



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological watching brief for the new access
road at The Cottons, Rockingham
Northamptonshire
February-March 2013



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Report 13/83

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 152666
Project title	Archaeological watching brief for the new access road at The Cottons, Rockingham, Northamptonshire, February-March 2013	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February-March 2013 along 130m of access road at The Cottons, Rockingham. Late medieval and post-medieval buildings, pits, postholes, ditches and drains were located, concentrated in two separate areas behind properties fronting onto Main Street. Artefacts recovered from the two areas included medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone, glass, window lead, building materials, clay tobacco pipes and other late post-medieval finds. The buildings are believed to have been out houses for a small row of cottages. Map evidence indicates that the outhouses were probably demolished c1806-1815. There was no evidence for the surface of the former medieval back lane which was mapped in 1615.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Brown 2011)	
Current land use	Pasture	
Future work	None	
Monument type/period	Medieval to post-medieval postholes, pits and building remains	
Significant finds	Pottery, animal bone, building materials, glass, tobacco pipes	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	The Cottons	
Post code	LE16	
OS co-ordinates	SP 8672 9171	
Area (sq m/ha)	c130m long road	
Height aOD	c60-75m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Gavin Ferries, Corby Borough Council	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Simon Markus, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Rockingham Castle Estate	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	20/02/2013	
End date	07/03/2013	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology Store	Pottery, animal bone, glass, clay tobacco pipes, metal finds
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological watching brief for the new access road at The Cottons, Rockingham, Northamptonshire, February-March 2013	
Serial title & volume	13/83	
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby and Simon Markus	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF FOR
THE NEW ACCESS ROAD AT
THE COTTONS, ROCKINGHAM
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during February-March 2013 along 130m of access road at The Cottons, Rockingham. Late medieval and post-medieval buildings, pits, postholes, ditches, and drains were located, concentrated in two separate areas behind properties fronting onto Main Street. Artefacts recovered from the two areas included medieval and post-medieval pottery, animal bone, glass, window lead, building materials, clay tobacco pipes and other late post-medieval finds. The buildings are believed to have been out houses for a small row of cottages. Map evidence indicates that the outhouses were probably demolished c1806-1815. There was no evidence for the surface of the former medieval back lane which was mapped in 1615.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by King West, on behalf of Rockingham Castle Estate, to provide an archaeological watching brief on land at The Cottons, to the rear of Main Street, Rockingham, Northamptonshire (Fig 1; NGR SP 8672 9171).

There was no written brief from Corby Borough Council for this work, which was undertaken at the request of the Planning Officer. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by Corby Borough Council (Brown 2011).

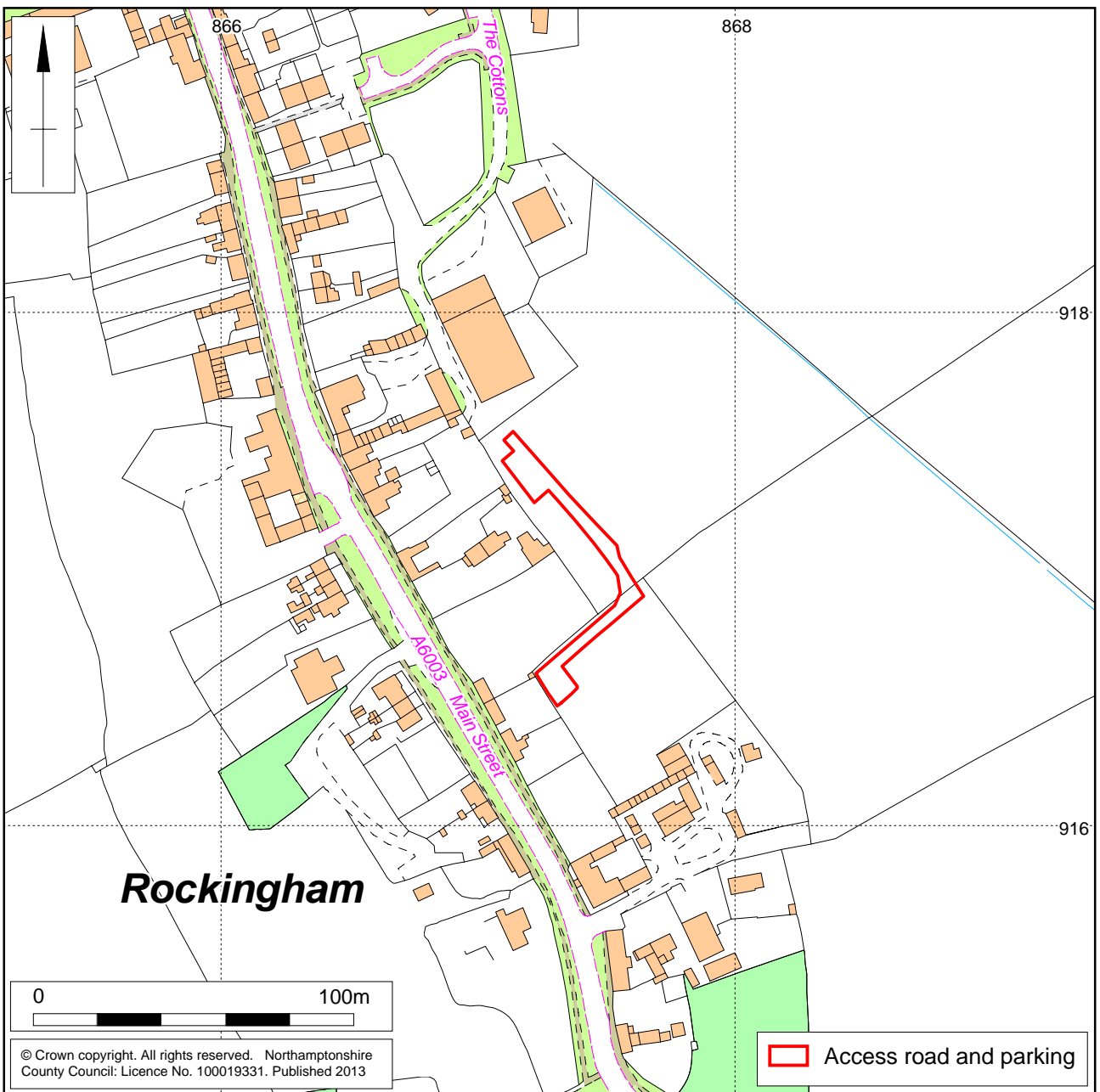
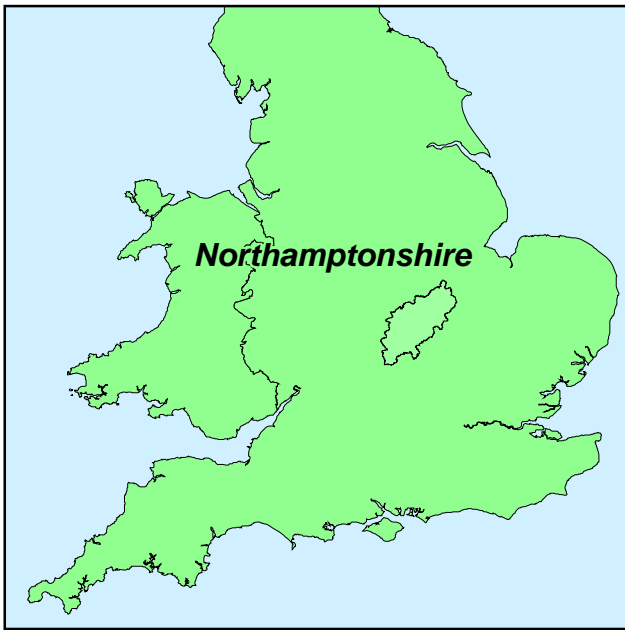
This report has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a), the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), and the procedural documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and *MoRPHE* (EH 2006; 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The site is situated in the Historic Core of Rockingham Village on the lower north-facing slope of the Welland Valley at c60-75m above Ordnance Datum. It is located in paddocks to the rear of properties on the east side of Main Street which are overlooked by Rockingham Castle (Fig 1).

