



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological work at
The Vicarage, Kimbolton,
Cambridgeshire
April – November 2010



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No 140966
Project name	A programme of archaeological work at The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire.	
Short description	A programme of archaeological work was undertaken during re-development of the The vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the areas of investigation. A brick built culvert of probable 18th/19th century date was recorded. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief with supplementary photographic survey. Planning Application No: 1000253/FUL & 1000254/LBC	
Site status	Grade II Listed Building No: 395209	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Domestic dwelling and garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	18 th -19th century house	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address	The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (sq metres)	2000m	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 0984 6781	
Height OD	35m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Planning Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design originator	David J Leigh, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Dr William A Boismier, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Turner, The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	April 2010	
End date	November 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Watching brief forms (11) Colour slides (38) black and white contact prints (38) Digital photographs (30)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	A programme of archaeological work at The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire	
Serial title & volume	11/71	
Author	David J Leigh	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
4.1	The new extensions
4.2	The pool
4.3	The gas tank pit
4.4	The moat clearance
5	THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
6	THE SITE ARCHIVE
7	CONCLUSIONS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Frontpage The Vicarage, Kimbolton

Figures

Fig 1: Site Location

Fig 2: Areas of archaeological investigation

Fig 3: The Vicarage, Kimbolton

Fig 4: The church of St Andrews Kimbolton, looking north-east

Fig 5: The new garage extension, looking north-east

Fig 6: The stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches

Fig 7: Modern rubbish in the area of the new swimming pool

Fig 8: The area of the new swimming pool after excavation, looking south

Fig 9: The gas tank pit

Fig 10: The up-cast from the moat

Fig 11: The Grade II Listed wall subject to the photographic survey

**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS AT
THE VICARAGE, HIGH STREET, KIMBOLTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
APRIL - NOVEMBER 2010**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the re-development of The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton. The work comprised an archaeological watching brief during groundworks along with a level 1 photographic survey prior to the demolition of a Grade II Listed wall. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the area of archaeological investigation and a brick-built culvert of probable 18th/19th century date was recorded. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

