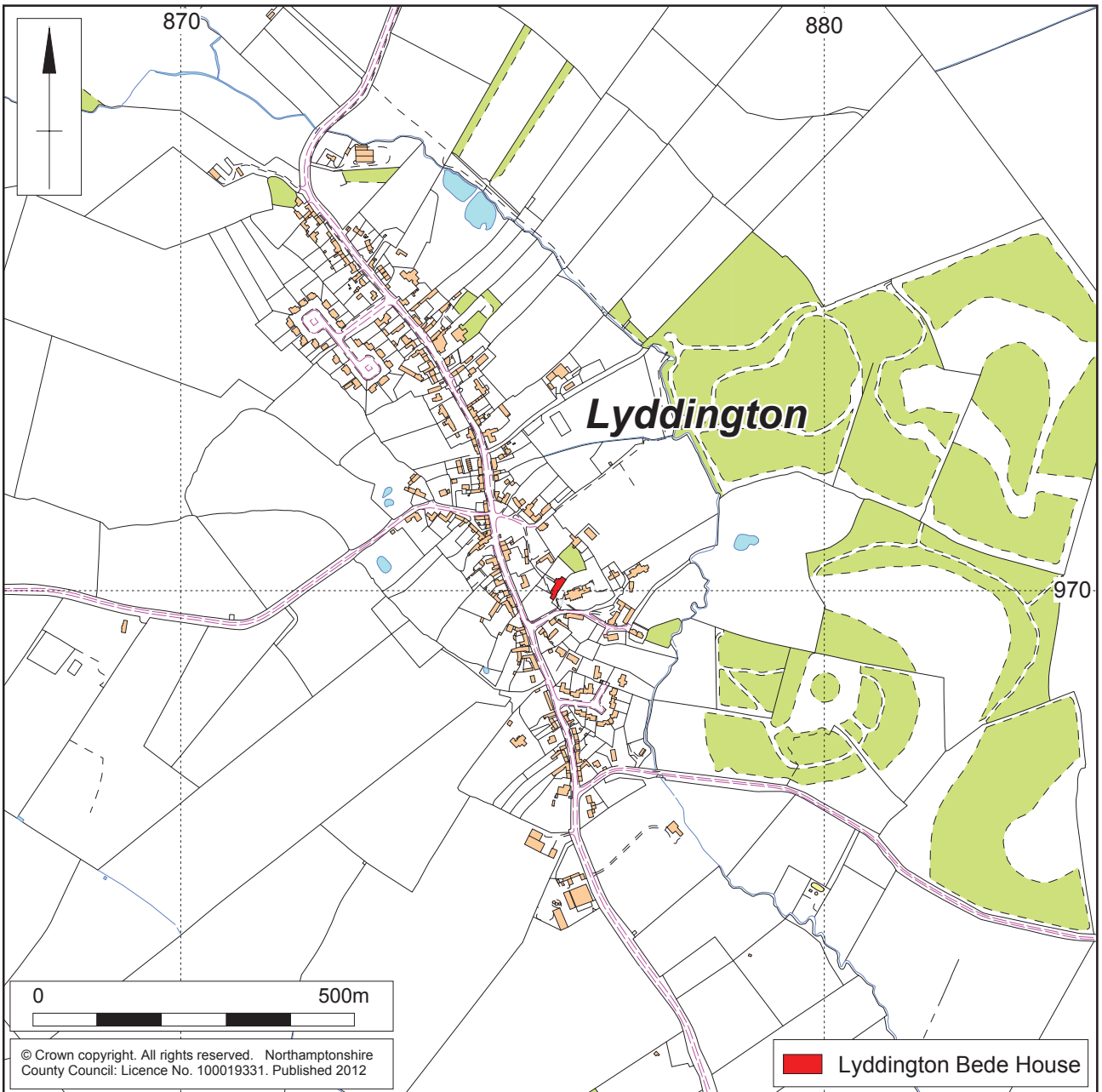
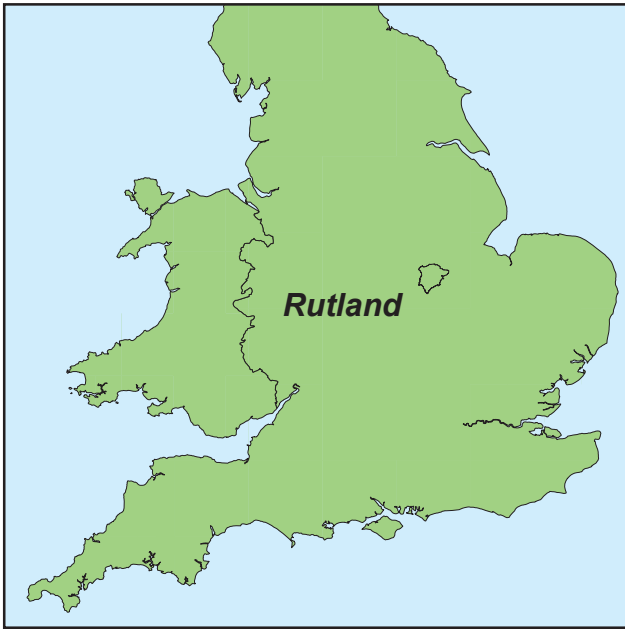
Lyddington Bede House represents the surviving part of a 15th-century palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. It stands on the site of an earlier manorial complex which is known to have been acquired by Bishop Remegius in 1085.

