



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological trial trench evaluation at  
Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave  
Northamptonshire  
September 2013



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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Report 13/178

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Jim Brown		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS OASIS No: 160008</b>	
Project name	An archaeological trial trench evaluation at Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northamptonshire, September 2013
An archaeological trial trench excavation in the rear garden at Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northamptonshire identified modern garden soils overlying natural clay. There were no features, archaeological or otherwise, and no finds earlier than the second half of the 20th century were unearthed.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Rural garden
Future work	Unknown
Monument type/period	None
Significant finds	None
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave
Study area	475sqm
OS NGR	SP 8067 7239
Height a OD	c108-109m above Ordnance Datum
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisors	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project Managers	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Prakash Naidu, resident
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>	
Start date	18th September 2013
End date	18th September 2013
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location (Accession no) Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology store None
Paper	Trench record sheets, site registers, photographic archive, background documents
Digital	Client PDF report
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report
Title	An archaeological trial trench evaluation at Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northamptonshire, September 2013
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/178
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT  
LANGHOLME, KETTERING ROAD, WALGRAVE  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
SEPTEMBER 2013**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological trial trench excavation in the rear garden at Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northamptonshire identified modern garden soils overlying natural clay. There were no features, archaeological or otherwise, and no finds earlier than the second half of the 20th century were unearthed.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) undertook trial trench excavations at Langholme, Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northamptonshire in mid-September 2013, for the resident householder Mr Prakash Naidu. The proposed development site lies within the rear garden of the property and includes a driveway access onto Kettering Road (Fig 1; NGR SP 8067 7239). No previous work has been undertaken on the site. The possibility of archaeological remains associated with prehistoric activity was anticipated within the site following the discovery of other possible prehistoric remains nearby. Subsequently, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) planning required a programme of trial trench investigation in order to assess the presence or absence, date and preservation of any such remains. No formal brief was issued. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by NA in advance of the work to meet the requirements of NCC planning (Brown 2013). All work was undertaken in compliance with the expectations of NCC planning and was monitored by the County Archaeological Advisors.

**2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Walgrave lies within an area of Roman activity, mostly suspected from finds. One of these areas lies to the north of Kettering Road and may intrude into the site.

The 1086 Domesday survey records Walgrave, appurtenant to the manor of Faxton, as 3 hides and 3 virgates, held by Countess Judith (Salzman 1937, 217-222). In 1242 it was held by Geoffrey de Malesoures, whose family owned the manor until at least 1284. By 1315 this passed to the Walgrave or de Waldegrave family, who retained the manor until 1540, when it was sold to John Lane, the then tenant. Ownership of the manor was then subject to nearly a century of legal disputes, before passing to Sir John Langham of Cottesbrooke in the mid 17th century.

The historic core of the village lies to the west, centred on the medieval church of St Peter. Earthworks to the south and west of the village are thought to mark an area of late medieval expansion (RCHME 1979, fig 131). To the north of the village is a rectangular moat (RCHME 1979, fig 130). The site lies outside the medieval core of Walgrave, and medieval cultivation remains lie to the east and south of the site.

Recent archaeological work in the field immediately north-west of the site identified an undated boundary ditch, predating the medieval furrows, and a possible entranceway (Clarke 2013). Medieval ridge and furrow was aligned north-west to south-east and is expected to extend within the garden at Langholme, Kettering Road.

## 2.1 Historic Environment Record

The Historic Environment Record was consulted for an inventory of all recorded events and monuments within 500m radius of the proposed development site (Fig 1). Table 1 does not include Listed Buildings.

