



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological observation, investigation and  
recording at 35 Grove Street, Raunds,  
Northamptonshire  
May-June 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council

James Ladocha

Report 12/200

November 2012





**STAFF**

Project manager                      Mark Holmes MA MfA

Fieldwork                                James Ladocha BA

Text and illustration                James Ladocha

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. 138274</b>	
Project name	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire, May-June 2012		
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook observation, investigation and recording at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire in May and June 2012. The work was carried out during the excavation of wall footings for two small blocks of flats. Two undated ditches may be related to buildings and gardens present on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. A 19th century stone-lined pit associated with these buildings was also identified. The pit and ditches were overlain by make-up layers and subsequent demolition overburden related to the modern commercial units that were previously present on the land.		
Project type	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Demolished building		
Future work	None		
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	35 Grove Street, Raunds		
Study area	1525 sq m		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 99475 72425		
Height aOD	c48m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	Mark Holmes, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project Manager	Mark Holmes, Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Sponsor or funding body	Kingswood Design on behalf of Mr P Hughes		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	23/05/12		
End date	01/06/12		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Content</b>	
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology archive store	-	
Paper		Site monitoring sheets, permatrace sections, site registers, photographic archive, background documents	
Digital		Client PDF report	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire, May-June 2012		
Serial title & volume	12/200		
Author(s)	James Ladocha		
Page numbers	8		
Date	6/12/12		

# Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
2.1	Location and topography	1
2.2	Archaeological and historical background	1
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4	METHODOLOGY	3
5	OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING	5
7	DISCUSSION	7

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Figures

Front: 35 Grove Street, looking south

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Area of investigation

Fig 3: Stone-lined pit, 8, looking south-east

Fig 4: Ditch, 11, looking south-west

Back: Site with concrete foundations, looking north



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING AT  
35 GROVE STREET, RAUNDS  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**May-June 2012**

*Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook observation, investigation and recording at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire in May and June 2012. The work was carried out during the excavation of wall footings for two small blocks of flats. Two undated ditches may be related to buildings and gardens present on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. A 19th century stone-lined pit associated with these buildings was also identified. The pit and ditches were overlain by make-up layers and subsequent demolition overburden related to the modern commercial units that were previously present on the land.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Kingswood Design, on behalf of Mr P Hughes, to conduct archaeological observation, investigation and recording as part of groundworks to construct two connected small blocks of flats on land at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire (Fig 1; NGR SP 99475 72425). The works involved the levelling of the two plots and subsequent excavation of wall footings. The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Holmes 2011) to meet the requirements of the local authority brief, issued by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2011).