After the Reformation, the property passed into the hands of the Cecils of Burghley. Part of the building was converted into an almshouse, and continued in such use until 1930. The property is now a Grade I Listed Building (No 1264528) and a Scheduled Monument (No 1013825), and is in the care of English Heritage.

4 METHODOLOGY

The posthole was hand dug to a depth of c 0.6m and a diameter of 0.2m (Fig 3). All spoil was placed in a bucket and removed from site. The digging of the posthole was observed and the spoil from the hole was examined briefly before removal.

Recording was in accordance with the WSI for the project (NA 2012) and followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images.

The location of the posthole was recorded by triangulation measurements taken from the adjacent building and gateway, as shown on Figure 2. Unfortunately, the Ordnance Survey base mapping does not correlate well with the measurements taken in the field, and so the location of the sign is only schematically indicated on this figure, to an estimated accuracy of +/- 1m

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). The project was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE* (EH 2006).

5 RESULTS

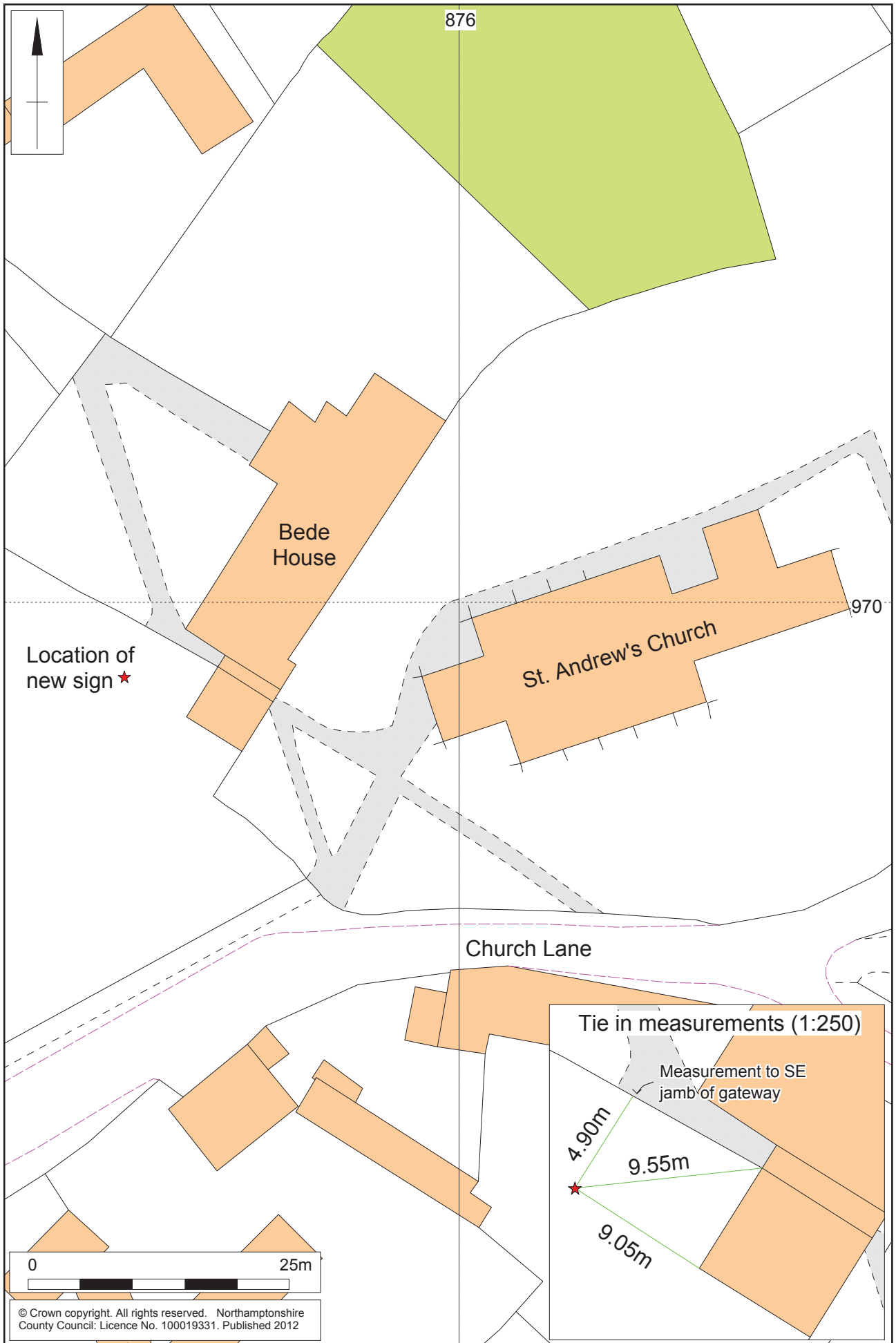
The posthole was dug through topsoil, consisting of a mid brown clay loam with a few small chips of stone. The base of this layer was estimated to be around 0.3 – 0.4m below the ground surface, but could not be more accurately determined from such a small exposure.

Beneath the topsoil was a more compact and clayey deposit containing a little charcoal and a few small pieces of ironstone. Excavation did not reach the surface of the natural geology.

The only finds to be recovered were four fragments of sheep metapodial bones, all of which came from the topsoil. Two of these bones showed possible signs of canid gnawing.

6 CONCLUSION

The observation of the small posthole identified a clayey layer below the topsoil, and four fragments of sheep bone, which cannot be reliably dated, were recovered from the topsoil.



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Location of new sign Fig 2



The posthole and spoil Fig 3

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2012 *GeoIndex*, <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>, consulted 6/6/2012

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NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology



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