



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief during
excavation of Plot 5 on land at Huntly Lodge
Orton Longueville, Peterborough
May – August 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/139

July 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Approved by	Stephen Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM 130864

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of Plot 5 on land at Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough.	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of Plot 5 on land at Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville. The work comprised the excavation of foundation trenches for the new dwelling and associated garage. Undisturbed soils were recorded across much of the investigation area with considerable modern disturbance noted in the eastern half of the foundations. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2008 (Field 2008) Watching briefs undertaken during 2009 (Dawson & Leigh 2009) and 2010 (Dawson & Leigh 2010)	
Current Land use	Walled garden containing scrub ground and the site of a former educational establishment (demolished)	
Future work	Yes	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address	Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough	
Study area (sq metres)	800m ²	
Height	c15m aOD	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 167 963	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Peterborough Museums and Art Gallery	
Project Design originator	Michael Dawson, CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Michael Dawson, CgMs Consulting	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2011	
End date	August 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession No)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Peterborough Museums and Art Gallery	Watching brief forms (6) Colour slides (10) black and white contact prints (10) Digital photographs (51)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	An archaeological watching during the excavation of Plot 5, Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/139	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	July 2012	

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING EXCAVATION OF PLOT 5
ON LAND AT HUNTLY LODGE, ORTON LONGUEVILLE
PETERBOROUGH
MAY – AUGUST 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting during the excavation of Plot 5 on land at Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. Undisturbed soils were recorded across much of the investigation area with considerable modern disturbance noted in the eastern half of the foundations. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