The geology of the valley sides comprises a sequence of Northampton Sand and Ironstone, Great Oolite Limestone and Clay, with outcrops of Cornbrash and Oxford Clay (Parry 1996, 222). Pockets of drift material are present as red loam and areas of Cornbrash are generally thin with Great Oolite Clay exposed beneath.



Scale 1:2,500

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The village of Rockingham is a settlement with medieval origins located on the lower slopes of the hillside below Rockingham Castle, which itself is seated upon the edge of an escarpment overlooking the Welland Valley. Although the structures and earthworks which remain today date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, there is the possibility of earlier remains on this strategic site. The castle retains the motte and a double bailey dating to the 11th century. The castle was later used as a Royal retreat and a base for hunting in the surrounding Rockingham Forest. During the English Civil War the castle was the focus of repeated skirmishes and its walls were slighted in 1646 to prevent effective defence. Since that time it has been a private residence, a function which it retains to this day.

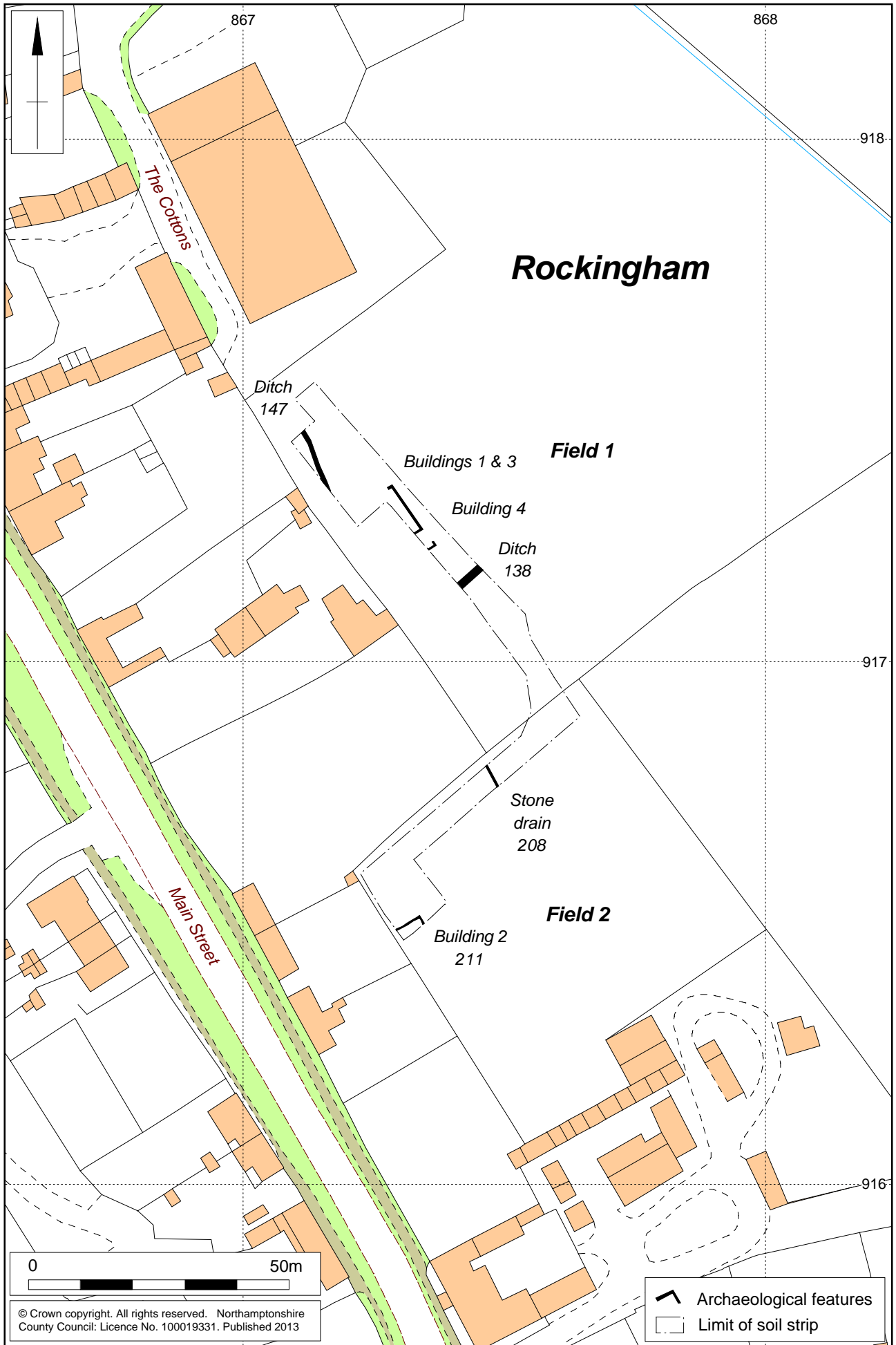
