



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological watching brief on land at the rear of
76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire
June 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 11/143

July 2011



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QUALITY CONTROL

| | Print name | Signed | Date |
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OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Project title | Archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire, June 2011 | |
| An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire. The watching brief revealed the remains of an early 20th century subterranean brick chamber with ceramic pipework and a rubbish pit. No significant archaeology was present. | | |
| Project type | Watching brief | |
| Previous work | Desk-Based Assessment | |
| Current land use | Rear garden | |
| Future work | None | |
| Monument type and period | None | |
| Significant finds | None | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | |
| Site address | 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe | |
| Easting Northing | 4827 2609 | |
| Area (sq m/ha) | 143 m ² | |
| Height aOD | 89m | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor | |
| Project Design originator | NA | |
| Director/Supervisor | Anne Foard-Colby | |
| Project Manager | Stephen Parry | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Mr & Mrs Deering | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | 27/06/2011 | |
| End date | 28/06/2011 | |
| 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| BIBLIOGRAPHY | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report) | |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 | Archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire, June 2011 | |
| Serial title & volume | 11/143 | |
| Author(s) | Anne Foard-Colby | |
| Page numbers | 8 | |
| Date | 8th July 2011 | |

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT THE REAR OF
76 STATION ROAD, COGENHOE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JUNE 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire. The evaluation revealed the remains of an early 20th century subterranean brick chamber with ceramic pipework and a rubbish pit. No significant archaeology was present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In June 2011, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at the rear of 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 827 609; Fig 1).

The work was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Deering and was undertaken to fulfil a condition on a planning application for the construction of a single dwelling. The watching brief met the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2011) following a brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA) on 31st March 2011.

