



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological watching brief at Steepways
Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire
August 2011



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

Jason Clarke

Report 11/171

August 2011



STAFF

Project Manager: Steve Parry MA FSA MifA

Text: Jason Clarke BSc MA AlfA

Fieldwork: Jason Clarke

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Steve Parry		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological Watching brief at Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire, August 2011	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire. The deposits observed were a modern make up layer, probably deposited during the construction of the house extension and overlaid by stone hardcore and paving slabs. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recorded.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Steepways, Church Road, Brackley	
Easting Northing	SP 58992 37365	
Area (sq m/ha)	4.5msq	
Height aOD	120 mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)	
Project Manager	Steve Parry (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	David Salisbury Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11/08/2011	
End date	11/08/2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	NA offices	Site records (1 small archive box)
Paper		
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological Watching brief at Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire, August 2011	
Serial title & volume	11/171	
Author(s)	Jason Clarke	
Page numbers	3 text, 2 figs	
Date	August 2011	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Location and geology	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	1
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	2
4	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	2
5	THE SITE ARCHIVE	2
6	DISCUSSION	2
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3

Figures

Front Cover: Steepways, Church Road, Brackley

Fig 1: Site Location

Fig 2: Area of archaeological inspection

Back Cover: The development area

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT STEEPWAYS, CHURCH ROAD,
BRACKLEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,
AUGUST 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire. The deposits observed were a modern make up layer, probably deposited during the construction of the house extension, overlaid by stone hardcore and paving slabs. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) at Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 58992 37365). The work was commissioned by David Salisbury Conservatories Ltd on behalf of Mr N Easey and was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a conservatory.

The scope of works was outlined in a brief issued by the Environment and Growth Planning Services, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2011) and detailed in the specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011). The objectives of the watching brief were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

Brackley lies approximately 35km to the south-west of Northampton in the county of Northamptonshire. The development area is located at the rear of Steepways, Church Street at an approximate height of 120m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Great Oolite Limestone (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>)

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site is located within the town of Brackley and within an area of archaeological interest. Brackley is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Brachelai*.

Evidence of Late Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon settlement is recorded of this just to the east of the site. South of the site medieval pottery has been collected from unstratified deposits on the northern side of Pebble Lane. North of the site in the area of Egerton Close, the Brackley Extensive Urban Survey has identified medieval and post-medieval tenements.

Further to the south at the southern edge of the present town lies the earthwork remains of Brackley motte and bailey Castle which was constructed shortly after

1086AD. Close to the site is the Parish Church of St Peter which mostly dates from the 13th and 14th centuries.

Up to the present application the site has functioned as an enclosed garden to the rear of Steepways.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

All groundworks were hand dug to remove overburden to the required depth for the development. The area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features if any had been present.

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The maximum depth of the groundworks was 0.70m below the modern ground surface. A depth of 0.60m of mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent limestone and brick inclusions was overlaid by 0.10m of stone hardcore and concrete slabs. The underlying geology was not observed.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief logs	1
Colour slides	10
Black and white contacts and negatives	10
Digital photographs	4

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features within the development area. The underlying geology was not observed during the groundworks. A thick layer of make up material was present, but whilst no dating

evidence was recovered it was probably modern and deposited as a levelling layer for the construction of the house extension and patio.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2001 *Solid geology map, UK South sheet, Scale 1:625,000*, British Geological Survey

IfA 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

NA 2011 *Written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks at Steepways, Church Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2006 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

