



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton Northamptonshire



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County Council

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 136453	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire prior to a proposed residential development on the site. Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located in the footprint of the garden store and Trench 2 was positioned over the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features were uncovered, the development area was heavily disturbed by tree and shrub roots.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None		
Current Land use	Garden land associated with number 8		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	8 Church Street, Charwelton		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1250sq m		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 5348 5581		
Height OD	153m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, NCC		
Project Design originator	NA		
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Project Manager	Ian Meadows		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	15/10/12		
End date	15/10/12		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical			
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Site file	
Digital	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	12/183		
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Page numbers			
Date			

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
8 CHURCH STREET, CHARWELTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
OCTOBER 2012**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire, prior to a proposed residential development on the site. Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was located in the footprint of the garden store and Trench 2 was positioned over the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features were uncovered, the development area was heavily disturbed by tree and shrub roots.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2012, Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 8 Church Street, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 53436 55848; Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted for residential development on the site (DA/2011/0676) comprising the erection of a single detached dwelling and a store at the rear of the plot.

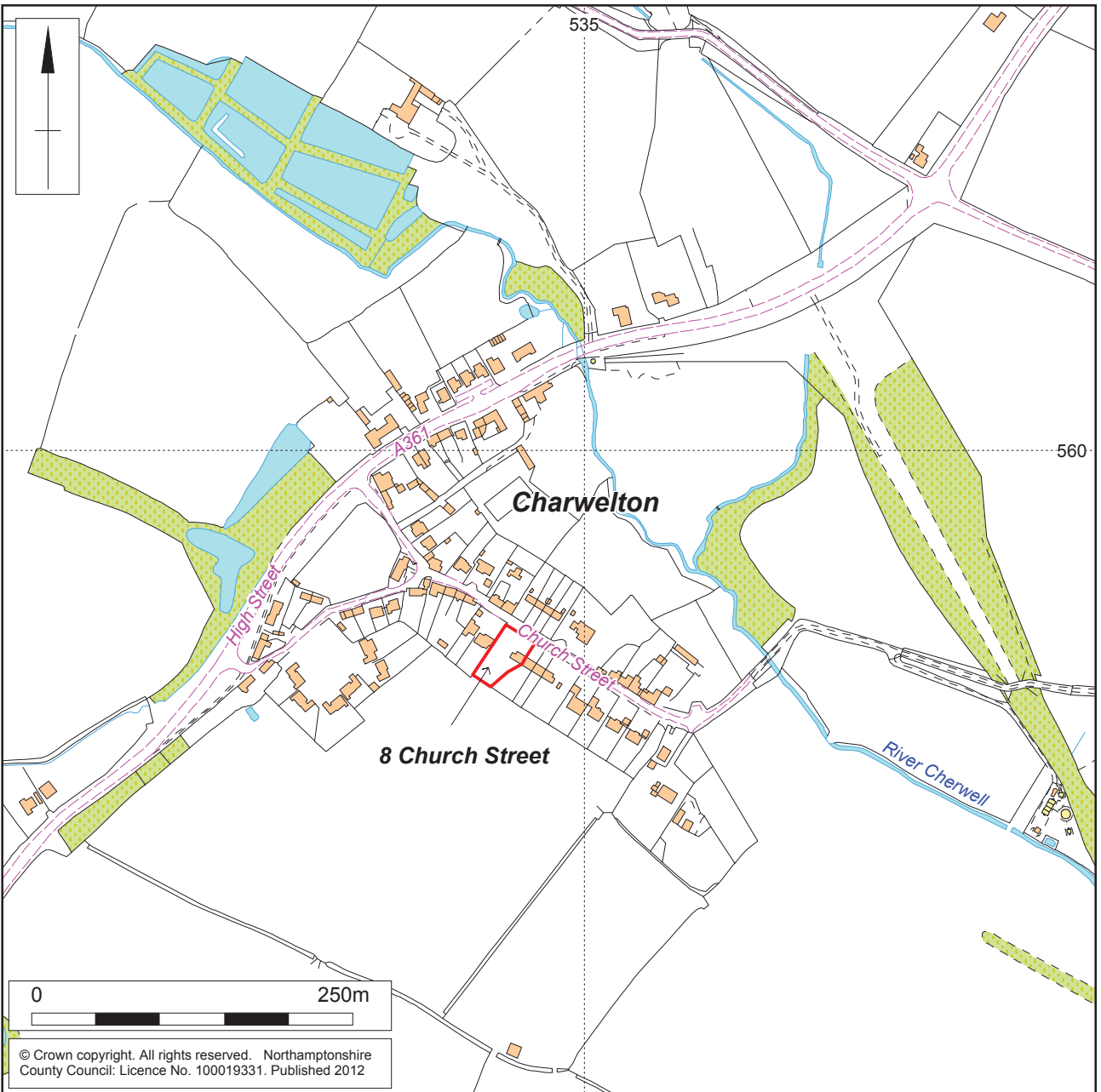
The site lies within an area of significant archaeological interest and sensitivity. Consequently a programme of archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed buildings was implemented to meet the requirements of a brief issued by Assistant Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County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

