



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**Northamptonshire
County Council**

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Report 11/159

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	In July 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire. The evaluation consisted of a single trench, 5.0m long by 1.0m wide, in the rear garden of 53 Lodge Road. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status	Garden	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	—	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	53, Lodge Road, Little Houghton	
Post code	NN7 1AE	
OS co-ordinates	SP 80470 59415	
Area (sq m/ha)	-	
Height aOD	86m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones (NA)	
Project Manager	Joe Prentice	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Dickens	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	19/07/2011	
End date	19/07/2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	NA store	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 53, Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire, July 2011	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND
TO THE REAR OF 53 LODGE ROAD, LITTLE HOUGHTON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JULY 2011**

Abstract

In July 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land to the rear of 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire. The evaluation consisted of a single trench 5.0m long by 1.0m wide, in the rear garden of 53 Lodge Road. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

In July 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land to the rear of 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 80470 59415; Fig 1). A planning consent (S/2010/0721/FUL) for residential development at 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northamptonshire, had been granted with a condition attached for a programme of archaeological works comprising a watching brief. However, the house was constructed without the required archaeological monitoring.

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor has therefore advised South Northamptonshire Council and Mr Dickins that due to the archaeological potential of the site a programme of archaeological works was still required.

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Dickins to carry out the works.

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation (No.48). The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the brief prepared by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NNC 2011), and the programme of archaeological works in the specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011). The objectives of the evaluation 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.

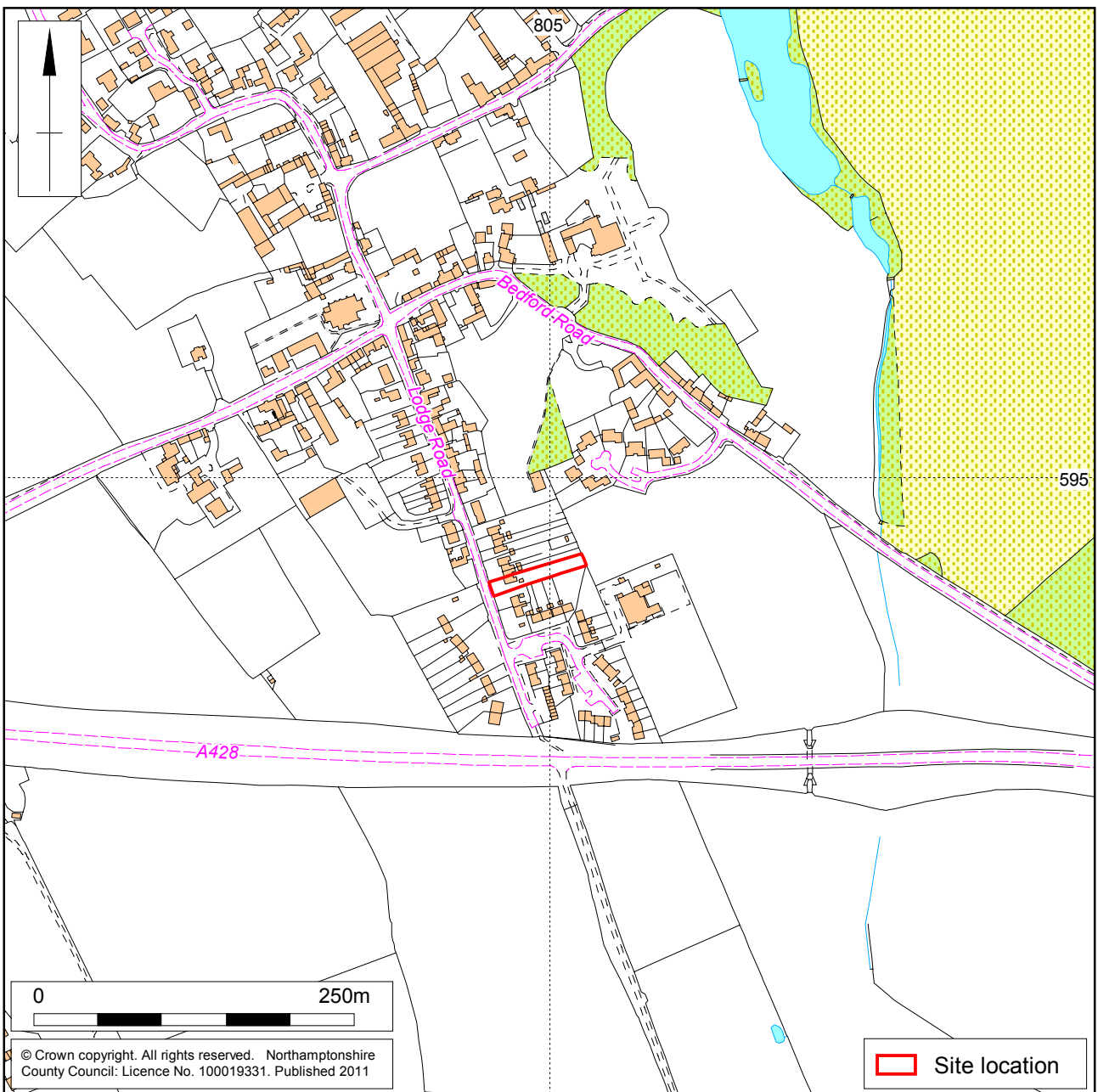
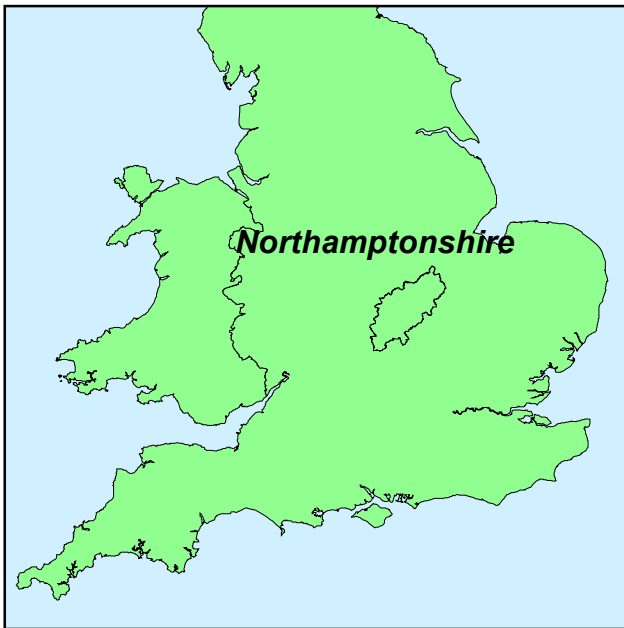
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

