



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at
27 Church End Potterspury
Northamptonshire
November 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

Christopher Jones

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STAFF

Project Manager: Mark Holmes MA MfA

Text: Christopher Jones

Fieldwork: Christopher Jones

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc PlfA

SITE NAME: 27 Church End Potterspury, Northamptonshire

NATIONAL GRID REF: 476192 243123

CLIENT: Peter Osborne

CONTRACTOR: Northamptonshire Archaeology
2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton, NN4 8BE

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Checked by	M Holmes		
Verified by	P Chapman		
Approved by	A Chapman		

OASIS Report Form

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 138431
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 27 Church End Pottersbury, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated a single trial trench within the garden of 27 Church End Pottersbury, Northamptonshire. The trench was positioned over the proposed new development area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	No archaeology present	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	27 Church End Pottersbury	
Easting Northing	SP 76192 43123	
Area ha/ sq m	161 sq m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	Peter Osborne	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	26 November 2012	
End date	26 November 2012	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 BACKGROUND**
 - 2.1 Location, geology and topography**
 - 2.2 Archaeological background**
- 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**
 - 3.1 Objectives**
 - 3.2 Methodology**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**
- 5 CONCLUSION**
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Figures

- Front cover: Trench excavated, looking west
- Back cover: Trench backfilled, looking north-east
- Fig 1: Site location
- Fig 2: The excavated trench
- Fig 3: Trench, looking south
- Fig 4: Trench section, looking west
- Fig 5: Trench section, looking east

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT
27 CHURCH END POTTERSURY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology excavated a single trial trench within the garden of 27 Church End, Potterspury, Northamptonshire. The trench was positioned over the proposed new development area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

The work was undertaken in compliance with the briefs issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2012) and the subsequent WSI prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012).

Mr P Osborne has submitted a planning application (S/2011/1270/FUL) for residential development on land at 27 Church End, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (Fig 1). The area has the potential to contain archaeological remains. This potential, however, could only be tested by an appropriate scheme of archaeological fieldwork.

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council identified that the application area was potentially archaeologically sensitive and would benefit from evaluation. The application did not provide sufficient archaeological information in which to assess the impact of the application. A series of appropriate techniques was required in order to assess the archaeological potential. In this case the further information was obtained by trial trenching (Fig 2).

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation. All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (1991; 1997; 2006) and the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