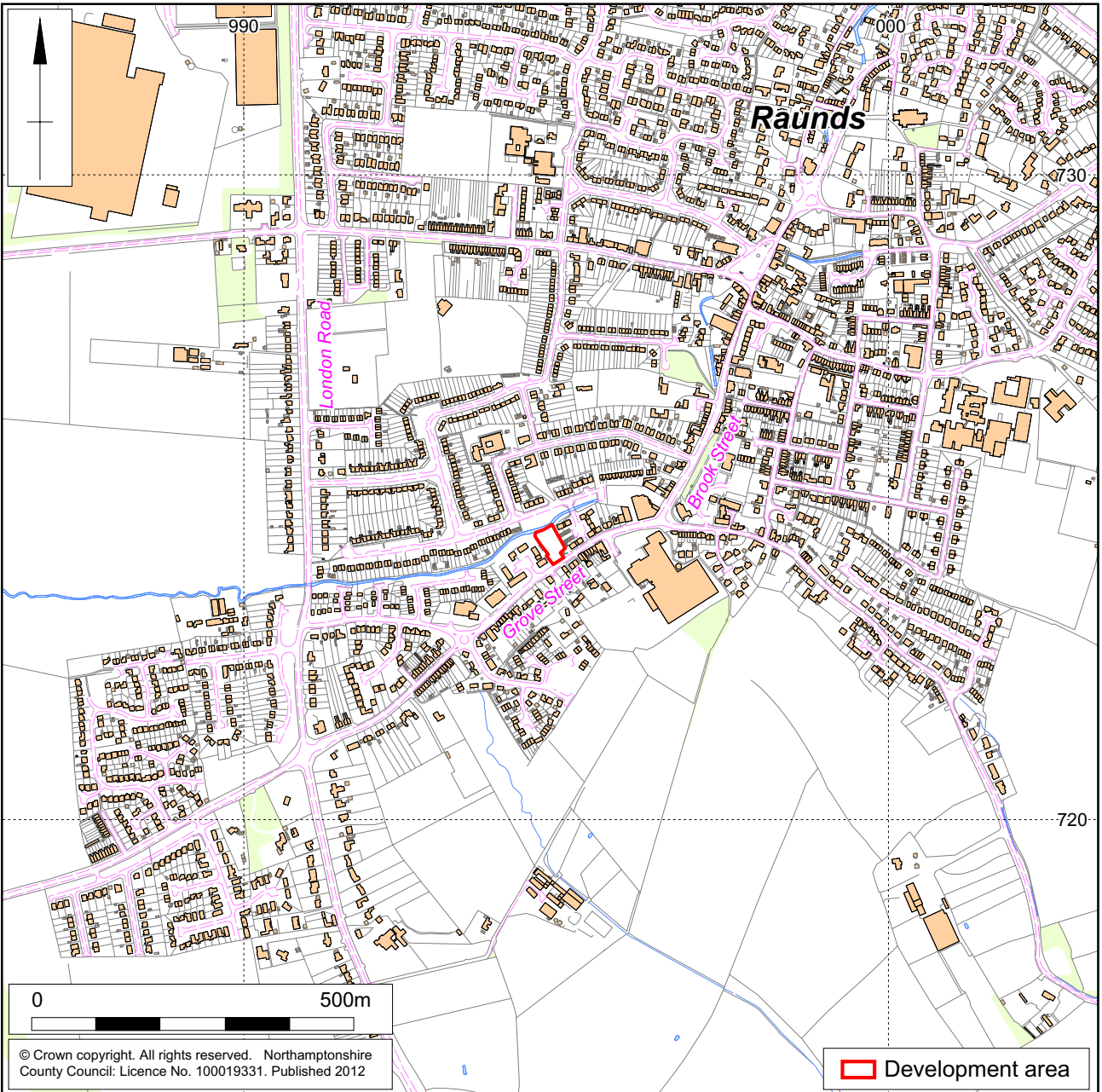
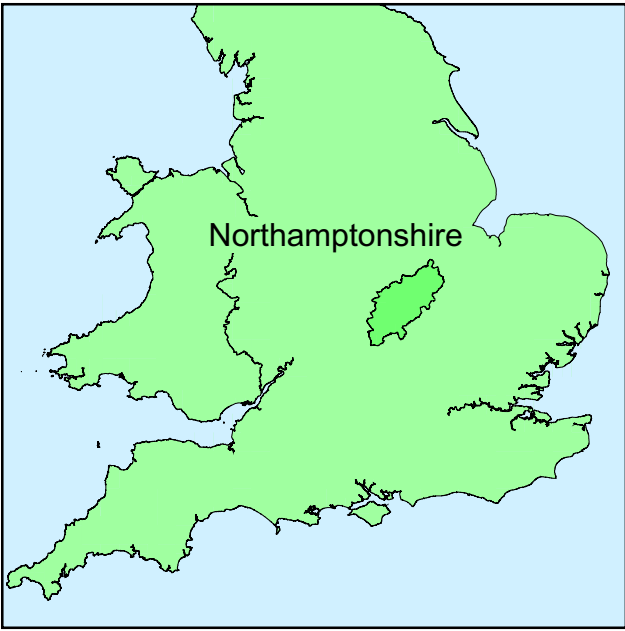
## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The development area is located in the south-western part of the modern town of Raunds, Northamptonshire. It encompasses 1525 square metres of ground on the north-western side of Grove Street sandwiched between housing developments. Formerly there were commercial units on this parcel of land, which have since been demolished. The site is at least 1m higher than the adjoining properties' ground levels, due to overburden from this demolition and the terracing of the surrounding land. The northern boundary of the site is formed by Raunds Brook. The ground slopes down from south to north and lies at an average height of 48m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Inferior Oolite group limestones and sandstones (British Geological Survey [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

### **2.2 Archaeological and historical background**

Raunds and the surrounding landscape has been subject to considerable archaeological and historical scrutiny (Boddington 1996, Parry 2006, Audouy and Chapman 2009, Chapman 2010). Although the modern town had its antecedents in the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian village, there are indications of earlier activity. Approximately 350m



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2012



to the south-east of the site lies extensive Iron Age and undated cropmark enclosures (SAM11508).

