



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation,
investigation and recording at land adjacent to
5 Denton Road and to the rear of
1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire
November 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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County Council**

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Report 13/06

January 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 141332	
Project title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and land to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire, November 2012		
Short description	An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the machine excavation of three house foundations at land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire. A single pit contained sherds of at least three vessels of late 18th to early 19th-century pottery. No further archaeological features or finds were present.		
Project type	Archaeological watching brief		
Site Status			
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden, overgrown		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	Late 18th early 19th-century pit		
Significant finds	Late 18th early 19th-century pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	1-5 Denton Road, Horton		
Post code			
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 81901 54640		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.24ha		
Height aOD	95m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	NA		
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby (NA)		
Project Managers	Adam Yates (NA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Georgian House Developments		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	5/11/2012		
End date	9/11/2012		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	NA store		
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)			
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire, November 2012		
Serial title & volume	13/06		
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby		
Page numbers	10 pages, 4 figs		
Date	18 January 2013		

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Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Plan of house foundations, plots 1 – 3 and location of pit [207]

Fig 3: Pit [207], Section 1, facing south

Fig 4: Pit [207] in house plot 2, looking south-west

**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION
AND RECORDING AT
LAND ADJACENT TO 5 DENTON ROAD AND TO THE REAR OF 1-5 DENTON
ROAD, HORTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Abstract

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the machine excavation of three house foundations at land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire. A single pit contained sherds of at least three vessels of late 18th to early 19th-century pottery. No further archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Georgian House Developments to carry out an archaeological investigation through continuous observation of groundworks on land adjacent to 5 Denton Road, and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton, Northamptonshire in November 2012 (NGR SP 81901 54640; Fig 1).

The investigation was carried out following the granting of Planning Consents by South Northamptonshire Council for the construction of three dwellings.