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

The following information was required to allow the development of a strategy for further investigation of the site:

- *The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;*
- *The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.*



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Trench location plan Fig 2

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The evaluation has been carried out within the parameters suggested by the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework, The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006) and the updated *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for The Historic Environment of The East Midlands* (Knight et al 2012).

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

Charwelton lies just over 5km south of Daventry, in the west of Northamptonshire. The development area is part of the garden associated with Number 8 on the south-west side of Church Street, bounded to the south-west by open fields, and by residential plots to the north-east and south-east (Figs 2 and 3). It lies at approximately 154m aOD. The underlying geology is mapped as glacial sand and gravel. (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html).



The site, looking north-east

Fig 3

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

There are a number of features of archaeological interest within and around the development area. The site is situated within the historic settlement of Upper Charwelton (MNN3469), which is described in the county Historic Environment Record as a possible shrunken village. 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 and cropmarks recorded to the north of the village are thought to be the remains of part of Upper Charwelton, including boundary features and fishponds (MNN125868). Fields to the south-west of the development site contain well-preserved ridge and furrow and other earthworks, not currently recorded in the HER but visible on modern aerial photographs. An evaluation adjacent to Number 5, at the other end of the terrace, identified two linear features likely to be property boundaries, and an area of probable quarrying. All the features were thought to be post-medieval in date (Jones 2012).

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

The two trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench 1 was 4.0m long by 1.8m wide, and Trench 2 was 7.0m long by 1.8m wide (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to reveal natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features, none were present. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard NA procedures (NA 2011). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence continuing from those allocated during the evaluation. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

The location of the trench was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012).

Both trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical digger.

5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

Trench 1 was located in the footprint of the garden store and Trench 2 was positioned over the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features were uncovered (Fig 3).

5.1 Trench 1

The trench was 4.0m long by 1.8m wide and aligned north-east by south-west. At this point the garden had a sharp slope.

The natural substrate (103) was light orange-brown sand gravel, occurring at approximately 0.25m below ground level. The subsoil (102) was 0.29m thick and consisted of mid orange-brown sandy clay, overlaid by topsoil (101), a dark grey-brown sandy loam. Both the subsoil and topsoil were heavily disturbed by tree roots.



Trench 1, looking south-west

Fig 4

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 7.0m long by 1.8m wide and aligned north-west by south-east.

The natural substrate (203) was light orange-brown sand gravel, occurring between 0.14m and 0.23m below ground level. The subsoil (202) was up to 0.13m thick and consisted of mid orange-brown clay sand which was overlaid by topsoil (201), a dark grey-brown sandy loam. Both the subsoil and topsoil were heavily disturbed by tree roots.



Trench 2, looking north-west

Fig 5

6 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features were uncovered in the two heavily disturbed trenches. Any potential features, such as 19th-century field boundaries uncovered in the garden of 5 Church Street, had been destroyed by the trees and shrubs previously planted in the garden of 8 Church Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NCC 2012 *Brief for the archaeological field evaluation at 8 Church Street, Charwelton, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

WEBSITES

www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1	Length, width & alignment 4.0m x 1.8m NE-SW		Surface height 153.67m aOD	Depth & height of natural 0.29m, 153.36m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loam	0.29m thick	
102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown mix of sandy clay and loam	0.29m thick	
103	Natural	Light orange-brown gravel sand	-	

Trench 2	Length, width & alignment 7.0m x 1.8m SE-NW		Surface height 152.66m aOD	Depth & height of natural 0.48m, 152.18m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil		0.23m thick	
202	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay gravel	0.13m thick	
203	Layer	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, present in SE end of trench	0.12m thick	
204	Natural	Mid brown-grey sandy silt with gravel	-	



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