Raunds itself comprised a series of 'ends', each containing a manor. In the northern part of the village lay Furnell's Manor and Burystead (Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig 1.3). The site lies in the Higham End, which encompassed Grove Street and Wellington Road (Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig 1.3). Saxon and medieval pits and gullies (HER 1301/0/13), were recorded on the southern side of Grove Road as was a dovecote which may have been part of a manor (HER 1301/0/19; 1301/14).

In the post-medieval period the site is recorded as having buildings fronting onto Grove Street with gardens behind (1880s Ordnance Survey 6 inch and 1950s Ordnance Survey 25000 series). In the immediate area limestone quarrying and brickworks (1301/17) are recorded.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the work was to ensure that any archaeological remains within the area of groundworks were appropriately investigated and recorded. The objectives were established in pursuit of national and regional research agendas (EH 1991; Cooper 2006 and Knight *et al* 2012).

The specific objectives of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, as determined by the Brief (NCC 2011), were to:

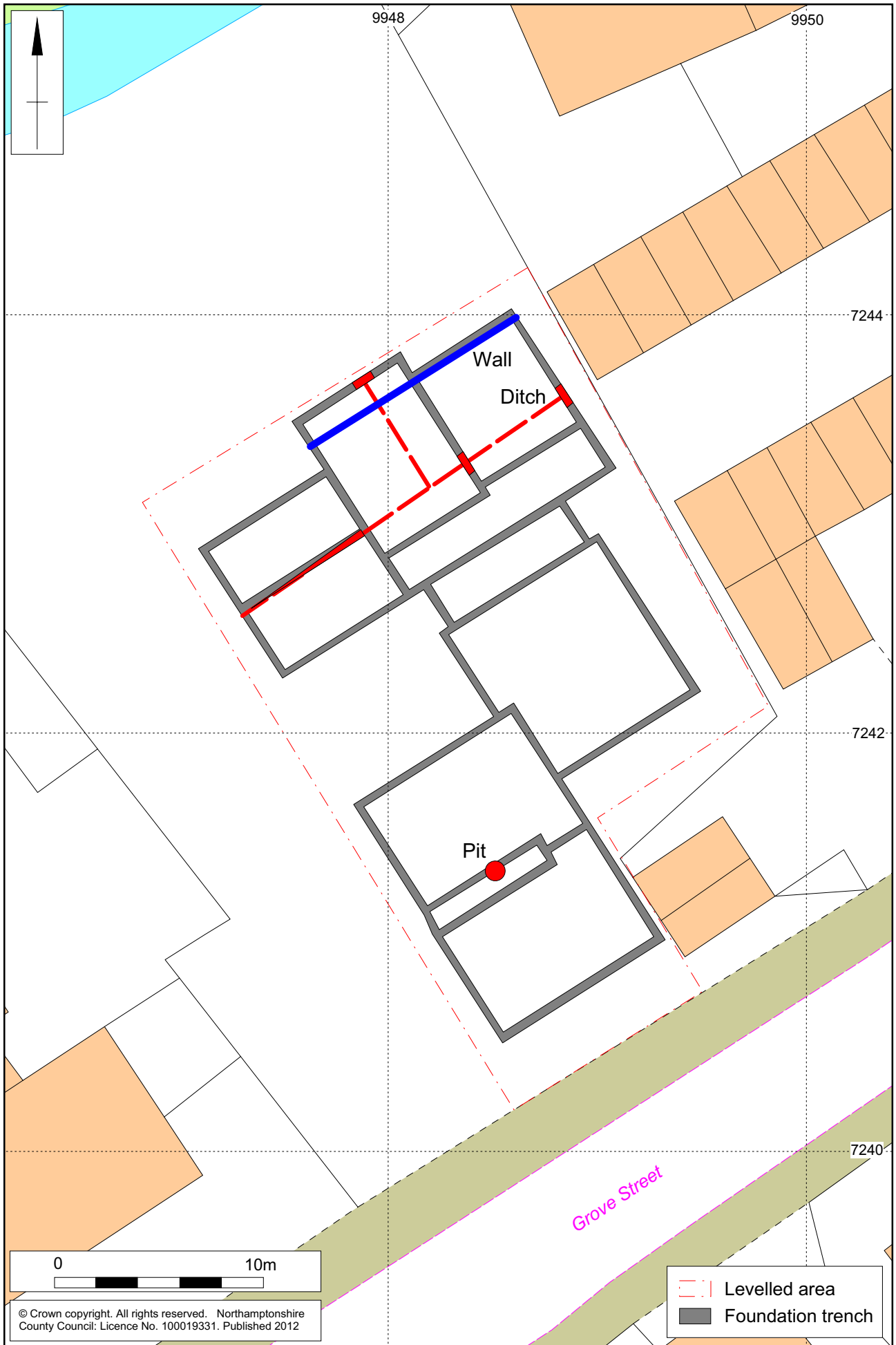
- Determine and understand the date, extent and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