An extension had been constructed adjoining 53 Lodge Road, Little Houghton, and within the private garden to the rear of 53 Lodge Road.

Topographically, the site of the house is lower than the rear of the garden, which is fairly level and lies at approx 86m aOD.

The geology maps indicate that the site lies on sandstone and siltstone.



Scale 1:5000 (A4)

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies on the southern edge of the historic core of Little Houghton, identified in the county Historic Environment Record as a shrunken medieval village. Earthworks and finds indicative of medieval occupation have been recorded to the north of the site.

To the north and west of the site is an extensive area of Romano-British activity, identified from archaeological survey, and including a probable pottery production site. A second, smaller focus of Romano-British activity lies to the south.

Several finds of prehistoric flint implements are known from the vicinity of the site, and crop marks of possible prehistoric enclosures have been recorded in the fields to the east.

It was recognised that modern development was likely to have caused disturbance to the site; however there was still the potential for remains of archaeological interest to survive.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

It was the aim of the archaeological fieldwork to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting. The objectives were established in pursuit of national and regional research agendas (EH 1991; 1997; Cooper 2006).

The objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to:

- characterise and record the date, nature and extent of the activity taking into account its level of preservation and assess its potential for further research,
- establish the depth and stratigraphy of deposits and consider these in relation to the previously excavated features surrounding the site, where they may extend within its perimeter,
- Collect all artefacts clearly pre-dating the modern period for further analysis, except where they constitute non-stratified losses of a generic nature such as brick, tile or animal bone from topsoil,
- Consider those deposits that clearly predate modern material for sampling in the light of their potential to provide palaeo-environmental data to fill gaps in existing knowledge and inform on local preservation conditions.

Remains were to be placed in their local, regional and national context, with specific reference to the published evidence (Audouy and Chapman 2009; Boddington 1996). The results of the evaluation were to be referenced to the results of the neighbouring excavations in order to assess fully the significance of the remains within the site.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological trial excavation comprised the excavation of one trial trench, 5.0m long by 1.0m wide (Fig 2).