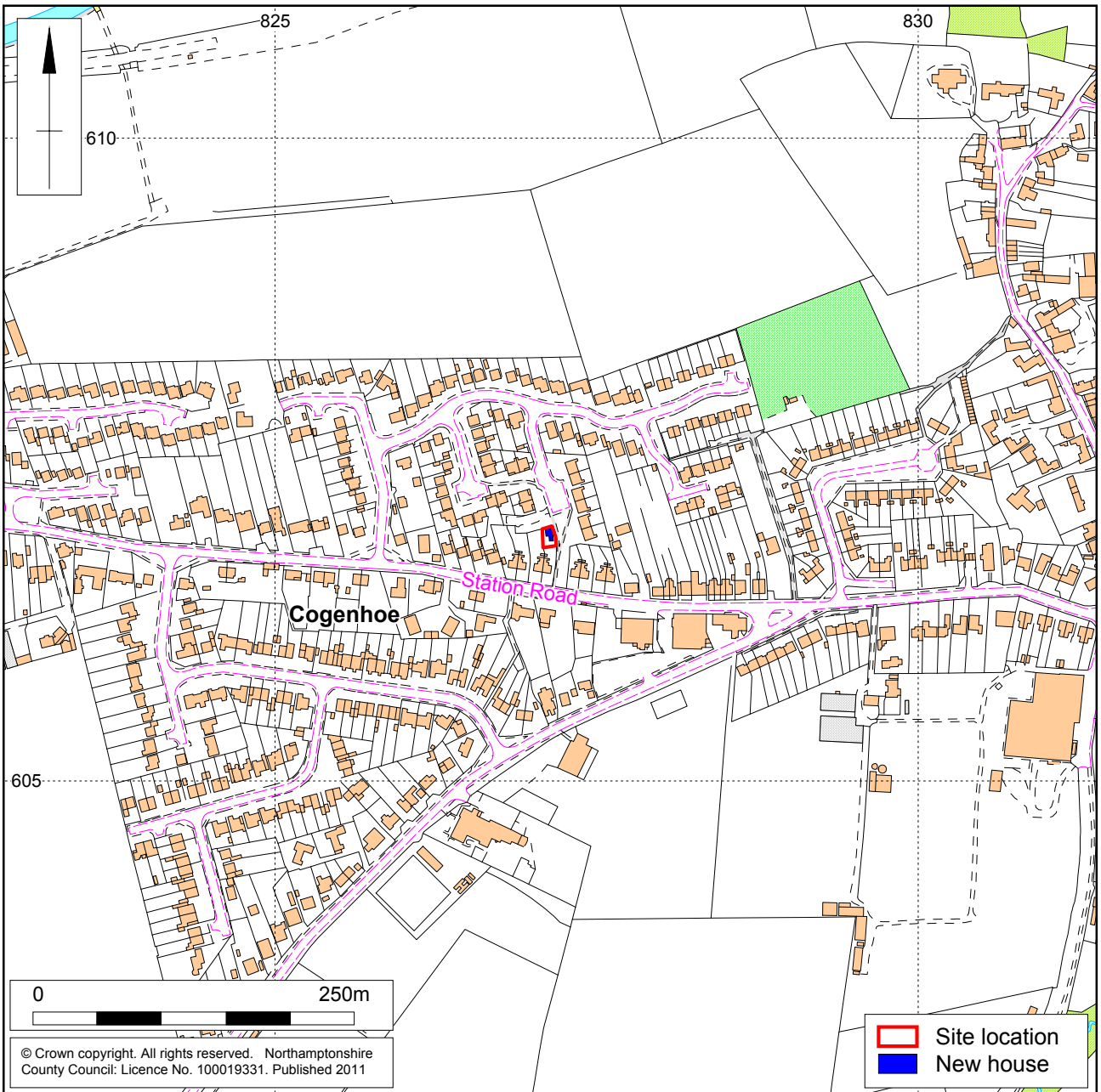
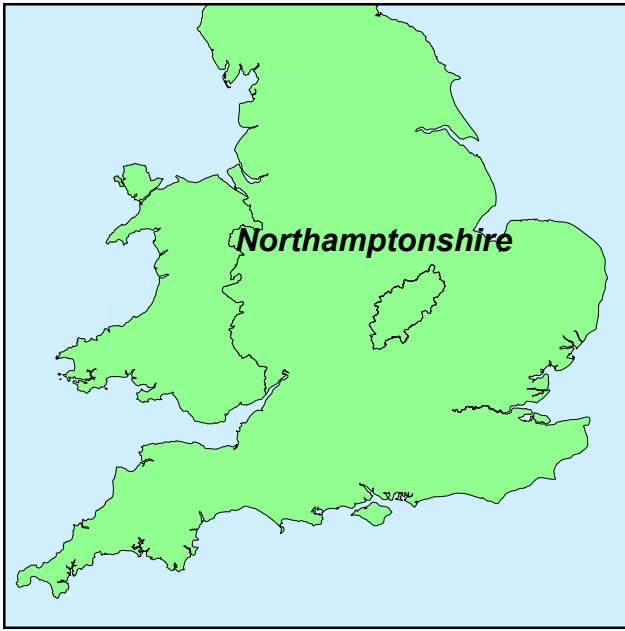
The objectives of the watching brief were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application and characterise any remains.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The village of Cogenhoe lies to the east of Northampton, in the civil parish of Cogenhoe and Whiston. The development site, which covers an area of c45m², is located on the west side of the village, bounded to the north, east and west by modern housing and to the south by Station Road. The land lies at a height of 89m aOD. Beyond the development site the ground slopes down to the north, to the valley of the River Nene. At the time of the watching brief the land was a private garden to number 76 Station Road.

The underlying geology comprises Northamptonshire Sand and Ironstone, with Lower Estuarine series lying to the south (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

No archaeological remains are recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within the development area. However, remains of prehistoric and Roman settlement activity have been identified within the area surrounding the site.

To the south-west of the site, Mesolithic activity (HER 2122 and 2122/0/0) is suggested by recovery of flints. Bronze Age activity is indicated by flints (HER 2123/0/0) which have been found to the north-west of the site.

Iron Age and Roman settlement has been identified 100m to the west (HER 2126/0/1, 2126/0/2 and 2126/1/1) and 110m to the south-east (HER 2126, 2126/1, 2126/1/2) of the site. The activity includes human burials at both of these sites. Approximately 120m to the north-east of the site undated features (HER 6965, 6965/0/1, 6965/0/2) suggest an additional area of settlement.