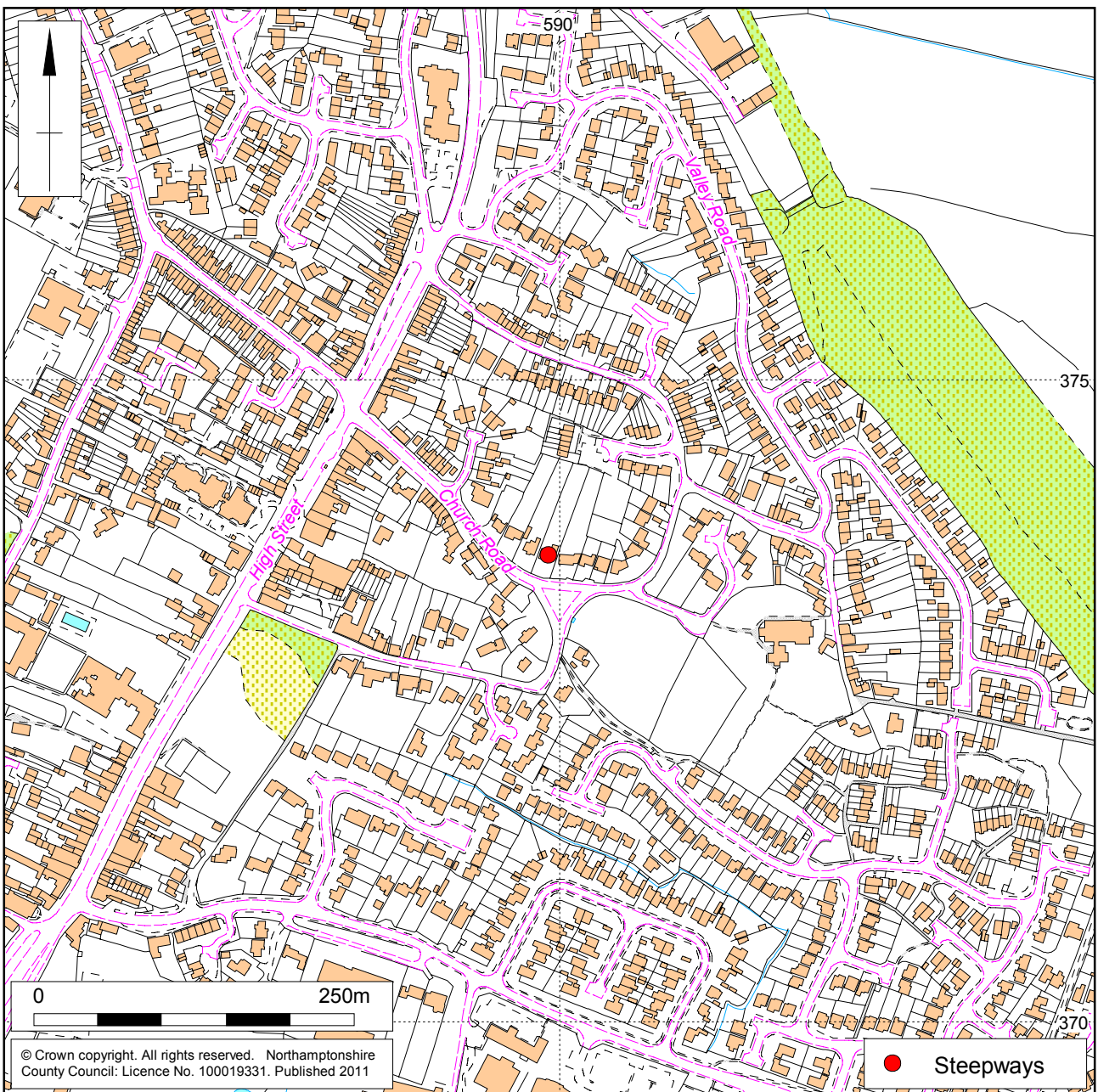
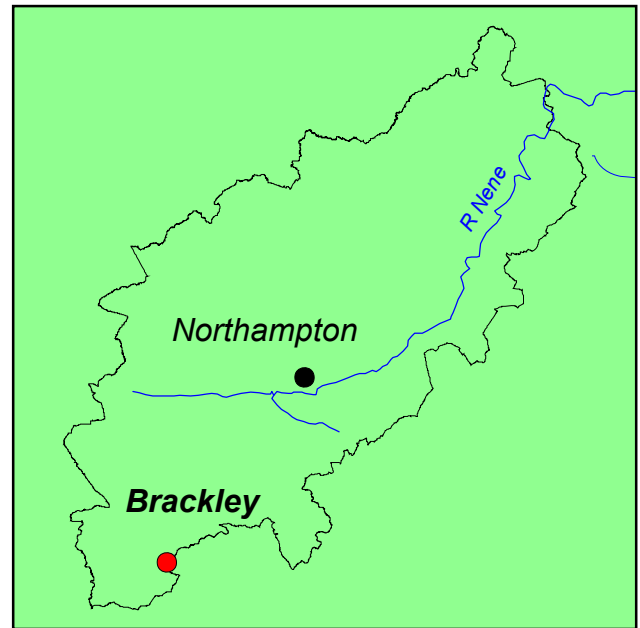
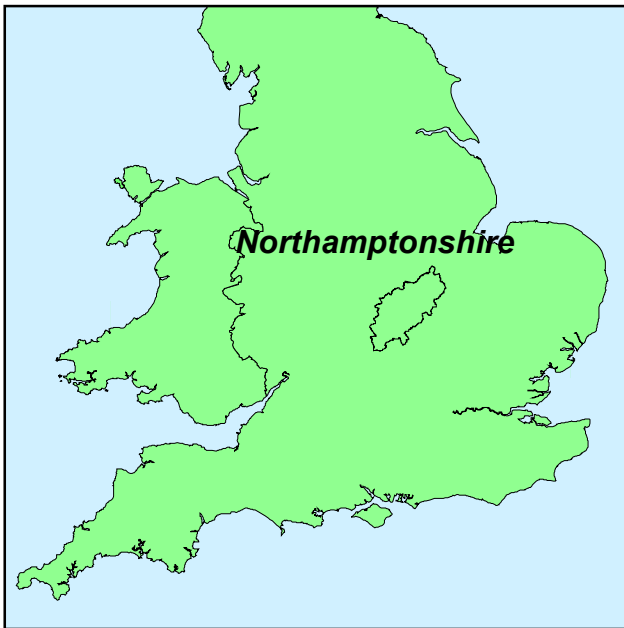
NCC 2011 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks at Steepways, Church Road, Brackley*, Northamptonshire County Council Planning