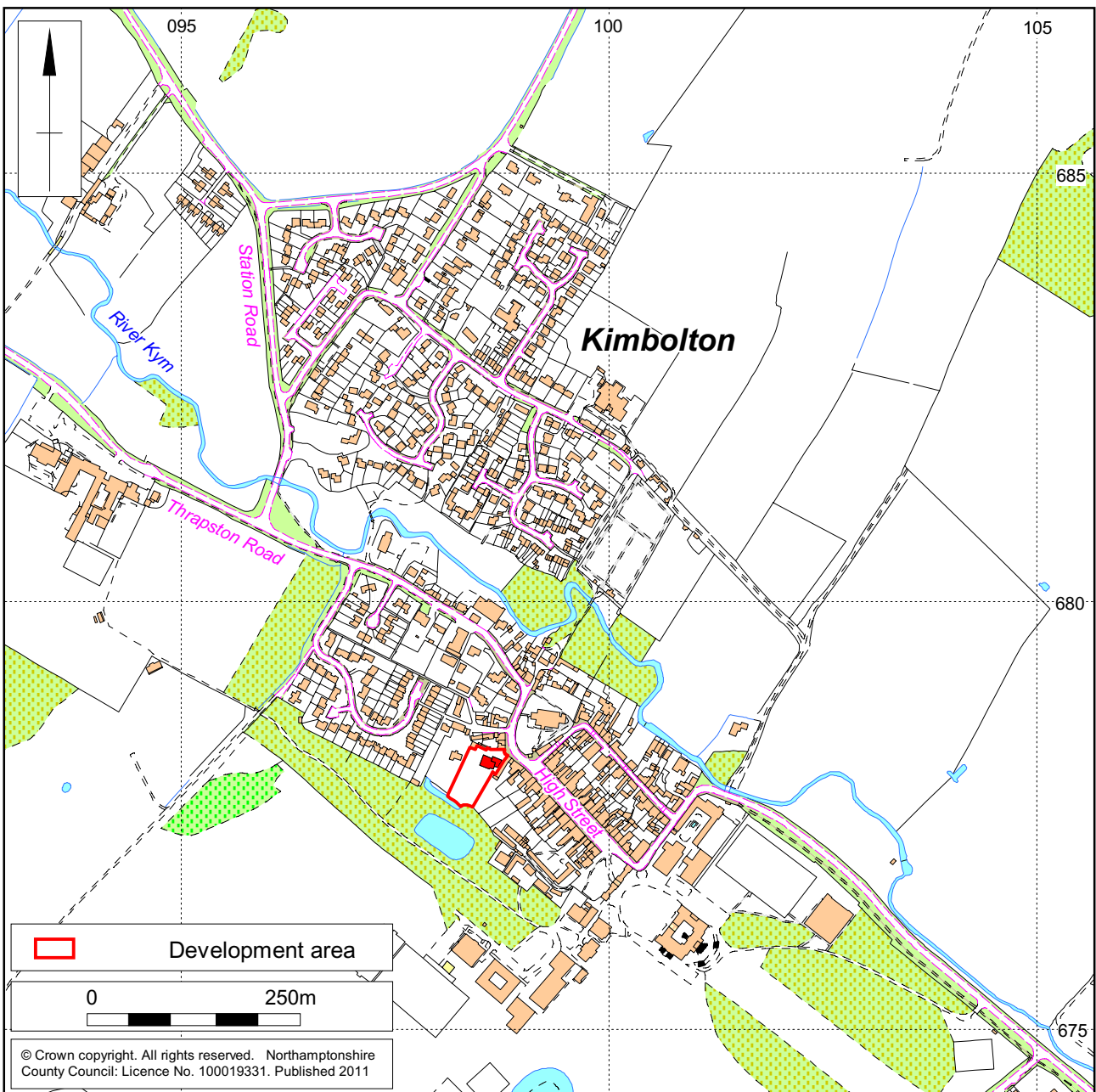
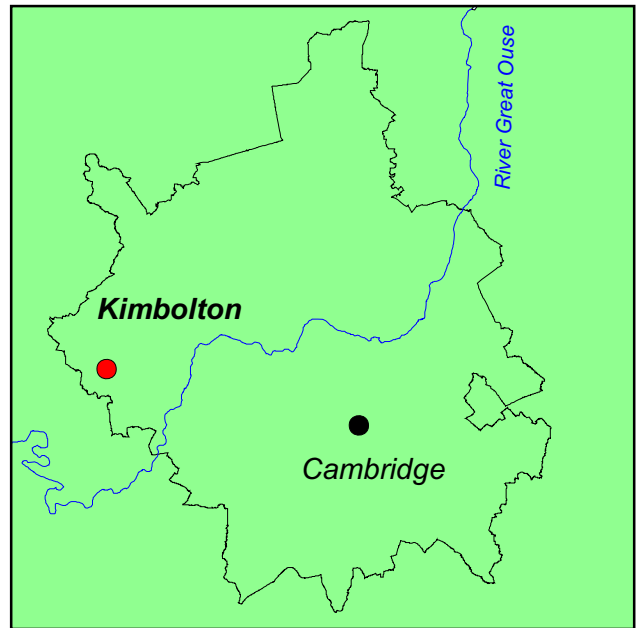
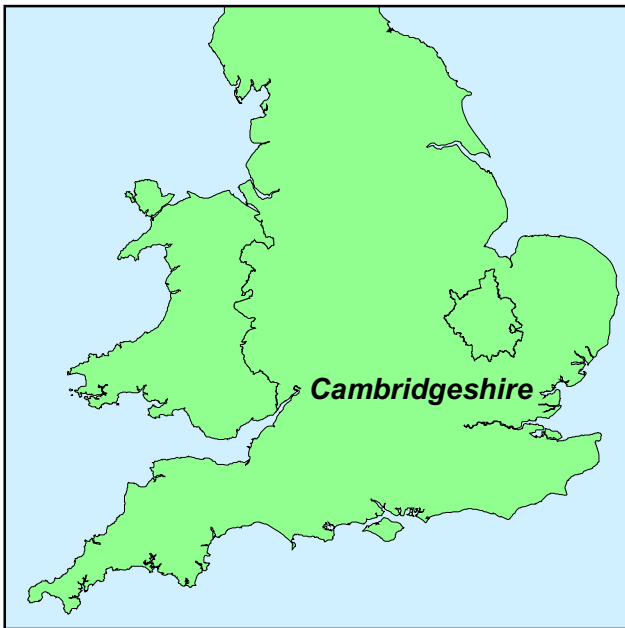
1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between April and November 2010 during groundworks for the re-development of The Vicarage, High Street, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 0984 6781; Figs 1 to 3). The work was carried out for Ross Thain and Co on behalf of their client Mr Turner of the Vicarage, Kimbolton and followed a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2010) and approved by The Assistant Archaeologist, Cambridgeshire Archaeology on the 26 March 2010. It adhered to 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).