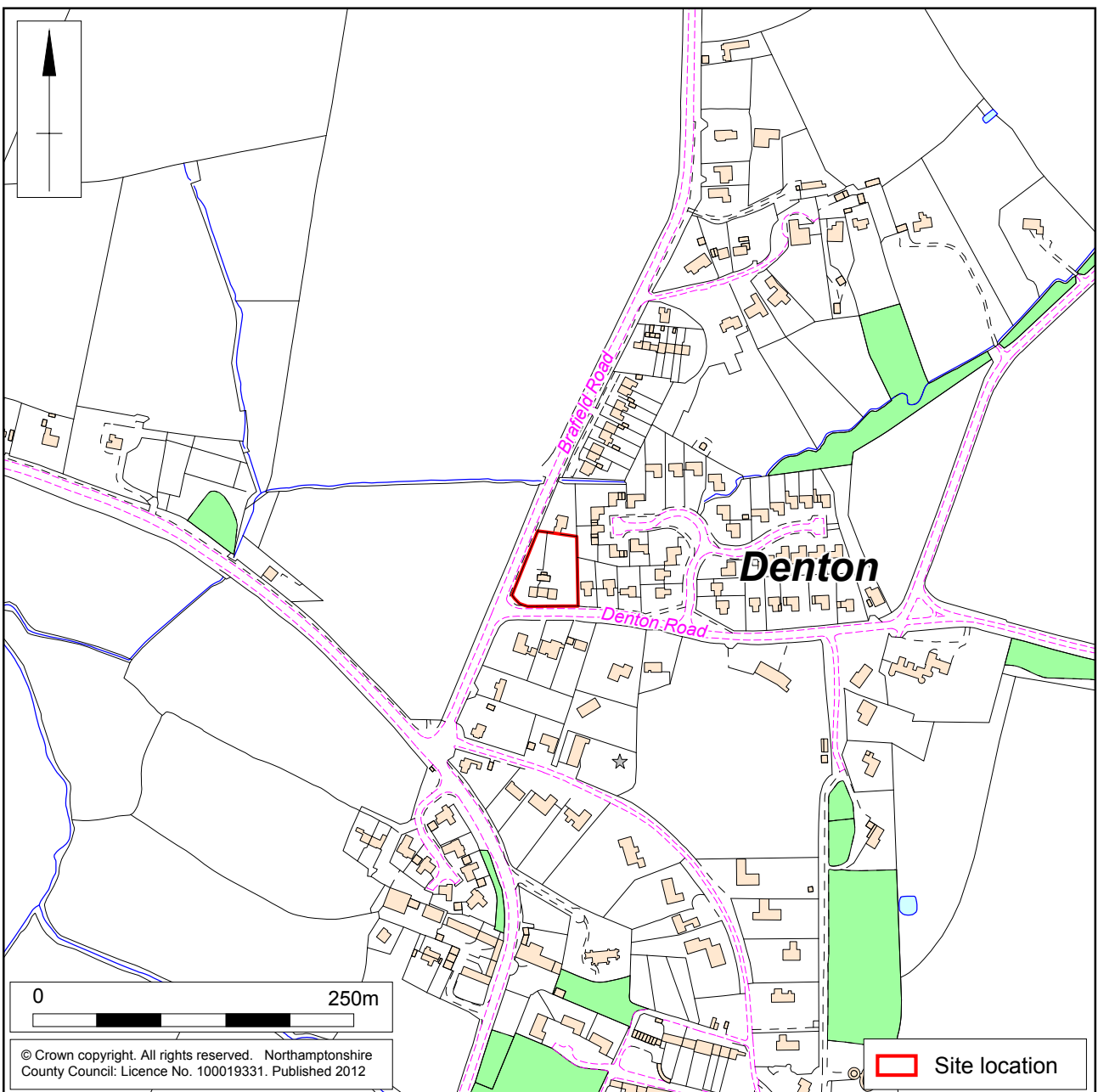
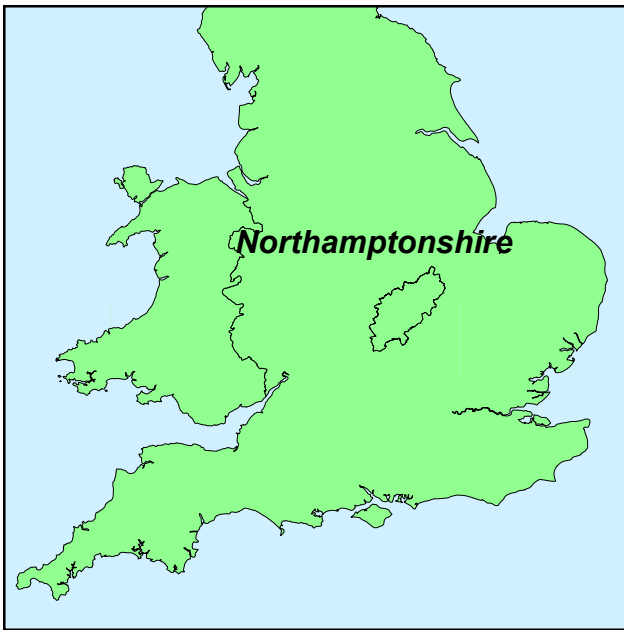
The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The village of Horton is situated within the parish of Piddington with Hackleton to the south-east of Northampton. The current parish was formed from the hamlet of Hackleton and the old parishes of Piddington, Horton and Preston Deanery in 1935.

The development occupies an area of 0.24ha at approximately 95m aOD. It is situated within the northern part of the current village and is bounded by Denton Road to the south, Brafield Road to the west and by housing to the north and east. The development area is currently laid to gardens and other features associated with existing properties. The geology comprises mid Pleistocene till (diamiction).

The proposed development includes the erection of three dwellings together with associated services and infrastructure. One dwelling is on land adjacent to 5 Denton Road, the other two on land to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

3 AIMS AND 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 local environmental conditions.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