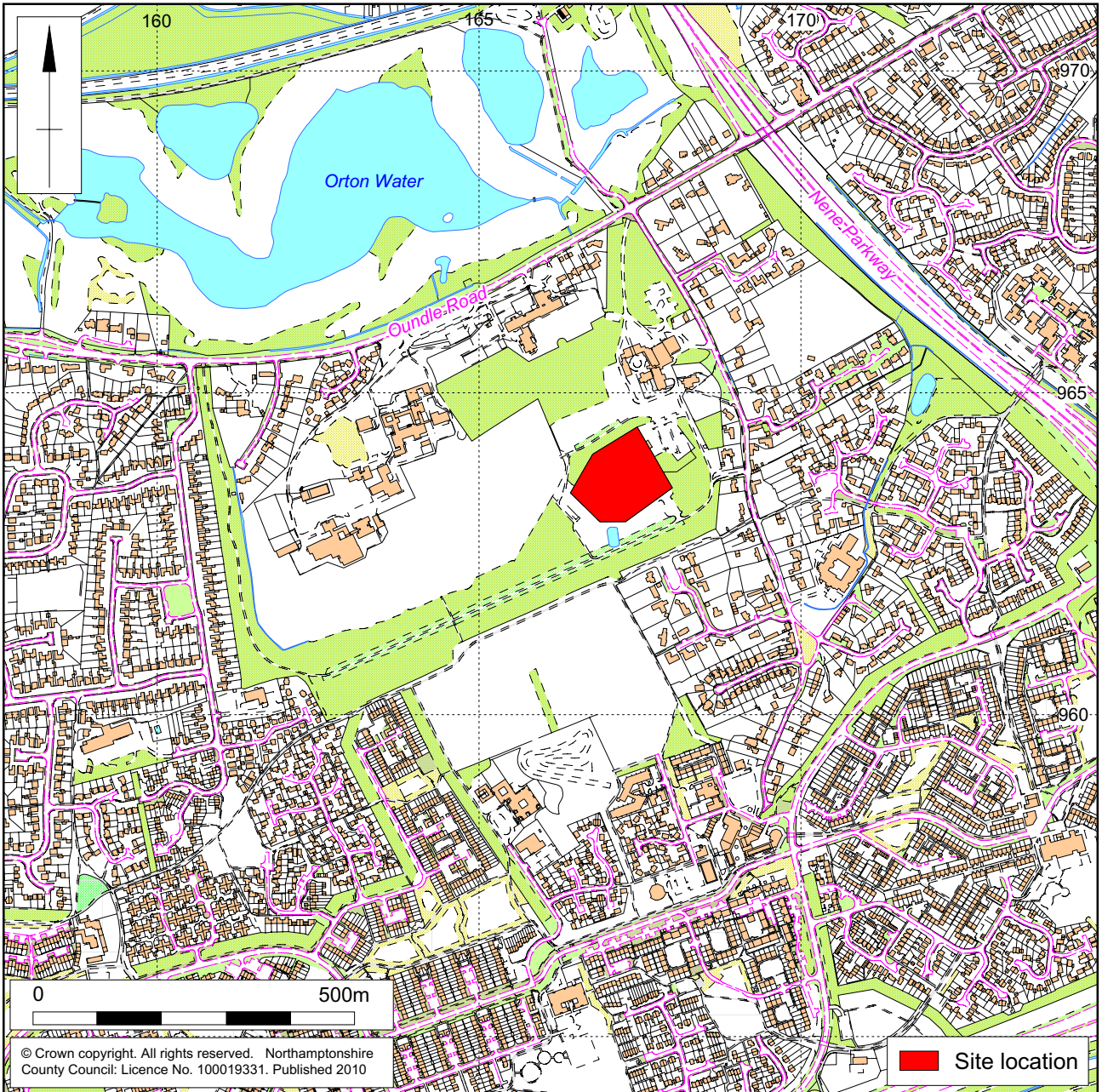
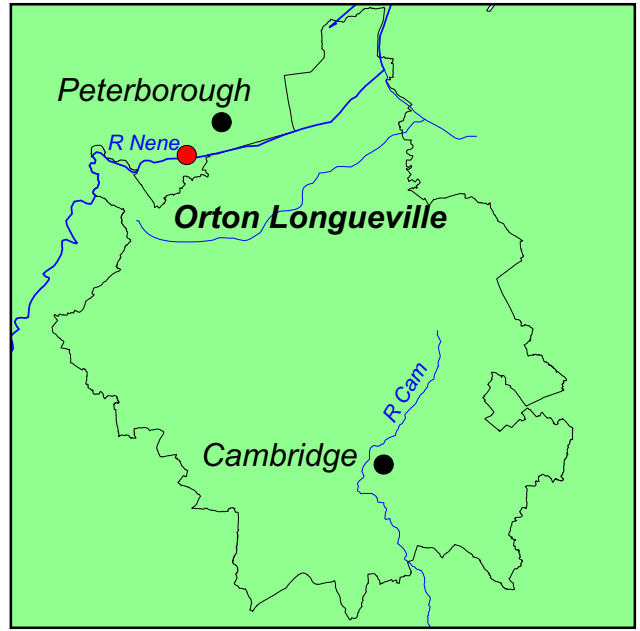
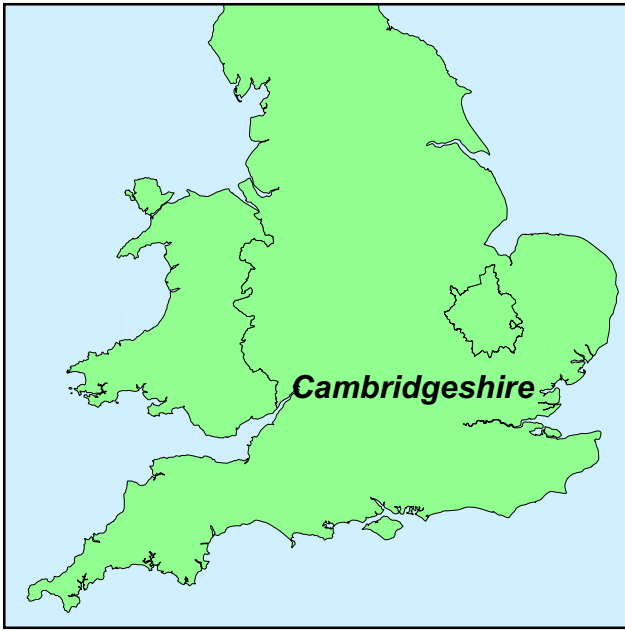
1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between May and August 2011 during the excavation of Plot 5 on land at Huntly Lodge, Orton Longueville, Peterborough (NGR TL 167 963; Figs 1 to 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting for their client Mr **** and followed a written specification for archaeological investigation produced by CgMs Consulting and approved by Peterborough Museums and Art Gallery. The work was carried out following 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) and adheres to the national Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5) *Planning for the Historic Environment* (HE12.3).