The site of the access road is not in itself scheduled, but falls within the periphery of the earthworks of the medieval village, to the north of the Scheduled Monument (SAM 13638). However, given its proximity to the latter, conventional archaeological procedure was desirable and remains pertaining to the development of the village were expected. The access road lies across two fields that contain ridge and furrow earthworks. An archaeological desk-based assessment was conducted prior to the development that indicated the access road may encounter a possible metalled road surface predating the 17th century and the structural remains of late 18th to early 19th-century buildings (Brown 2011a). Early cartographic evidence indicated that the land was occupied by small enclosures extending to the rear of properties fronting Main Street and other associated minor structures or occupation evidence might be encountered during the works.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aims of the archaeological watching brief were:

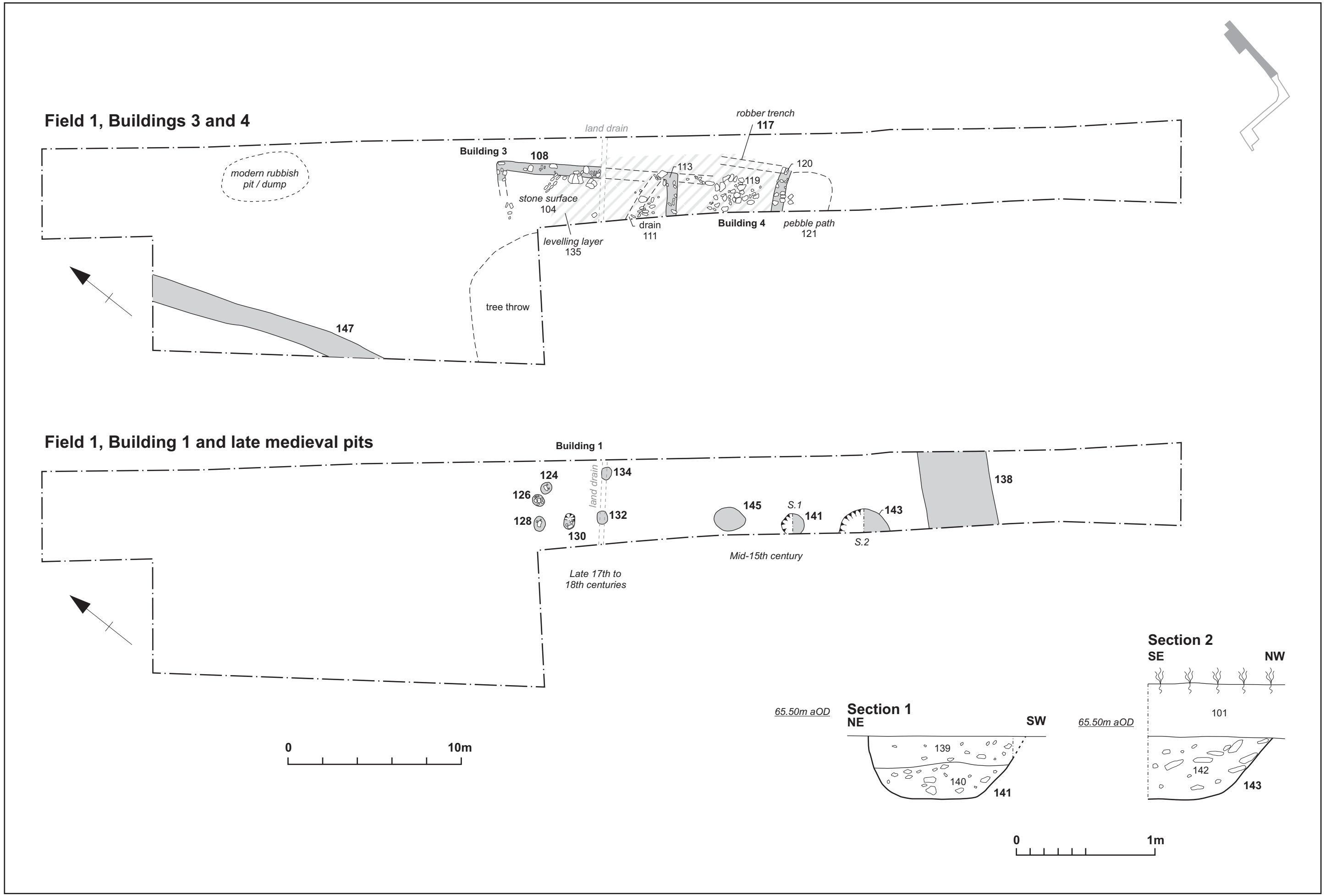
- to identify any archaeological remains that survived within the road corridor and parking areas,
- to provide detailed information regarding the nature, extent, preservation chronology and character of those archaeological remains,
- to interpret any surviving archaeology within the context of the village of Rockingham,
- to provide mitigation of any archaeological remains through rapid hand excavation and preservation by record.