Further details of the sites can be found in the Desk-Based Assessment (Bassir 2009).

The site has not been subject to previous archaeological intervention.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general 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 objectives of the investigation were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new dwelling and any associated groundworks
- determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits
- create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

4 METHODOLOGY

The footings for the new dwelling were excavated using a 5 ton, 360° tracked mechanical excavator. The width of the external wall footings was 0.70m, and 1.20m to 1.30m deep. The width of the internal wall footing was 0.40m, and 1.00m deep. Topsoil and subsoil were removed to reduce the ground level.

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 and interpretation. A plan at a scale of 1:50 was made of the house foundations and located features (Fig 3).

A photographic record was prepared using 35mm black and white negative film and digital images. Spoil heaps were scanned by eye and metal detector to maximise the recovery of any artefacts.

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

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology changed across the site. At the southern third of the site the natural substrate was very pale to medium orange-brown sandy clay with some inclusions of ironstone (104). On the remaining part of the site, the natural substrate was ironstone with a slight clay element (103). It was encountered at a depth of between 0.40m to the north and 0.80m to the south, below the modern ground surface.

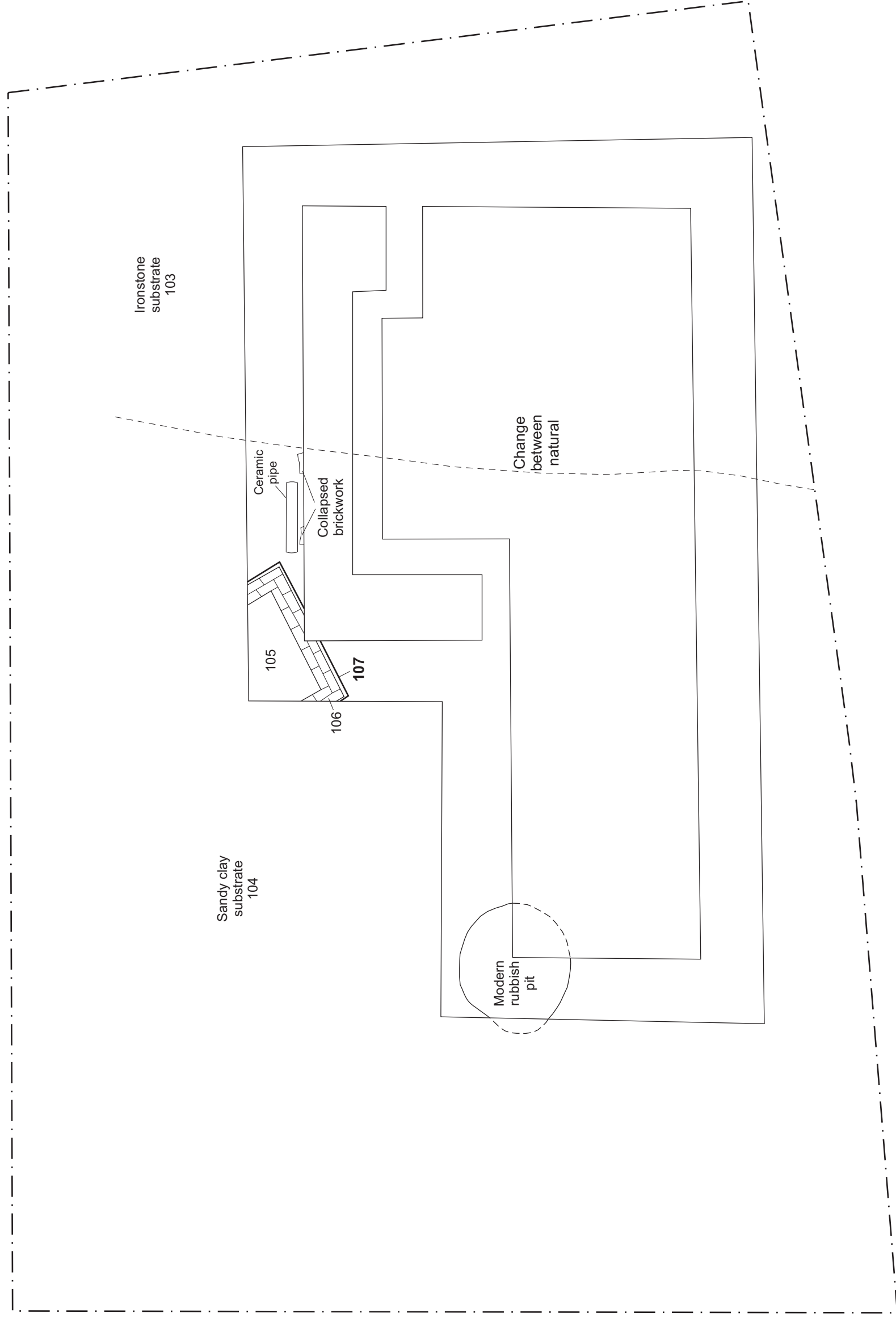
The subsoil (102) was medium to dark orange-brown sandy loam, which was generally 0.40m thick in the south, tapering out at the mid point of the site, due to a natural undulation. The topsoil (101) was friable, dark grey-brown, sandy loam 0.30m to 0.40m thick, being thicker in the south. Both soils contained ironstone fragments and gravel pebbles.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present. However, a brick built subterranean chamber, with associated ceramic pipe work, and a modern rubbish pit were located (Fig 3).