2 BACKGROUND

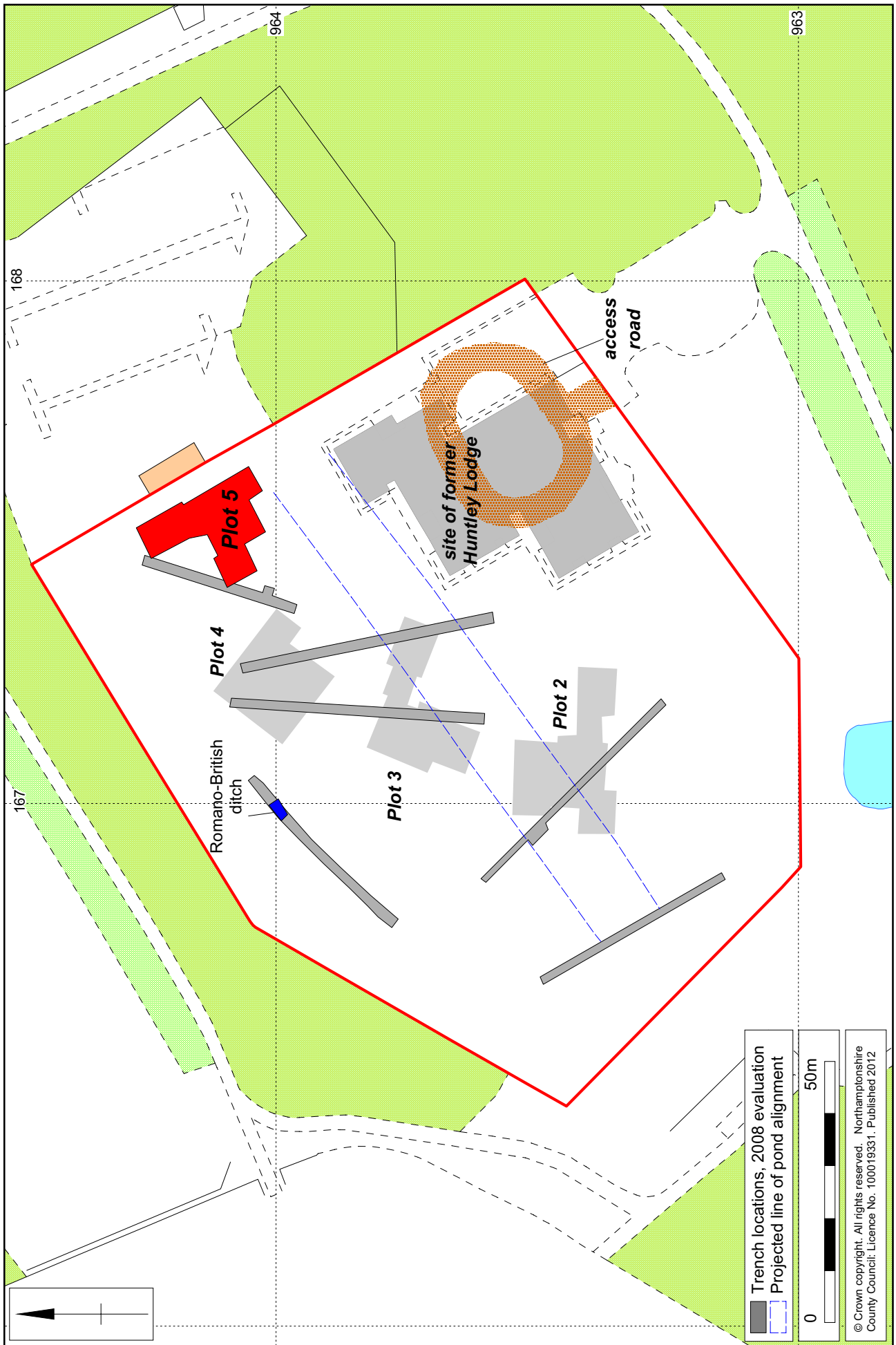
2.1 Location and topography

The investigation area lies within the former kitchen garden of Orton Hall which encompasses an area of approximately 1.4ha (Figs 2 and 3) and is almost completely bounded by the 19th-century wall of the kitchen. It lies on level ground at a height of c15m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising River Terrace Gravels (BGS Geindex: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex>).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000