The recording action was carried out within the parameters suggested by the published research priorities set out for the East Midlands (EH 1997; Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2012). The work sought to contribute to the understanding of the detailed pattern and evolution of rural settlements, and the understanding of the landscape of castles and their dependant settlements.



Scale 1:1000 (A4)

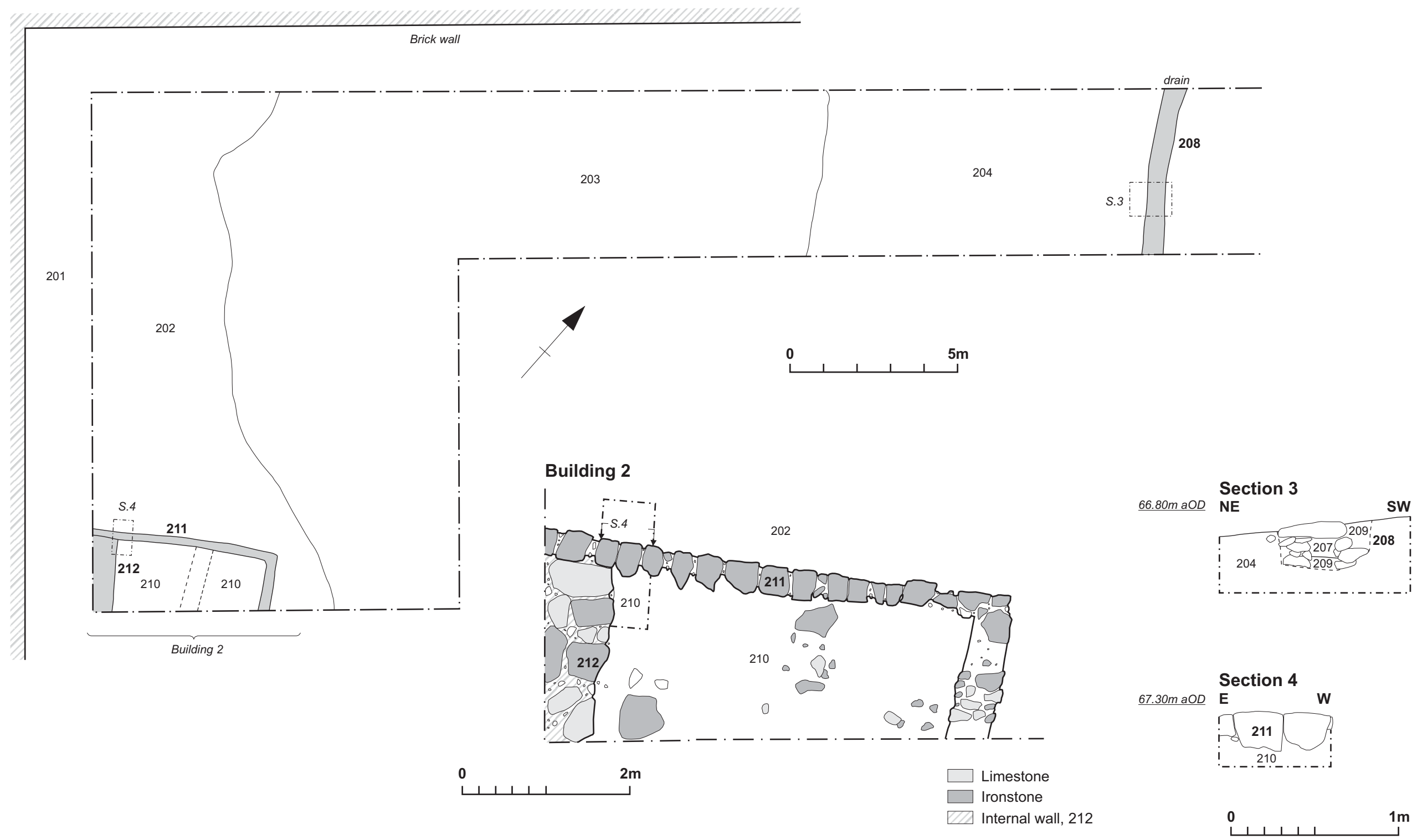
Location of principal features Fig 2



Scales, Plans 1:200, Sections 1:25 (A3)