Websites

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>

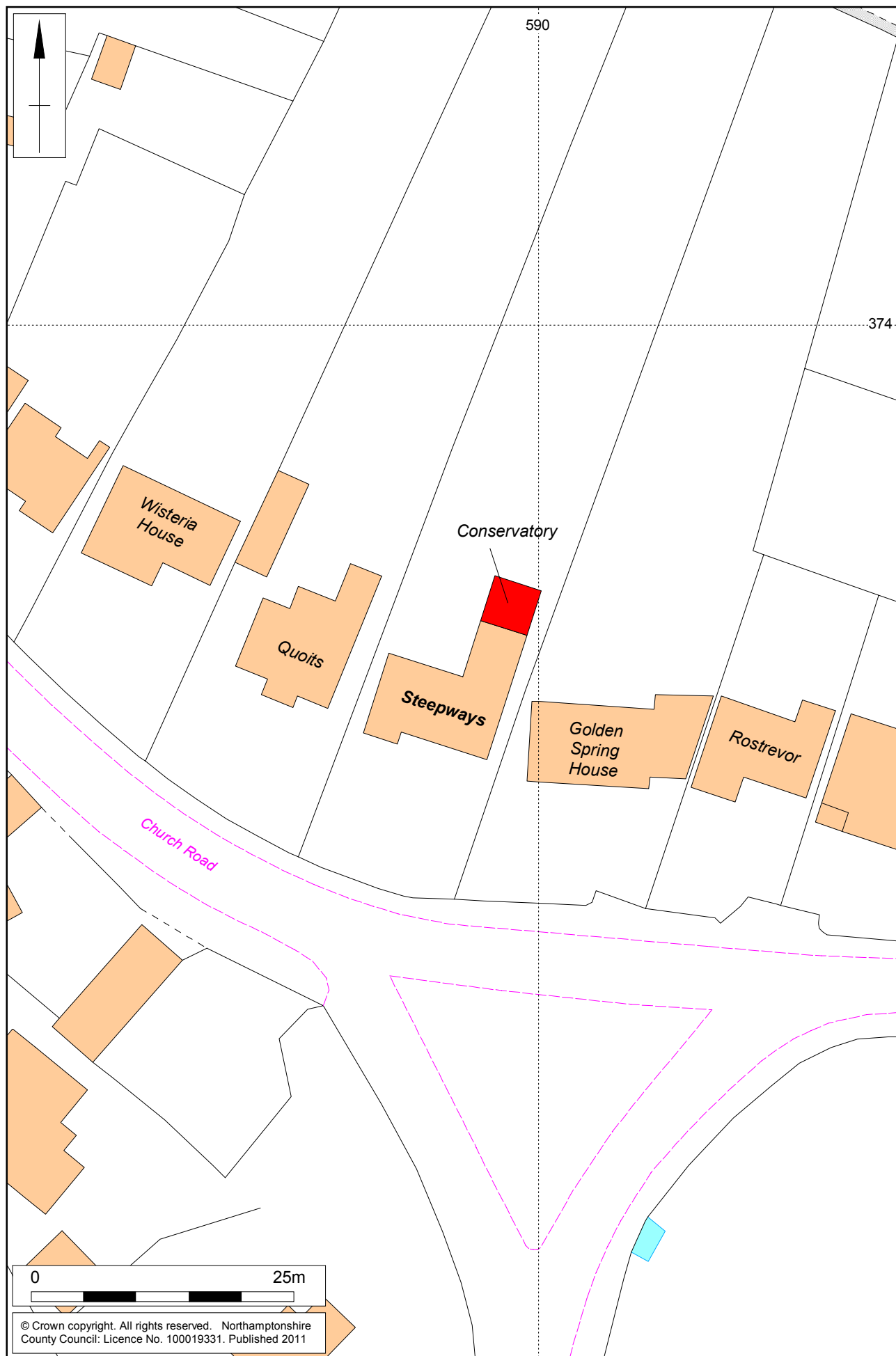
Northamptonshire Archaeology
a service of Northamptonshire County Council

August 2011



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Area of archaeological inspection Fig 2



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

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council