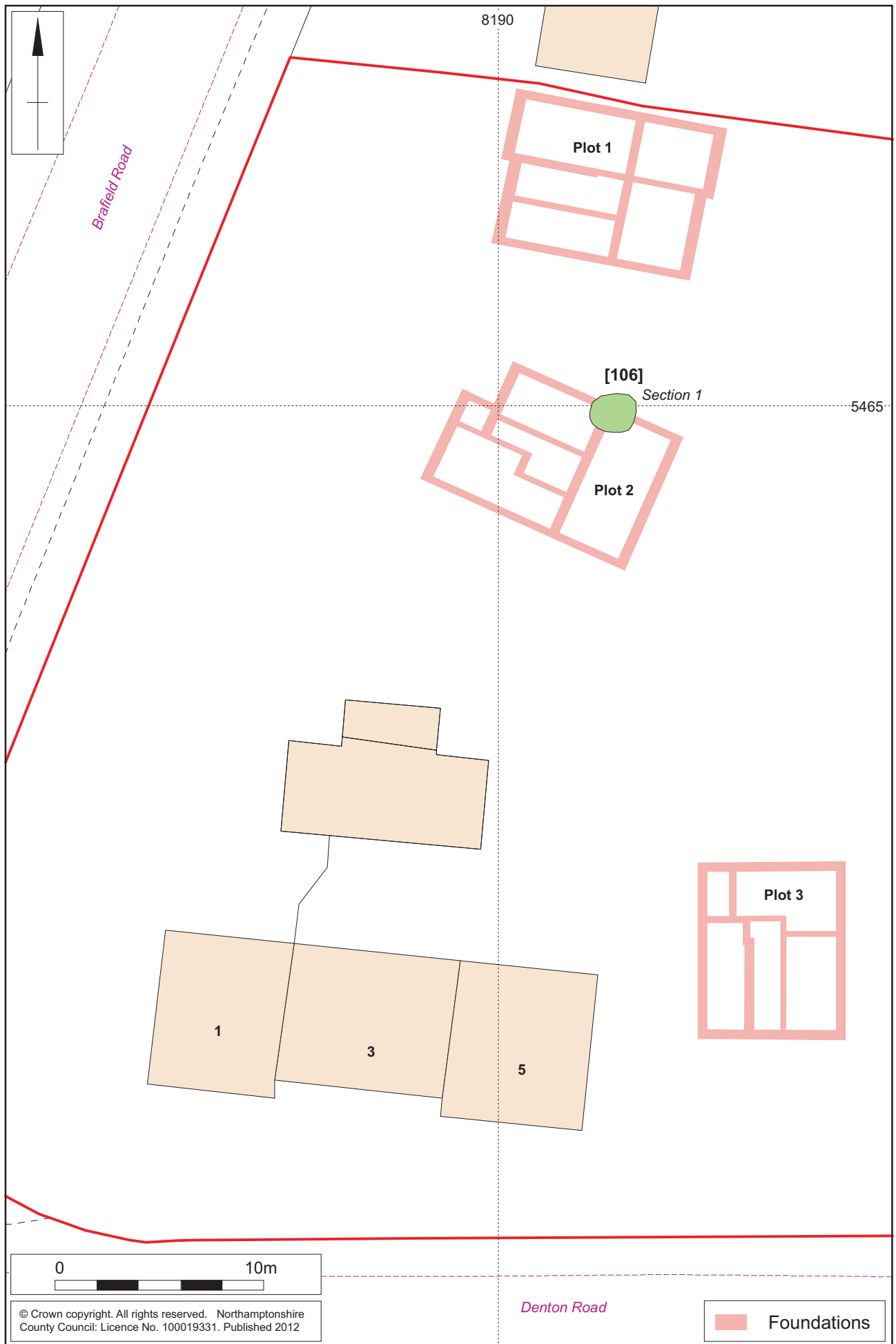
There is little evidence for pre-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site, although Roman finds have been recovered from Horton Hall Park to the south (NCC 2012a, NCC 2012b).

The site is situated within the medieval village of Horton (HBSMR MON3472). The village is known to have existed since Domesday, although the medieval core lay to the south of the current site around the Church (HBSMR MNN110556), which retains some 14th-century fabric. The remains of the medieval settlement are still visible as an extensive series of earthworks within the grounds of Horton Hall Park (RCHME 1979, fig 65), although these are overlain by later features associated with the landscaping for Horton Hall. It is likely that the development area lay within an area of open field cultivation, the remnants of which can be seen as ridge and furrow immediately to the west of the site (HBSMR MNN133880).

The earliest map of Horton dated to 1622 (RCHME 1979, plate 19) shows Brafield Road and Denton Road and the development area, which is shown as open land within a plot called Marrats Field held by Stephen Grawthorne. The centre of the village lies to the south around the Church and Horton Hall. The development area was still open field on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 and on the 2nd Edition of 1900. It was still open fields in 1958, but by 1975 the current dwellings along Denton Road had been constructed.

Horton Hall was probably rebuilt towards the end of the 17th century. The grounds around the Hall were subject to extensive landscaping, which involved the relocation of the village, probably by 1720 (RCHME 1979, 67) outside the new park. This landscaping involved the planting of avenues and the creation of a number of ornamental ponds. In 1740 the Hall was rebuilt by the Earl of Halifax, and a more informal designed landscape was introduced. The Earl also used the grounds for exercising his private militia. Landscaping continued into the 19th century. Many of the features survive as earthworks and the Park is listed at Grade 2 status in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest. The Hall was demolished in 1936.