Features and buildings in Field 1 Fig 3

Field 2, Building 2



Scales, Plans 1:125 and 1:50, Sections 1:25 (A3)

Features and buildings in Field 2 Fig 4

4 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was undertaken to monitor the deposits encountered during the mechanical removal of topsoil and subsoil for an access road and associated parking areas (Fig 2). The new access road was cut to link The Cottons with the rear of properties in two paddocks on the east side of Main Street. The route was 130m in length and 5m wide, excavation proceeded to a depth of 0.40-0.50m. Parking areas located at the north and south ends of the road measured 22m by 6m and 10m by 10m respectively. The topsoil and subsoil were utilised in the landscaping along the edges of the new road and infilling any hollows surrounding it.

Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures as described in the fieldwork manual (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. A photographic record comprising 35mm black and white film supplemented with digital images was maintained. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. A metal detector was utilised to maximise the recovery of artefacts.

5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

As a distinction between fields, context numbers in the north paddock (Field 1) are in the 100s and those in the southern paddock (Field 2) are in the 200s (Fig 2).

The natural substrate was mid yellowish orange-brown silty clay with ironstone and gravel inclusions and was observed across the whole development. Ridge and furrow earthworks were observed in the paddock to the north and lay to the east of the development but did not extend into the stripped area.

At the northern end of the site, Field 1, overlying the natural substrate, was mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil, 102, with gravel and occasional charcoal flecks that was 0.20m thick. The subsoil was not present in the southern paddock. Dark brown-black cultivated silty clay loam topsoil, 101, lay at the surface and was 0.30m-0.40m thick.

In the southern part of the development, Field 2, a levelling deposit, 204, consisted of mid-greyish-brown silty clay above the natural substrate and stretched approximately 40m into the excavation area forming a spread, 0.30m thick. The spread was overlain by layer 203, which consisted of mid-orangey-brown silty clay, up to 0.20m thick. Above this dark brown silt clay, 202, had accumulated in a layer 0.15-0.20m thick and mounded up against the boundary wall. This latest deposit contained three sherds of residual late Saxon pottery amongst more recently dumped materials (none retained). Dark brown-black silty clay loam, 201, lay at the surface and was up to 0.28m thick.

5.1 Possible late medieval features

A stone drain

A stone drain, 208, consisted of two rows of limestone slabs, set 0.15m apart, and with larger flat limestone slabs laid across the top to cap it (Fig 4, Section 3; Fig 5). The drain was aligned north to south through the road corridor and had fully silted up with dark greyish-brown and black silty clay. The fill produced two sherds of 13th-century Lyveden/Stanion B ware pottery which may be residual, washed in from elsewhere. Drains of this type occur well into the 19th century in Northamptonshire.



Stone drain 208, looking north-east Fig 5

Mid-15th-century pits

Towards the north end of the road were two pits and a group of postholes, overlain by a later levelling layer and stone buildings (Fig 3). Pit 141 was circular, 1.00m in diameter and 0.46m deep (Fig 3, Section 1). Pit 145 was 1.80m long by 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep. The sides of both pits were fairly steep, sloping at 50-60°, with a rapid break of slope to a flattish base. Both pits were filled with mid greyish-brown silty clay that produced fragments of medieval glazed roof tile. Pit 141 also produced pottery of mid-15th century date.

5.2 Late 17th to 18th-century features

Field 1, Building 1

A group of six postholes lay in a roughly square configuration (Fig 3). Furthest north, a row of three postholes, 124, 126 and 128, were aligned roughly east to west with a distance of 0.30-0.50m between them. A further two postholes, 130 and 132, lay next to these, perhaps on the opposite axis and were c1.0m apart. The sixth posthole, 134, lay 1.8m to the south-east. All of the postholes were sub-circular and 0.62-0.90m in diameter by 0.08-0.15m deep. The upper edges of the postholes were slightly broken and ragged, where the timber upright had been removed, whilst lower down the sides were near vertical with a flat base. The fills were of mid dark greyish-brown silty clay with large packing stones that had collapsed into their fills. Although residual 13th-century Lyveden/Stanion B ware was recovered from one of these, the latest pottery in the

group was of the late 17th century; Bourne D ware and Manganese mottled ware. The two southern postholes, 132 and 134, were disturbed by a modern land drain.

Overlying the southern three postholes and one of the late medieval pits was a levelling layer, 135/6, consisting of mid greyish-brown silty clay with a slight hint of olive green, which was 0.10-0.15m thick, which contained pebble gravel, small ironstone fragments and further sherds of late 17th-century pottery Manganese mottled ware, together with animal bone and oyster shell.

The sequence of deposits indicated that a small timber-frame structure, possibly a building, had been demolished. The timbers had been removed and the ground levelled out. The ground was then subsequently built upon in the 18th century.

Field 2, Building 2

The corner of a stone structure was located in the southern corner of the parking area in Field 2 and had not been identified by the desk-based assessment (Figs 2, 4 and 6; Brown 2011). The building wall, 211, was largely constructed with roughly hewn blocks of ironstone 250-380mm long by 230-270mm wide and 240-270mm deep, occasionally interspersed with smaller pieces of limestone. The wall was a single course thick and only one course remained (Fig 4, Section 4). The walls that were exposed comprised the north-east corner of the building, which were 5.5m long and 1.2m long respectively. No evidence of mortar was present on the stones. A small amount of rubble was present on the inside of the building but it appears most of the stone had been robbed out. The external face of the walls appear to have been faced, although the interior was much rougher. The building was perhaps likely to have been an ancillary structure.