2 BACKGROUND

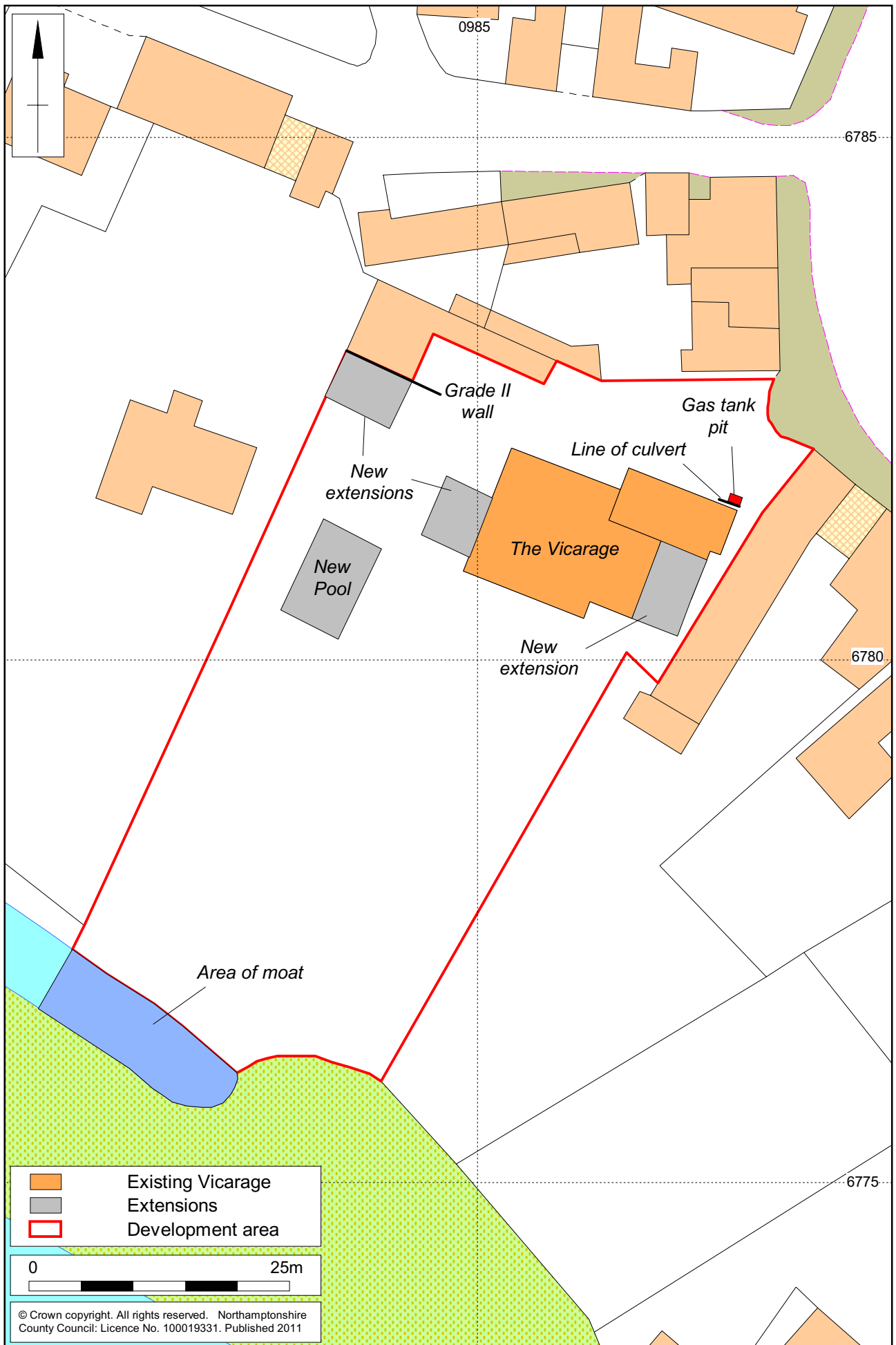
2.1 Location and topography

The village of Kimbolton is located approximately 55km west of Cambridge near the border with Northamptonshire. The development area itself lies within the confines of the present village at a height of approximately 35.0m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising River terrace deposits (BGS website).



Scale 1:7500

Location of development area Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Areas of archaeological observation Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

The Vicarage site is located within the historic core of the village and within an area of archaeological interest. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as having a church and a priest. The parish church of St Andrew (Fig 4) is located directly opposite the Vicarage; the earliest parts of the fabric date from the 13th century, however, most of the present church is of 14th century date with 15th century and later alterations.

Close by to the south-east of the development area lies the site of Kimbolton Castle, which was first recorded in 1217AD. The site of the original castle is now occupied by Kimbolton School. To the south-west are the earthwork remains known as Castle Hill, which date from the mid 12th century.

The Vicarage is a Grade II Listed Building (Listed Building No: 395209) and lies within, and adjacent to, a medieval moated site (Historic Environment No: MCB 893). No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out in the development area.