If archaeological remains were encountered they were to be investigated and recorded with specific reference to the results of previous neighbouring excavations (Boddington 1996, Parry 2006, Audouy and Chapman 2009, Chapman 2010). However, in light of the overall lack of archaeological features, and their inaccessibility, it was not necessary to use this earlier work to fully assess the significance of the remains within the site.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

Due to the pronounced slope across the site the two connected building plots were terraced prior to the excavation of the foundations. This was undertaken in two areas; a smaller one in the south-east of the site, stepping down to a larger area to the north-west. During this levelling between 1.2m (in the south-east) and 0.1m (in the north-west) of material was removed. The foundation trenches were then excavated from these levels by a mechanical excavator. They were either 0.6m or 0.8m wide, with one section 1.2m wide, and ranged from 1.0m to 2.35m deep, with the deepest trenches tending to be in the north where the overburden was at its thickest. Site visits were conducted during the excavation of all the foundation trenches (Fig 2).

Potential archaeological features and deposits were hand cleaned within the confines of the excavation. Due to the depth of the excavations, and the sometimes unstable nature of the overburden, it was not always possible to fully investigate features



Scale 1:250

Area of Investigation Fig 2

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2012

and sections. All recording on site followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology recording methods (NA 2011). A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplementing digital photographs which form the principal photographic record for the purpose of this report. A copy of the developer's scale plan was annotated with reference to the *pro-forma* record sheets. These were supplemented with sketch sections and 1:10 sections were applicable.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* (IfA 2008), *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 1991; 2009).

## 5 OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

The natural substrate was exposed across approximately a third of the site during levelling and within the majority of the trenches, the exception been in the north-west of the site. It was mixed orange-brown, and whitish-yellow, slightly sandy clay with patches of ironstone and bluish clay.

A stone-lined pit, [8], was cut into the natural at the change between levelling areas (Fig 2). It was 1.05m wide with an undisturbed depth of 0.45m and contained 3 fills (Fig 3). The lining consisted of roughly shaped limestone, no larger than 0.3m long, 0.24m wide and 0.08m thick with occasional patches of mortar. The basal fill was slightly blue-grey silty clay with patches of loose orange-grey gritty sandy clay. This was overlain by brown-grey loamy clay. Both fills contained frequent charcoal flecks. Fragments of pottery and clay pipe dated to the 19th century were recovered from these lower fills along with a small amount of animal bone, glass and tile. The pit probably related to buildings that fronted onto Grove Street shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. The upper fill was highly disturbed and consisted mainly of hardcore, mixed with brown-grey loamy clay and some of the stones from the lining. This was probably the result of



Stone-lined pit, 8, looking south-east Fig 3

the introduction of a hardcore make-up layer of yellowish-brown sandy clay mixed with large stones (up to 0.62m thick) over the natural substrate to build the ground level in the south of the site up to that of the road, after the demolition of the 19th century buildings. This was overlain, and cut by, the overburden and remains of the commercial units that were previously present on the land.