Showing Plot 5 in relation to previous works Fig 2

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2.2 Historical background

The investigation area is situated within the former kitchen garden of Orton Hall and within the historic settlement of Orton Longueville. The parish is recorded as *Overtune* in the Domesday Book of 1086. The original place name is derived from Old English *ofer* or *uferra* meaning higher or bank/slope and *tun* meaning farm or settlement. The final element, Longueville derives from the *de Longaville* family who were recorded as feudal tenants. Orton Hall, the traditional seat of the manor of Orton Longueville lies immediately to the north of the development area. The earliest fabric of the hall can be traced back to the 16th century, although there is evidence of re-used architectural fragments within the early structure.

Close by to the north-east of the site is the church of the Holy Trinity which is of coursed rubble with stone dressings and lead-covered roofs. A church is mentioned in the Domesday Survey, however, there is no evidence for the size and location of this early church. The earliest aspects of the church date from the early 13th century with subsequent building and modifications up to the early 1900s when the roofs were restored and repairs were made to the east window and the south clerestory windows.

Previous archaeological work in the area surrounding the development site has comprised an excavation carried out in the courtyard of the former hall in 2007 in advance of development (Weston *et al* 2007). This revealed late Saxon/early post-Conquest features that may relate to nearby settlement. Other features relating to the hall itself included substantial foundations and a cobbled courtyard relating to occupation of the site in the 16th century. A test-pit evaluation within the footprint of a new extension to Holy Trinity Church revealed a sterile sandy clay surface that was interpreted as a possible ancient subsoil. A subsequent archaeological excavation was carried out at Holy Trinity Church in 2009 (McAree 2009). This revealed a substantial stone wall that probably pre-dates the recorded building of the church in its present location in 1240AD and may be the remnants of the earlier church recorded in *Overtune* in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Within the development area itself and as part of the present application an evaluation was carried out in advance of development works (Field 2008). This revealed a probable boundary ditch of Romano-British date along with a substantial pond or canal feature associated with the kitchen garden. A number of pits containing industrial use remains were recorded along with a scatter of undated pits and gullies. Subsequent watching briefs were undertaken during site preparation works (Dawson & Leigh 2009) and during construction of new dwellings on plots 2 and 3 (Dawson & Leigh 2010) which encountered deposits possibly connected with the pond or canal feature, with a subsequent watching brief during the excavation of plot 4 (Dawson and Leigh 2010).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of Plot 5 and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork was undertaken between May and August 2011 and comprised the observation of concrete piling (Fig 4) and the excavation of a ring beam foundation trench for the new dwelling to a maximum depth of approximately 1.2m below present

ground level. In the eastern half of the footprint of the new dwelling a block of material was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m to accommodate the integration of a new swimming pool. The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008)*.



General view of the investigation area at the start of groundworks, looking north Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the investigation area with the exception of the area of the new swimming pool where modern disturbance was noted.

The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.50m below present ground surface and comprised pale orange-brown sand and gravel with pockets of pale brown clay. Overlying this was mid brown silt loam, up to 0.30m thick, containing numerous irregular stones. Sealing this was mid grey-brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.20m thick, containing occasional rounded and irregular stones and very occasional small fragment of modern ceramic building material.

Within the area of the new swimming pool considerable modern disturbance was noted, comprising pockets of grey-blue clay containing numerous irregular stones and numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The concrete piles *in-situ* during the excavation of the foundations Fig 4



The stratigraphic sequence in the foundation trenches Fig 5



The foundations in the area of the new swimming pool, looking north-east Fig 6

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	6
Colour slides	10
Black and white contacts and negatives	10
Digital photographs	51

The project archive will be consolidated and prepared for deposition with Peterborough Museums and Art gallery.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed soils were recorded across much of the investigation area with considerable modern disturbance noted in the area of the swimming pool which may be connected with the construction and/or subsequent demolition of the former educational establishment at Huntly Lodge.

The absence of any artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the investigation area. The watching brief was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

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