Surveying and the positioning of trenches was carried out by hand tapes from the known fixed points of the boundaries and structures mapped by the Ordnance survey.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural garden soils were removed under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. Excavation did not truncate archaeological remains. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and deposits.

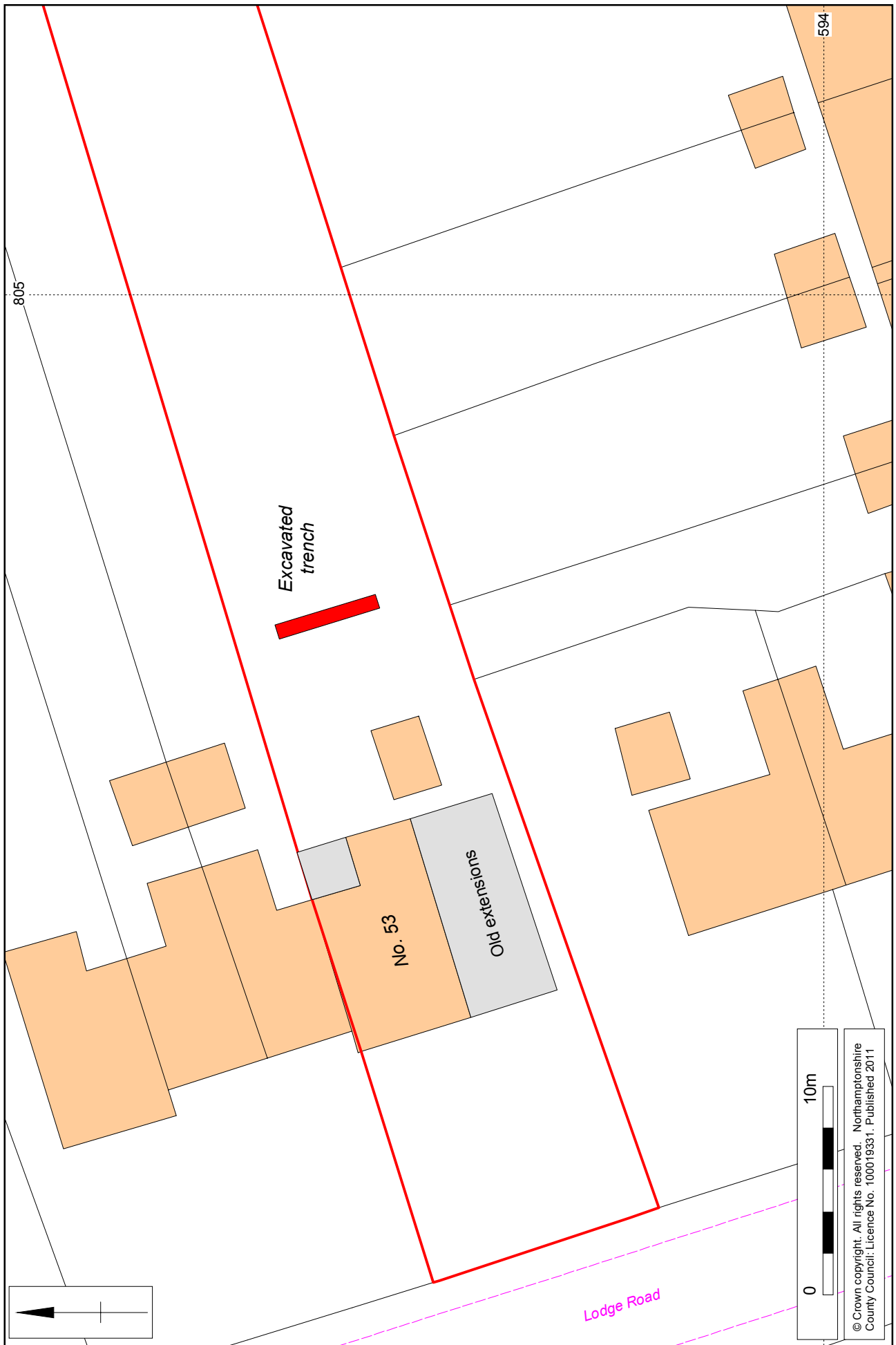
Any features of potential archaeological significance were to be sampled by hand excavation in minimum 1.0m-wide sections to determine their date and character. Smaller features such as pits or postholes were to be subject to a 50% sample excavation. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record.