A possible post-medieval kiln has been recorded at Kiln Close, near the Church (HBSMR 3472/0/18). To the south-west of the site was the Northampton to Stoke Goldington Turnpike (HBSMR 9300/1).



Scale 1:250 (A4)

Plan of house foundation, plots 1-3 and location of pit [207] Fig 2

5 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

Three separate house foundations were mechanically excavated under continual archaeological supervision (Fig 2). The depth of trench varied from between 1.2m and 2.4m and was 0.60m wide. This variation of depth was due to building regulations requiring a greater depth of foundation due to the previous presence of conifer trees when the plot was garden.

After the foundations were concreted the topsoil was graded to reduce the internal level in Plots 1 and 2.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). The site code was HDR12.

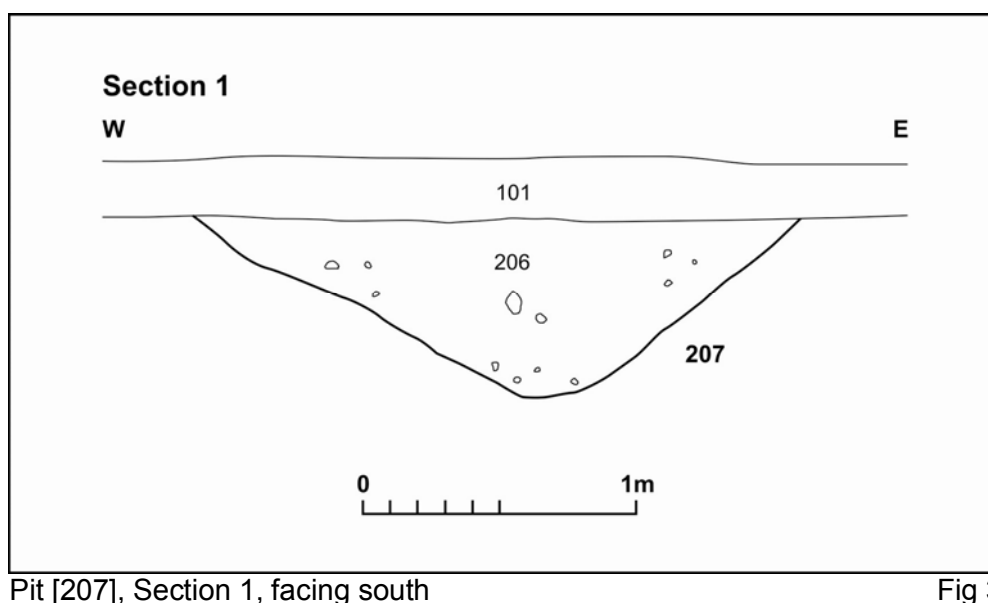
A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Generally, the natural substrate was blue-green-grey boulder clay, 0.80-0.90m below the surface and was present across the site. Overlying this was natural, pale brown sandy clay with very frequent limestone fragments, 0.30m thick. A dark brown garden soil was present across the whole site between 0.45m-0.60m thick, being thicker at the south and highest end of the site, where a considerable amount of rubble was also incorporated.



A wide U-shaped pit [207], 2.2m wide and 0.65m deep, was present in the north and central foundation trenches of Plot 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4). The fill (206) was mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal lumps and gravel inclusions. At the base of the pit was a concentration of sherds representing at least three vessels of late 18th to early 19th-century date including Pearlware and Mochaware. The pit was overlain by a layer of topsoil, 0.22m thick.

No further archaeological features or finds were present in any of the three foundation trenches.



Pit [207] in house plot 2, looking south-west

Fig 4

7 THE POTTERY by Anne Foard-Colby

Pottery sherds from fill (206) of pit [207] represented at least three types of vessels, all dating from late 18th to early 19th centuries. The pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| CTS 415 | Rim and body sherds of Creamware plate |
| CTS 419 | Rim sherds of blue, shell edged Pearlware, possibly a soup plate |
| CTS 432a | Rim, base and body sherds of a brown, marble glazed bowl of Mochaware |

A small quantity of diagnostic sherds have been incorporated into the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series, the remainder have been discarded.

8 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on the machine excavation of three house foundations at land adjacent to 5 Denton Road and to the rear of 1-5 Denton Road, Horton was undertaken in November 2012.

A single pit, located in the north trench of Plot 2 contained sherds of at least three vessels of late 18th to early 19th-century pottery. It is likely that the pit was dug in the garden of either number 3 or 5 Denton Road, for the disposal of domestic rubbish.

No further archaeological features or finds were present.

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