The Vicarage, Kimbolton Fig 3

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe investigate and record all archaeological deposits uncovered during the groundworks for the new swimming pool, extensions and the excavation of a pit for a new gas tank along with alterations to an existing garage and any other associated groundworks
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts
- ◆ Record photographically the fabric of the Grade II Listed wall adjoining the garage
- ◆ To record photographically any salient features integral with the wall
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised visits to the site during the excavation of foundation trenches and soil removal for the new swimming pool and extensions. A Level I photographic survey of the Grade II Listed wall was undertaken along with the excavation of a pit for a new gas tank. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

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. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The new extensions

Three new extensions were excavated (Figs 2, 4, 5 and 6) located on the east and west ends of the Vicarage and adjacent to the garage. Within the extensions at the ends of the building the foundations were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.14m below present ground level. The natural substratum was encountered at an approximate depth of 1.10m and comprised compact dark grey-blue clay. This was overlain by grey-brown coarse sand silt, up to 1.10m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and occasional fragments of corroded modern metal objects.



The parish church of St Andrew, looking north-east Fig 4



The new garage extension, looking north-east Fig 5

The foundations for the garage extension were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.15m. The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.70m below present ground level and comprised compact grey-brown clay with occasional pockets of grey-blue clay. Overlying this was mid-pale brown silt loam, up to 0.50m thick, containing numerous irregular stone fragments and occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material. This in turn was sealed by a layer of fragmentary modern ceramic building material within a matrix of grey-brown silt loam.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the areas of the new extensions.

4.2 The swimming pool

The area of the new swimming pool (Figs, 2, 7 and 8) measured 9m x 5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.80m. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 1.10m below present ground surface and comprised grey-blue/green compact clay. This was overlain by grey-brown silt loam, up to 0.25m thick, containing grey-brown clay inclusions and occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material. This in turn was sealed by dark grey-brown silt loam garden soil, up to 0.85m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material along with corroded fragments of modern metal items and cloth sack bags. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches Fig 6



Modern rubbish in the area of the new swimming pool Fig 7



The area of the new swimming pool after excavation, looking south Fig 8

4.3 The gas tank pit

A pit for the new gas tank was excavated in the front driveway of the house (Figs 2 and 9). This measured approximately 5m x 5m with a maximum depth of 1.50m. The natural substratum was encountered 1m below present ground level and comprised grey-blue/green compact clay. This was overlain in the west and northern part of the pit by pale yellow-brown coarse silt loam, up to 0.30m thick, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material and very occasional small fragments of modern plastic sheeting. Throughout the remainder of the pit the natural clay was overlain by grey-brown silt loam, up to 1m thick, containing numerous fragments of early 20th century ceramic building material and irregular stones.

Cut into and sealed by this deposit was a brick-built culvert set on a north-east south-west orientation. This measured approximately 0.40m in diameter and extended the full width of the pit. It was constructed of a mixture of yellow and red hard stock bricks which measured approximately 225mm long by 105mm wide and 70mm thick. These were bonded with Lias lime mortar. None of the bricks were specifically shaped for use in such construction.

Overlying this was grey-brown coarse sandy silt loam, up to 0.35m thick, containing numerous small fragments of modern ceramic building material and very occasional

small fragments of corroded metal items. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the area of the pit.

4.4 The moat clearance

A light clearance of vegetation and modern rubbish within the area of the moat was undertaken by the contractors. An examination of the up-cast was undertaken (Fig 10). This revealed grey-black silt loam containing pockets of decaying organic matter. A quantity of modern rubbish was noted including the remains of a petrol lawnmower and a child's pedal cycle. No earlier archaeological artefacts were present.



The gas tank pit Fig 9



The up-cast from the moat Fig 10

5 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

A Level 1 photographic survey was carried out of a Grade II Listed wall that was to be demolished as part of re-development of the garage (Fig 2 and 11). The wall extended west from the western end of the house to the garage and measured 15m in length by 3.85m high. It was built with a mixture of red and yellow-brown stock bricks each measuring 225mm long by 105mm wide and 70mm thick, bonded with grey lime mortar. It was constructed in Flemish bond, two bricks thick. Surmounting the wall were modern concrete coping slabs.

The southern side of the wall was partially covered in rendering which had been whitewashed. Ivy and other vegetation obscured the remainder of the wall on this side. No features or fittings were noted.



The Grade II Listed wall subject to the photographic survey Fig 11

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	11
Colour slides	38
Black and white contacts and negatives	38
Digital photographs	30

6 CONCLUSIONS

Modern disturbance was noted throughout the areas of archaeological investigation. An examination of the bricks used for the construction of both the culvert and the Grade II Listed wall found them to be of similar type to those used for the main building and it is possible that they may be of a similar construction date.

No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The watching was undertaken in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

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Leigh, D J, 2010 *Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording and Level 1 Photographic Survey on land at The Vicarage, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design



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