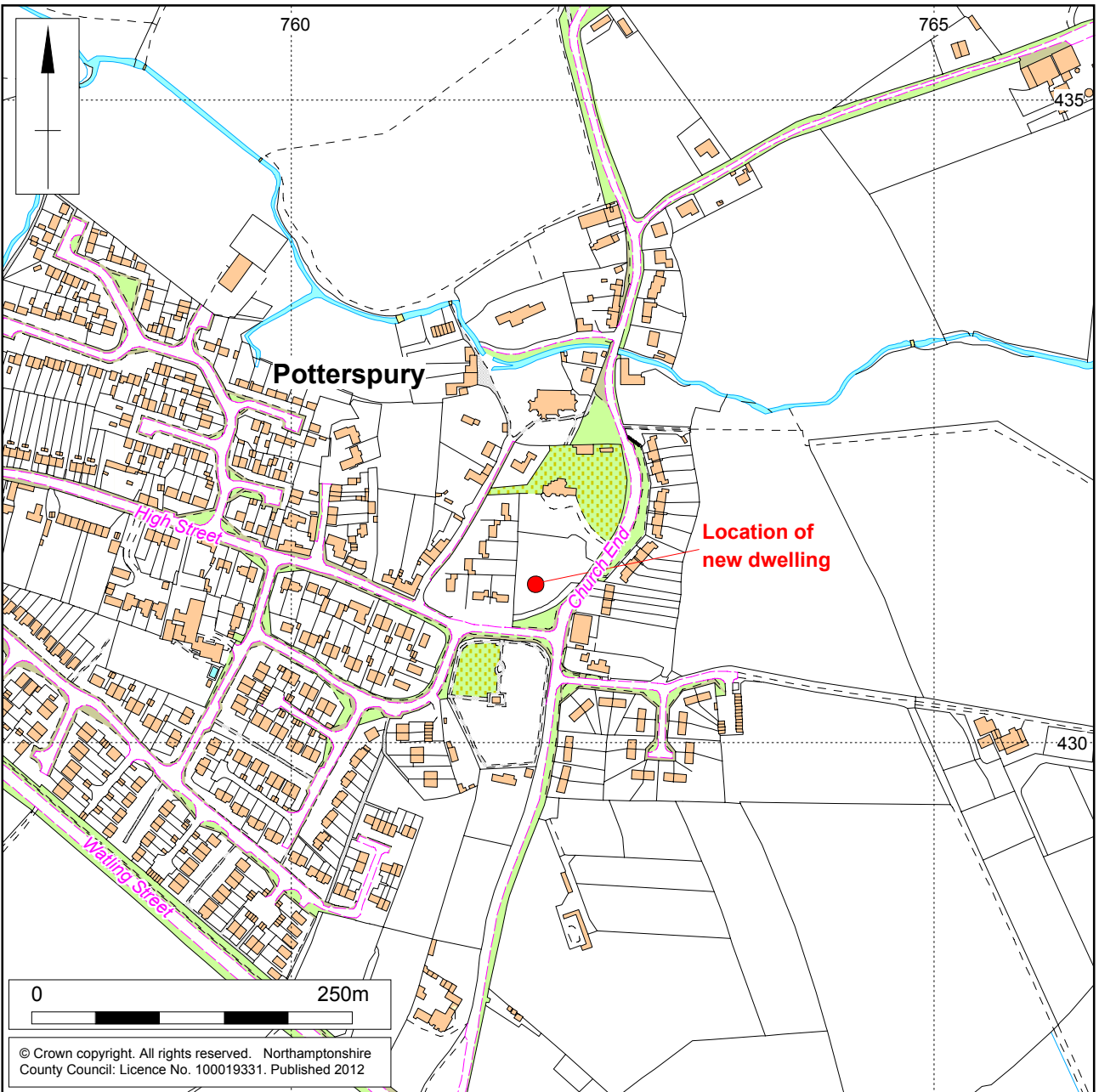
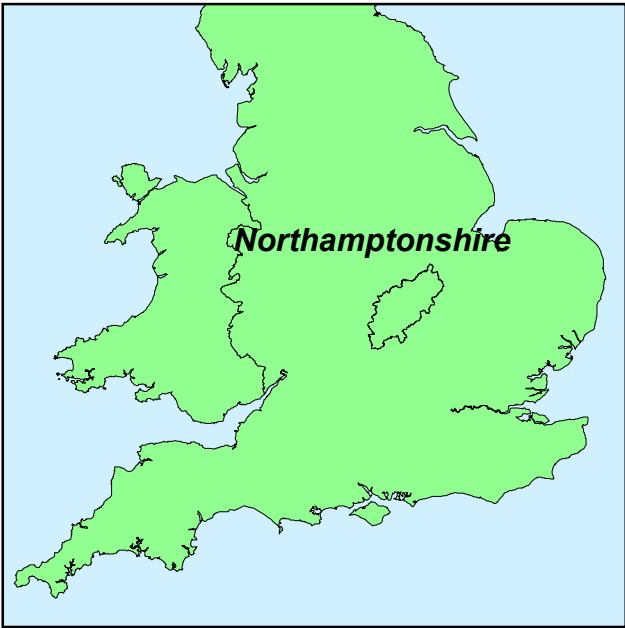
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The application area lies on the western side of Church End, south of the church and of no.27, which is the former vicarage. It is centred on grid reference 476192 243123.