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from within the building, from below layer 210, and predate the stone surface, 212. One of these was clearly residual late Saxon Stamford ware; the other was a 13th-century sherd of Lyveden/Stanion B ware. Layer 210 comprised firm mid orange-brown silty clay and was similar to subsoil, and probably predates the building. Overlying this material were the remains of a stone flagged surface, 212, although this had been largely robbed away (Fig 4). The flagstones were a mixture of flat pieces of ferruginous sandstone and limestone cut to a roughly similar size: 200-450mm long by 200-350mm wide and 100-200mm thick. The flagstones are not dated, but it is reasonable to suggest that the demise of the building predated the estate map of 1806.

A disused boundary

Ditch 138 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 4.0m wide by 1.2m deep (Fig 3). The upper edges of the ditch had eroded slightly, although the sides were fairly steep, sloping at 45-50° into a flattish base. The bottom of the ditch contained mid greyish-brown clay silt merging towards darker greyish-brown silty clay at the surface. Orange mottling was present throughout together with frequent charcoal, limestone fragments and sub-rounded gravel pebbles. The fill produced sherds of English stoneware which was in use from the late 17th to 18th centuries, together with animal bone and brick. The ditch was on a similar alignment to the property boundaries in Main Street.

Pit 143

An oval pit was 2.95m long by 1.40m wide and 0.47m deep, which had steep sloping sides and a flat base (Figs 2-3, Section 2). The fill comprised friable dark brownish-grey silty clay loam with limestone fragments and pebbles, Staffordshire slipware, Creamware and Iron-glazed coarsewares dating it to the mid-18th century.



Building 2, looking south-west Fig 6

5.3 Late 18th to 19th-century buildings

Field 1, Building 3

The building seems likely to have been a small outhouse, with little permanency or investment into its construction. The north-east side of the building survived within the road corridor, although most of the stones from the walls had been robbed away (Figs 3 & 7). The building was 10.4m long by over 3.5m wide with unmortared sandstone walls, 108 and 113, comprising two courses that were 0.6m thick. The walls were not faced or rendered. The stone of which it comprised was generally fragmentary and composed of blocks less than 340mm by 220mm by 160mm in size. The floor, 104, comprised a roughly cobbled surface of mixed limestone and sandstone fragments and pebbles compacted into the soil below. The addition of two narrow stone drains within the floor, forming part of its intended surface and aligned east to west, lend further weight to the ancillary nature of the building which may well have been used as a wash house.

Field 1, Building 4

Two further fragments of wall, 117 and 120, extended south from Building 3, the former having been largely robbed of stone (Fig 3). Where it still survived the wall was constructed with unmortared sandstone roughly hewn and shaped into blocks, up to 360mm long by 250mm wide by 180mm thick. The remaining wall was one course, 0.4m thick. The walls comprised the edge of a building, 6.3m long and 2.3m wide, but its full extent was not exposed within the area strip. The floor was compact mid greyish-brown silty clay, 119, with frequent stone, gravel and charcoal flecks. This compact surface also extended outside the building on its south-east side, indicating a possible surface of the same material that had been built upon. There was little to indicate how the structure maintained its stability and it seems to have been a lean-to extension on the southern side of Building 3, perhaps to provide storage.



Building 3, looking north-west Fig 7

Rubble was strewn across the interior of both buildings forming a demolition layer, 114 (Building 3) and 119 (Building 4), comprising dark greyish-brown silty clay loam and sand mixed with stone, up to 0.14m thick. Above this were modern subsoil and topsoil layers.

5.4 A late 19th to 20th-century boundary

A boundary ditch, 147, in the north-west of the site was aligned north to south and was 2.5-3.0m wide (Fig 3). The ditch was not excavated as the dark greyish-brown silty clay loam fill contained late 19th-century pottery, glass and animal bone. The ditch lay parallel to the existing fence boundary and is probably the former enclosure ditch before its recent realignment.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 136 sherds with a total weight of 2,219g. The pottery was recorded using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series (CTS), as follows:

- F205: Stamford ware, AD850-1250, 3 sherds, 9g
- F209: Oolitic ware, AD975-1350, 1 sherd, 6g
- F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' ware, AD1225-1400, 5 sherds, 168g
- F365: Late medieval reduced ware, AD1400-1550, 1 sherd, 41g
- F401: Late medieval oxidized ware, AD1450-1550, 2 sherds, 75g
- F404: Cistercian ware, AD1470-1600, 1 sherd, 6g
- F407: Red earthenwares, AD1450-1600, 7 sherds, 76g
- F409: Staffordshire slipwares, AD1680-1750, 16 sherds, 218g
- F410: Tin-glazed earthenware, 17th-18th century, 1 sherd, 3g
- F412: Chinese export porcelain, 18th-19th century, 3 sherds, 20g
- F413: Manganese mottled ware, AD1680-1750, 32 sherds, 558g
- F415: Creamware, 1740-1850, 10 sherds, 71g
- F418: Pearlware, 1760-1850, 1 sherd, 6g
- F426: Iron-glazed coarsewares, c late 17th-18th century, 19 sherds, 707g
- F438: English stoneware, late 17th-18th century, 8 sherds, 88g
- F1000: misc 19th and 20th century wares, 26 sherds, 167g