The trench was planned at a scale of 1:10. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All drawings included levels that were related to Ordnance Datum.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

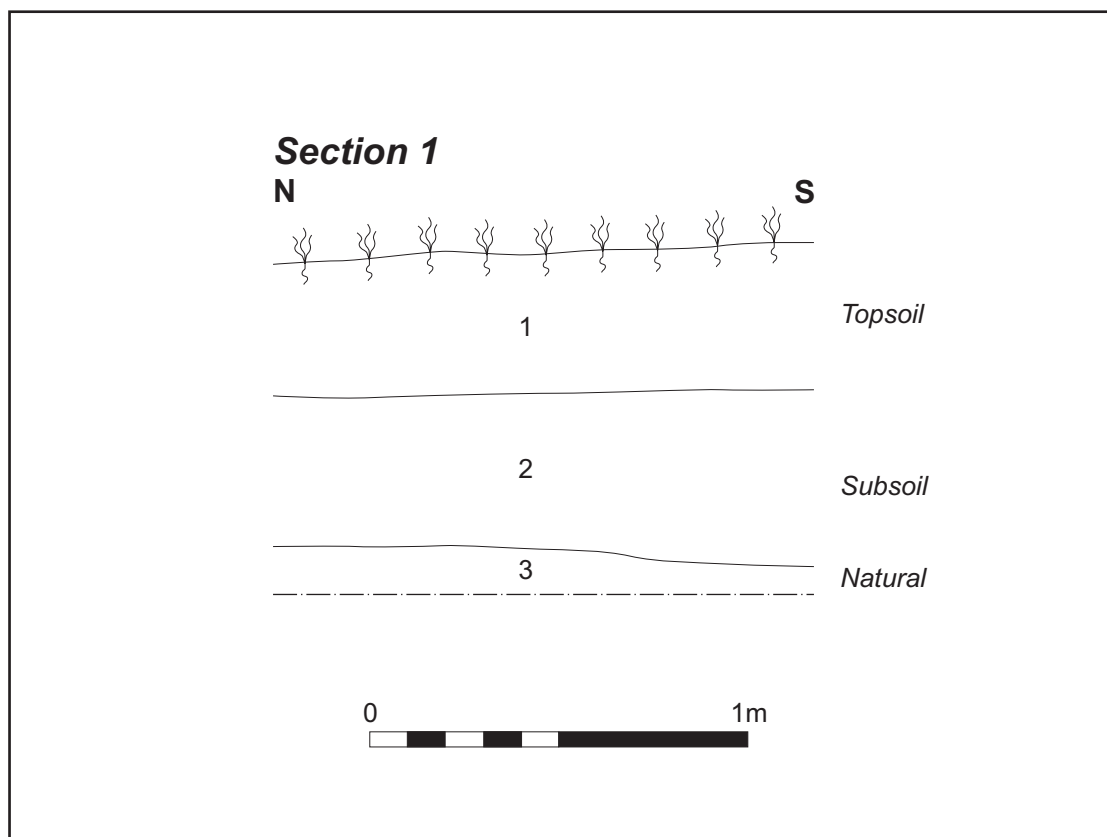
All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire procedures (NA 2006). All archaeological deposits were given individual context numbers and described on *pro-forma* context sheets, to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Digital photographs form the principal photographic record for report purposes, but supplemented with 35mm monochrome negatives, and colour transparencies in the traditional manner.



Scale 1:250 (A4)

Trench location Fig 2



Drawn and photographic record of section Fig 3

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying natural geology was sandstone and siltstone which was encountered between 0.68-0.85m below the modern ground surface (Fig 3, layer 3). The subsoil was mid brown silty sand clay, layer 2, and the topsoil was dark greyish-brown clayey loam layer 1; both soils contained occasional stones and pebbles.

4.2 The archaeological evidence

Trench 1 was 5.0m long by 1.0m wide, aligned north-south. It was located as close as possible to the new build (Fig 2).

The excavated trench was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of any possible features and deposits.

No archaeological features or finds were seen in the trench, with only undisturbed soils down to the natural present.

5 DISCUSSION

The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains in a small area close to the new build.

Because the evaluation consisted of a small trench, only 5.0m long, and the rest of the large garden was not investigated, there is still a potential for archaeological remains being present elsewhere in the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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