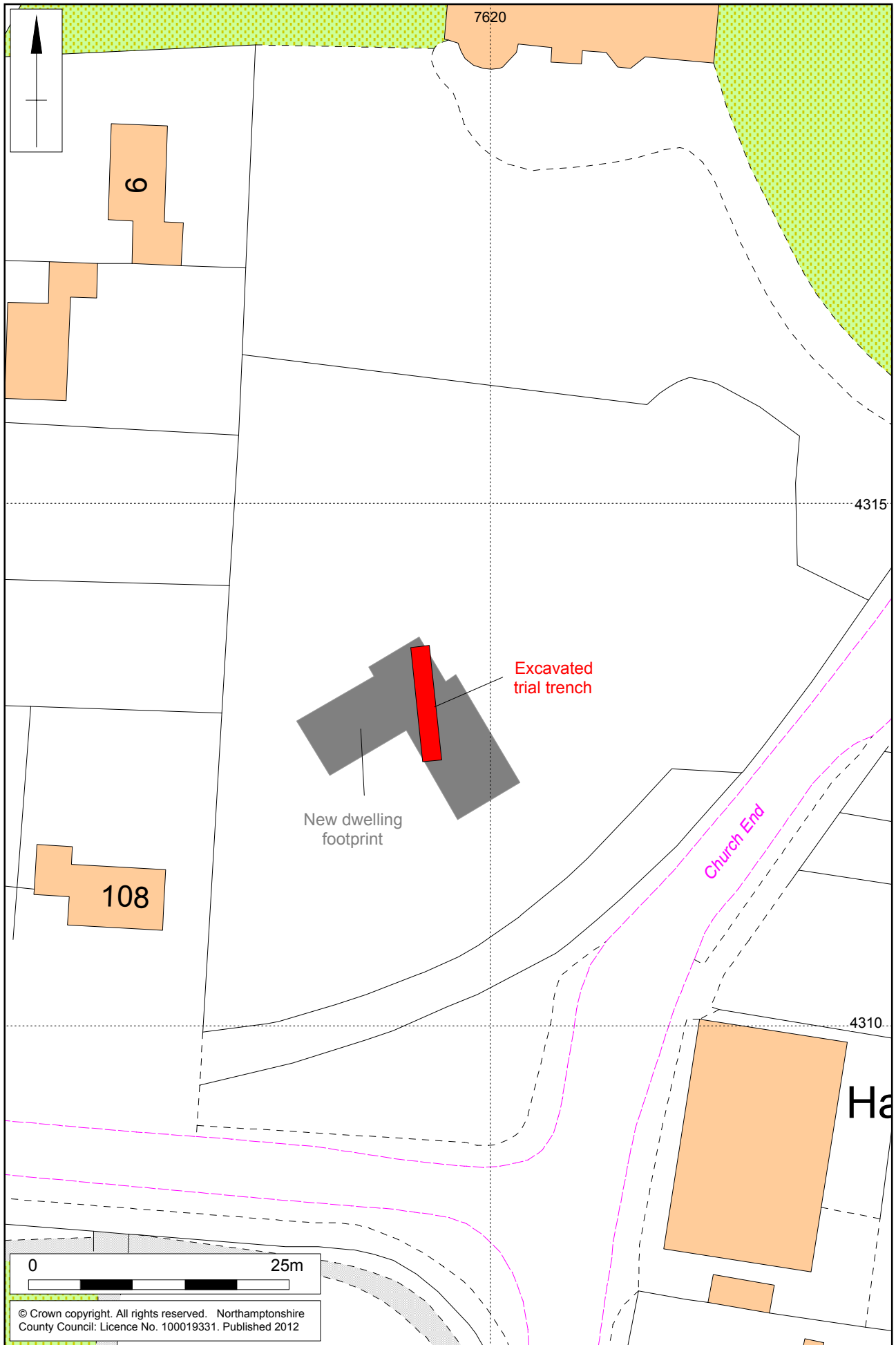
The geology maps indicate that the site contains Great Oolite Limestone.

The site is currently made up of private garden land. Topographically the site is reasonably level and is at a height of 90m aOD.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



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Scale 1:500

The excavated trench Fig 2

2.2 Archaeological background

Potterspury is known to have been a centre of pottery production in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and several manufacturing sites have been identified by archaeological fieldwork.

The village of *Eastperie* began to be known as *Pottersperie* from at least 1287. However, documentary evidence regarding the pottery industry within the village is almost non-existent (Mayes 1968). A medieval kiln has been found to the south-west of the site at 102 High Street, which was probably in operation from the 14th to 15th centuries. Further medieval kilns have been found to the west of the village. Two mid-17th century kilns were found during the construction of a new house in the former grounds of the vicarage in 1965 (HER 1223/2/4). The kilns were in operation between 1646 and 1664 and may have belonged to Leonard Benton (Mayes 1968).

A small excavation in the 1960s on Church Lane, immediately to the north-west of the application site, identified the remains of two pottery kilns dating from the second half of the 17th century, along with structural remains thought to represent a workshop and a drying hut. Several other kilns have been found on the western side of Church Lane.

To the north east of the application site, and east of the church, late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery has been found, suggesting possible occupation in this area.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 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;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

3.2 Methodology

Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The evaluation comprised the excavation of one (1) trial trench, 11m long, located across the proposed house footprint (Fig 2).

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal the natural substrate. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The work was carried out under archaeological supervision. Once the evaluation had been completed, the trench was simply backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology Archaeological fieldwork *manual* (2011).

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images.

All works was conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008a) and *Code of Conduct* (2010).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A single trench, 11m long by 1.50m, wide, was excavated across the proposed development area under archaeological supervision. The alignment of the trench was changed to a north-south alignment because large trees restricted the excavation of the trench in an east-west direction. Topsoil and subsoil was removed to the natural grey clay at its deepest 0.60m. A 0.20m layer of subsoil was left at the south end of the trench so as not to destroy the tree roots of standing trees. No archaeological features were observed in the excavated trench and no artefacts were recovered (Figs 3,4 and 5).



The trench, looking south

Fig 3



Trench section, looking west

Fig 4



Trench section, looking east

Fig 5

5 CONCLUSION

The trial trench was located across the proposed house footprint to the south of 27 Church End. Soils were removed to the natural under archaeological supervision.

No archaeological features were observed in the excavated trench and no artefacts were recovered.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	11m x 1.5m N-S	476192 243123	90m aOD	0.70, 89.3m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam	0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Light brown clay	0.40m thick	-
103	Natural	grey boulder clay	-	-



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