In addition, the following, which are not included in the Northamptonshire type-series, were also noted:

BD: Bourne 'D' Ware: c1450-1637 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409). Manufactured in the eponymous south Lincolnshire village. Fairly hard, smooth, brick-red fabric, often with a grey core. Some vessels have sparse calcitic inclusions up to 2mm. Full range of late medieval to early post-medieval vessel forms, jugs, pancheons, cisterns etc. Vessels often have a thin, patchy exterior white slip over which a clear glaze was applied. 2 sherds, 7g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All the pottery types are common finds in northern Northamptonshire and indicate that activity at the site started from the Norman Conquest, and continued virtually unbroken until the 19th century.

The medieval assemblage is sparse, but includes glazed bodysherds in Stamford ware, bodysherds and handles of Lyveden/Stanion and Oxidized ware jugs, and a bung-hole from a Reduced ware cistern

The post-medieval assemblage is mainly of mid 17th-18th century date, and includes a range of tablewares such as Staffordshire slipwares, and what appears to be an unusually large proportion of Staffordshire mottled ware, mainly in the form of large dishes and bowls, although the more common mugs were also present. The more common utilitarian Red earthenwares and Iron-glazed earthenwares were perhaps somewhat under-represented, suggesting that the people who inhabited the site were a little wealthier than usual. Fairly large quantities of pottery of this date are redeposited in later contexts.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	F205		F209		F320		F365		F401		BD		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
Context													
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19th century
102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18th century
110	-	-	-	-	1	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	19th century
114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	late 17th century
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	mid 18th century
129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	late 17th century
131	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	late 17th century
136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19th century
137	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18th century
139	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	41	2	75	-	-	mid 15th century
142	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	mid 18th century
202	2	6	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11th century
207	-	-	-	-	2	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
210	1	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
Total	3	9	1	6	5	168	1	41	2	75	2	17	

Table 1: (continued)

Fabric	F404		F407		F410		F409		F413		F412		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
Context													
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	80	9	81	-	-	19th century
102	-	-	1	25	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	-	18th century
110	1	6	5	49	1	3	5	32	9	131	3	20	19th century
114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	46	-	-	late 17th century
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	-	-	-	-	mid 18th century
129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	-	-	late 17th century
131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	late 17th century
136	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	21	6	129	-	-	19th century
137	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	139	-	-	18th century
139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	mid 15th century
142	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	68	-	-	-	-	mid 18th century
202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11th century
207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
Total	1	6	7	76	1	3	16	218	32	558	3	20	

Table 1: (continued)

Fabric	F426		F438		F415		F418		F1000		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
Context											
101	1	115	1	4	-	-	-	-	11	68	19th century
102	-	-	1	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	18th century
110	5	70	4	40	5	32	1	6	12	91	19th century
114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	late 17th century
122	11	428	1	7	4	31	-	-	-	-	mid 18th century
129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	late 17th century
131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	late 17th century
136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	19th century
137	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	18th century
139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	mid 15th century
142	2	94	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	mid 18th century
202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11th century
207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
Total	19	707	8	88	10	71	1	6	26	167	

6.2 The animal bone by Stephanie Vann

An assemblage of 41 bone fragments was recovered from pits and ditches of medieval to post-medieval date, and consisted of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, medium mammal and large mammal elements.

Method

The assemblage was subjected to macroscopic examination. Species identification was undertaken at a context level. Fragments of mammal bone that could not be attributed to a taxonomic group equal or lower than genus were categorised as either 'large mammal' or 'medium mammal'. A summary of the results is presented in Table 2. Fused and unfused elements were recorded. Tooth wear on mandibles was recorded to calculate age where possible amongst the main domestic species (Table 3; Grant 1982). No skeletal elements were complete enough to be measured.

Results

Preservation of the animal bone at this site was moderate to good. Fragmentation and surface abrasion was also moderate with bone exhibiting signs of erosion, weathering and other taphonomic damage in some instances. Fragmentation was the result of both old and fresh breaks. There was evidence of canid gnawing and butchery, but not burning or pathology.

There were 32 identifiable fragments (78%). The species present were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, medium mammal and large mammal. There were no bird or fish remains.

Table 2: Total number of fragments per species per context

Species	110	122	129	135	136	137	142	TOTAL
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovicaprid</i>)	3	3	2	0	0	0	4	12
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Large Mammal	1	2	0	0	1	0	4	8
Medium Mammal	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	7
Total identified	6	10	2	0	2	1	11	32
Unidentified	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	9
TOTAL	6	10	4	1	2	1	17	41

Table 3: Ageing of species by tooth wear

Context	Species	DP4	M1	M2	M3
122	Sheep/Goat	-	k	g	g

Following the York System, the sheep/goat mandible from layer 122 would be classified as adult (stage A3). The fusion stages described by Reitz and Wing (1999) indicate that the total number of fused and unfused skeletal elements for the main domesticates (Table 4) show that no juvenile individuals were present. One late-fusing cattle element was recorded for an animal above 3.5-4 years of age. Another was recorded for a sheep/goat indicating an animal of less than 4-5 years of age (Reitz and Wing, 1999).