In the north of the site a ditch, [11], was cut into the natural. This was encountered at a depth of 1.5m and as a result had to be recorded from the trench edge. However, the majority of it was removed by the excavator to provide a firm base for the foundations. It was approximately 1.6m wide and at least 0.85m deep, possibly with a U-shaped profile but the section was heavily smeared. The ditch contained at least two fills: the lower of which was mid slightly bluish-grey silty clay, at least 0.15m thick; the upper was darker in colour and approximately 0.7m thick (Fig 4).

The ditch ran north-east to south-west and the probable continuation was seen in a number of the trenches. In the north-west of the site, ditch [11] cut through a layer of alluvium which overlaid the natural substrate in this area. The alluvium was compacted bluish-grey clay with orange silty clay mottling. It was at least 0.5m deep in the north-west corner and was not fully excavated. The alluvium narrowed and disappeared as the trenches headed north-east and south-east.

A further possible ditch was also uncovered in the northernmost trench, running perpendicular to ditch 11 (Fig 2). The uppermost fill of this was exposed and appeared to be the same as that of ditch 11. No dating evidence was recovered from these ditches, however, both respect the orientation of Grove Street and therefore may be related to the gardens seen on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map.



Ditch, 11, looking south-west Fig 4

In the north-east of the site the natural substrate was overlain by mid brownish-grey loamy clay with frequent stone fragments, charcoal flecks, occasional brick fragments and the base of a metal post set in concrete (not *in-situ*). This layer thickened with the slope of the natural (up to approximately 1.0m deep) and was probably introduced as a levelling layer prior to the building of the modern commercial units. This was overlain by mid greyish-brown loam subsoil-like material (0.28m deep) and dark brownish grey clay loam topsoil (0.25m deep). The demolition overburden then overlaid this (Fig 4).

The remains of a limestone retaining wall, [12] ran along the edge of the northernmost trench (Fig 2). It was constructed from coursed and mortared, roughly faced limestone blocks. This was cut into the alluvium and was in use at the same time as the commercial units as a retaining wall for a drop in ground level. The demolition overburden was 0.55m thick to the south of the wall and 1.2m thick to the north, with the upper courses of the wall present in the overburden to the north. This wall is most likely the return of the retaining wall that is still in use at the western boundary of the site.

In the north-west of the site the stratigraphy was similar to that of the north-east. However, the make-up layer overlying the alluvium contained a lot more stone and was similar to the hardcore layer in the south. Also the subsoil and topsoil were not always present. This is because the commercial unit was located at this side of the site.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording identified two undated ditches that may be related to the buildings and gardens present on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map. These cut through alluvium, which was present in the north-west of the site, and the natural substrate. A 19th century stone-lined pit associated with these buildings was also revealed. These features were overlain by make-up layers and subsequent demolition overburden related to the commercial units that were previously present on the land.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Audouy, M, and Chapman, A, (ed) 2009 *Raunds: The origin and growth of a midland village c450-1500, Excavations in north Raunds, Northamptonshire, 1977-87*, Oxbow books

Boddington, A, 1996 *Raunds Furnells: The Anglo-Saxon church and churchyard*, English Heritage Archaeol Rep, 7

Chapman, A, 2010 *West Cotton, Raunds: a study of medieval settlement dynamics, AD 450-1450: Excavation of a deserted medieval hamlet in Northamptonshire, 1985-89*, Oxbow Books

Cooper, N, 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs, 13

DCLG 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment*, Department for Communities and Local Government, The Stationary Office (TSO), Norwich

EH 1991 *The Management for Archaeological Projects 2*, English Heritage

EH 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation*, English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

EH 2009 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage

Holmes 2011 *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Publication of works at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

Knight, D, Vyner, B, Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2011 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Publication on land at 35 Grove Street, Raunds, Northamptonshire*, Planning: Northamptonshire County Council

Parry, S J, 2006 *Raunds Area Survey: An archaeological study of the landscape of Raunds, Northamptonshire 1985-94*, Oxbow Books

## Websites

British Geological Survey [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

Northamptonshire Archaeology  
A service of Northamptonshire County Council

6 December 2012





Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology



**Northamptonshire Archaeology**  
2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council



**UVDB**

empowered by Achilles