General site view, looking south

Fig 2



5.2 The brick built, subterranean chamber

At the south-west corner of the foundation trench was a double brick thick subterranean chamber. A possibly square-shaped foundation trench [107] cut the natural sand (104), 1.70m wide and at least 0.80m deep. A double brick wall (106) was constructed within the trench and consisted of plain, un-frogged red bricks, laid in English garden bond with lime mortar (Figs 3 and 4). The chamber was filled with a mix of soils, either a result of silting or deliberately backfilled (Fig 4).

Just to the north of the chamber lay a ceramic pipe, and an area of brick collapse (Fig 5). It is likely that the chamber and pipe work represent the remains of a septic or water holding tank with associated pipework and soakaway.



Brick-built, subterranean chamber, looking south-west Fig 4



West side foundation trench, section showing natural sand and ironstone, and collapsed brickwork, looking north-west Fig 5

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief identified the remains of a subterranean brick built chamber (106), a ceramic drainpipe and collapsed brickwork, possibly all part of either a septic tank or water storage tank where the natural slope for drainage has been utilised to the north of the site. The fill (105) within the chamber was a mix of layers which contained rubbish, including a tea cup and electrical light fitting dating to the first quarter of the 20th century (not retained). It is likely the chamber is contemporary with the present house as Ordnance Survey map progression suggests the house was built between 1900 and 1925 (Bassir 2009). A 20th century rubbish pit which contained wall plaster or mortar was also present at the centre of the foundation trench.

There were no other archaeological features or deposits encountered within the site. No finds were recovered from the subsoil or topsoil.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bassir, A 2009 *Desk-based Assessment at 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe*, Northamptonshire Archaeological report **09/97**

IfA 2008 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

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NA 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a g Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication during groundworks on land at 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2011 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at 76 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor

Websites

BGS 2011 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

| Context | Type | Description | Thickness (m) |
|----------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 101 | Layer | Topsoil, dark, grey-brown sandy loam | 0.30-0.40m thick |
| 102 | Layer | Subsoil, mid to dark orange-brown sandy loam with chalk and gravel pebbles | 0.00-0.40m thick |
| 103 | Layer | Natural substrate, mid orange-brown ironstone with a slight clay element | |
| 104 | Layer | Natural substrate, very pale to medium orange-brown sandy clay with some inclusions of ironstone | |
| 105 | Layer | Mixed soil backfilling | 1.25m wide, thicker than 0.80m |
| 106 | Wall | Square or rectangular, red, double thick brick wall, English garden bond, with lime mortar | 1.70m wide |
| 107 | Cut | Vertical sided foundation trench for brick chamber, not bottomed | 1.70m wide |



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