Table 4: Fused and unfused skeletal elements for main domesticates

	Early Fusing		Middle Fusing		Late Fusing	
	Unfused	Fused	Unfused	Fused	Unfused	Fused
Cattle	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sheep/Goat	0	2	0	0	1	0
Pig	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	0	5	0	0	1	1

The skeletal elements represent a variety of parts of the body, including the axial skeleton (cranium, scapula and vertebrae), and the fore limbs (humerus, radius, ulna), although there were very few elements of the foot (metapodials but no phalanges or carpals/tarsals) and no lower limbs (femur, tibia, fibula). This distribution pattern, combined with the presence of several cut and chop marks on some elements indicates that this is normal butchery waste. Six elements of ox, sheep/goat, pig and medium mammal show evidence of butchery, being chopped through mid-shaft or broken open to extract the marrow (Binford 1981). The presence of dogs on the site is indicated by two examples of gnawing: one from layer 122 and one from pit 143, both 19th century in date.

Discussion

Whilst it is true that the small size of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any significant conclusions, there is nothing about it that is in any way extraordinary for a domestic assemblage of medieval to post-medieval date. The main domesticates are regularly exploited during this period, as they had been in earlier periods (Maltby 1981). The dominance of such remains within the assemblage from the Rockingham Access Road is therefore not unusual.

6.3 The building material by Pat Chapman***Ceramic roof tile***

There are five roof tile sherds, weighing 747g. Three ridge tile sherds are 15mm thick, green-glazed, and the two have crests. The sherd from layer 136 has an anvil-shaped crest only 20mm high and 25mm from the end (Chapman 2008, 256, fig 25.2). The crest on the tile from layer 114 over Building 3, is only a remnant but probably similar. Both sherds have been stabbed on the underside to facilitate firing. The fabric is similar to Lyveden/Stanion B ware dated 1200-1500, slightly coarse with frequent to dense fine crushed shell with a broad medium grey core and orange-brown surface.

The ridge tile sherd from fill 144 of pit 145 and the flat tile sherd from upper fill 139 of pit 141 are 15mm thick and have been glazed streaky green and yellow, with some copper spotting, over a white slip. The crest on the ridge tile is vestigial. Both tiles are made from fine orange fabric with a thin red or grey core and occasional small gravel and ironstone, a Lyveden/Stanion fabric, dated 1350-1500 (Chapman 2008, 255-57).

Stone roof tile

The roof tile sherd from pit fill 139 is up to 15mm thick and 120mm wide at the surviving edges, suggesting it was originally a rectangle. It is made from a fine-grained limestone with large fossil shell. There is a perforation 8mm in diameter close to one edge. This cannot be closely dated.

There is a tiny fragment of Welsh slate from layer 110 over Building 3, probably 19th century in date, when it became widely available by rail.

Brick

Two handmade brick fragments, weighing 360g, come from fill 142 of pit 143. One piece is 55mm thick (2¼ inches), made from fine dark red clay with black overfired surfaces, possibly for decorative reasons. The other fragment is made from fine pale orange clay with buff streaks and grog inclusions.

6.4 The clay tobacco pipes identifications by Tim Upson-Smith

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage comprised 16 pieces, including a bowl fragment, a spur and stems weighing 45g (Table 5). The presence of these pipes strongly corroborates the early 19th century use of Buildings 3 and 4. They also indicate that the soils overlying the late 17th-century Building 1 (layers 135/6) are of the 18th-19th centuries and that the Buildings 3 and 4 were very short-lived structures.

Table 5: Clay tobacco-pipes

Context	Type	Description	Date
101	Topsoil	Bowl frag & stem	19th century
110	Layer	Stem	17th century
110	Layer	Stem, including a spur	19th century
122	Layer	Stem	19th century
135	Layer	Stem	18th/19th century
136	Layer	Stem	18th/19th century

6.5 Other finds

There are six other finds, all of which are likely to be 19th century in date and were recovered during the cleaning of Buildings 3-4 and the surrounding deposits. There is a small whetstone for sharpening hand tools or knives; a small copper alloy thimble and a pin for use in sewing; two copper alloy buttons and a lead weight. None of the artefacts are remarkable and merely corroborate ancillary domestic activities.

7 DISCUSSION

Much of the medieval pottery that dates from the 13th century and earlier was residual and much of the stone is likely to have been reused. It is known from the 1615 historic map of Rockingham that there were buildings in this area from an early stage and from the *Extensive Urban Survey* that from around 1086 the village became more significant (Foard 2000). Pits were dated to the mid-15th century that indicated some activity to the rear of the street frontage, but it seems likely the area formed part of the adjoining close at this time. Excavated evidence indicates that post-medieval encroachment upon the land began in the late 17th century, immediately to the rear of the backage properties, probably with a small timber frame building but it is not possible to determine whether this was an out house or other structure.

As noted on the 1806 map of Rockingham, a long, thin building is in the excavation area, and is aligned east-west along its longest dimension. The shape and size of this building, along with the internal partition, was thought to indicate this having once been a stable block (Brown 2011a). Subsequent investigation shows that the mapped structures are likely to have been smaller buildings clustered together in close proximity and that those exposed within the road corridor on the north-east side of the mapped group were out houses. The remains of their associated cottages are therefore expected to lie immediately adjacent to the access road. These buildings do not appear on Mansell's 1615 map of Rockingham, but were constructed before the Eagle's map of 1806. The configuration of the buildings had changed by the time Eagle remapped the estate in 1815 and this is the likely time that Buildings 3 and 4 were demolished. By 1886 all trace of the row of cottages had disappeared there existence remembered only in the place name as 'The Cottons'.

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