*Table 1: Inventory of Historic Environment Record data*

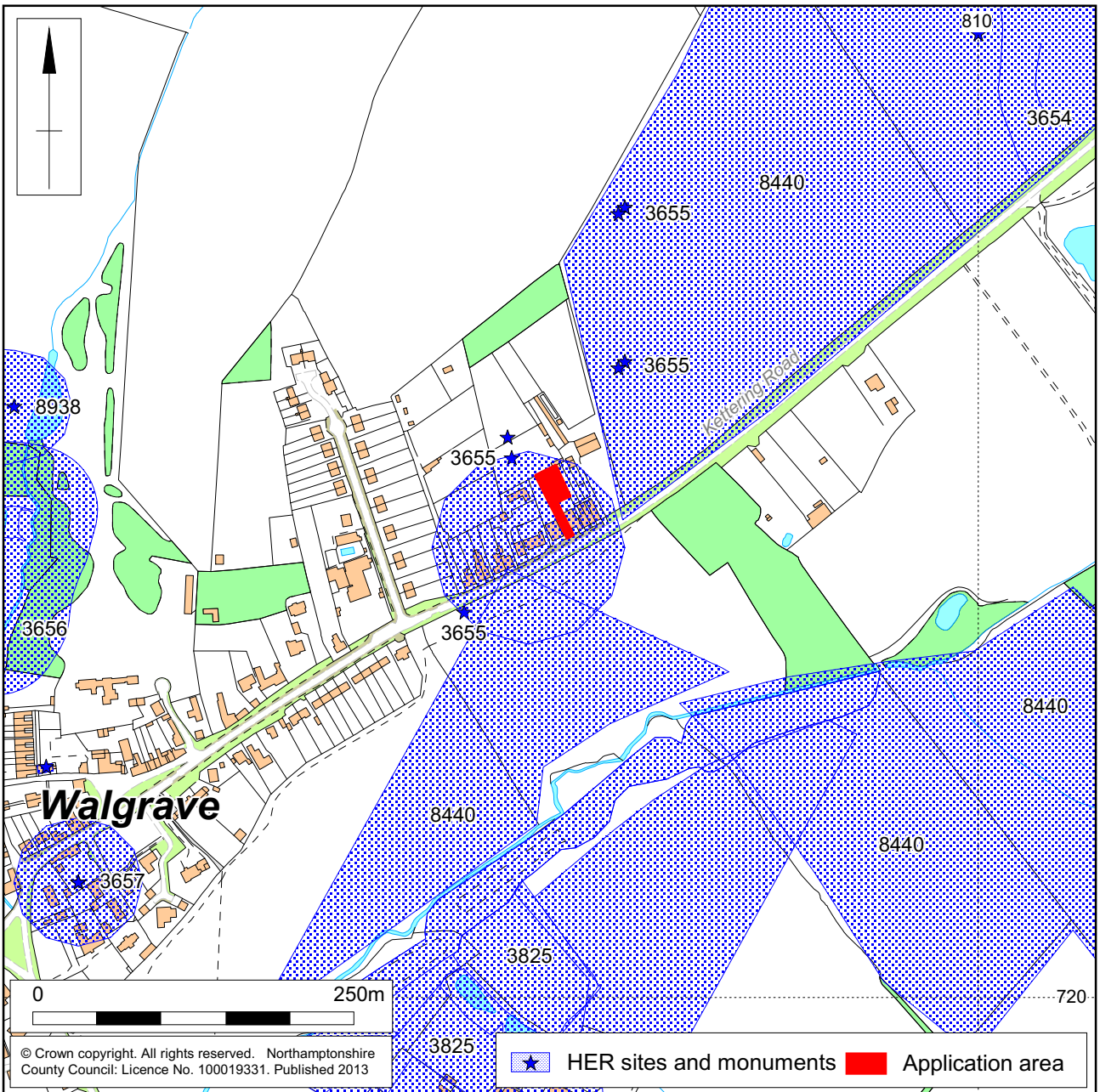
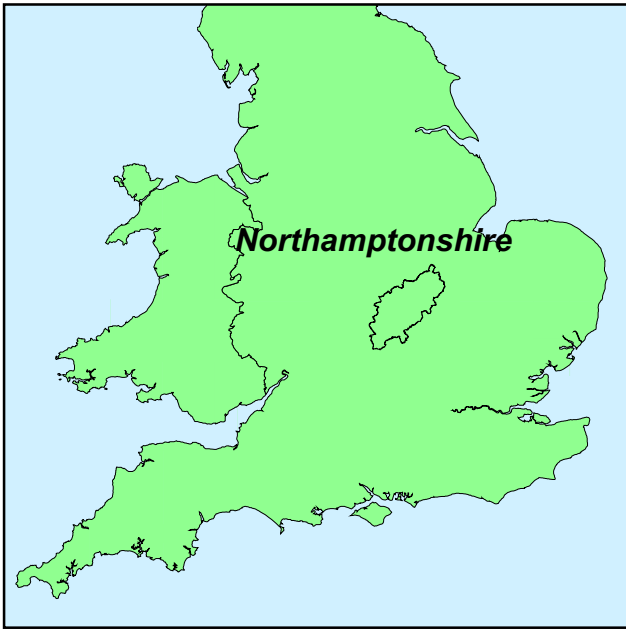
Period	HER Ref.	Event or monument
prehistoric	3655	feature; ditch, possibly part of an enclosure
Roman	3655	finds; pottery, coin, dolphin brooch
	3657	finds; pottery
Saxon	8938	finds; coins
	3656	finds; pottery, 6th-century brooch
medieval	3654	settlement, earthworks & metal detecting
	3656	settlement, shrunken medieval village, Walgrave Church of St Peter, cross and graveyard
		North Hall manor moated site
		fishponds and ditch system
		finds; pottery, thimble
		3825 manor and fishponds
		8440 cultivation remains, Open Fields Project
post-medieval	3656	settlement, post-medieval Walgrave
		Zion Chapel
		North Hall house
		Rubbish dump, 19th century
	3825	Shoemakers workshop, late 19th-20th centuries
	3825	farmhouse and ornamental gardens

The data from the Historic Environment Record suggested that there may be the possibility of prehistoric or Roman finds occurring within the development area.

## 2.2 Topography and geology

The whole village lies upon the south-facing slopes of a tributary valley that feeds Pitsford Reservoir to the south-west. The development area is located on the north-east end of the modern village of Walgrave, along its key axial street. The site comprises a large garden area. The land is bounded to the north-east and south-west by the neighbouring gardens on Kettering Road, and a pasture field lies to north-west behind the rear of the property. The existing residence of Langholme stands on the frontage. A new residence, driveway and service lines are proposed to occupy the rear of the existing garden. The site slopes slightly down towards the road from 109-108m above Ordnance Datum, lying upon a natural terrace that overlooks the stream to the south-east.

The geology of the wider area is mapped as Upper Lias Clay with Oolitic Limestone outcrops forming the ridges along the valley sides (BGS 2001), which was observed within the trenches. The soils are of the Hanslope (411d) association, comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils over chalky till (LAT 1983).



Scale 1:5,000 (A4)

Site location and Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 1

### 3 EXCAVATION STRATEGY

#### 3.1 Objectives

Prior to trial trench evaluation there was insufficient information to establish the extent of surviving archaeological remains or the possible impact of development to be able to discern the need for an appropriate mitigation strategy.

The general purpose was to understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting, specifically:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- recover artefacts to assist in development of the type series within the region;
- and to recover palaeo-environmental remains where they are encountered.

The excavation 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).

#### 3.2 Methodology

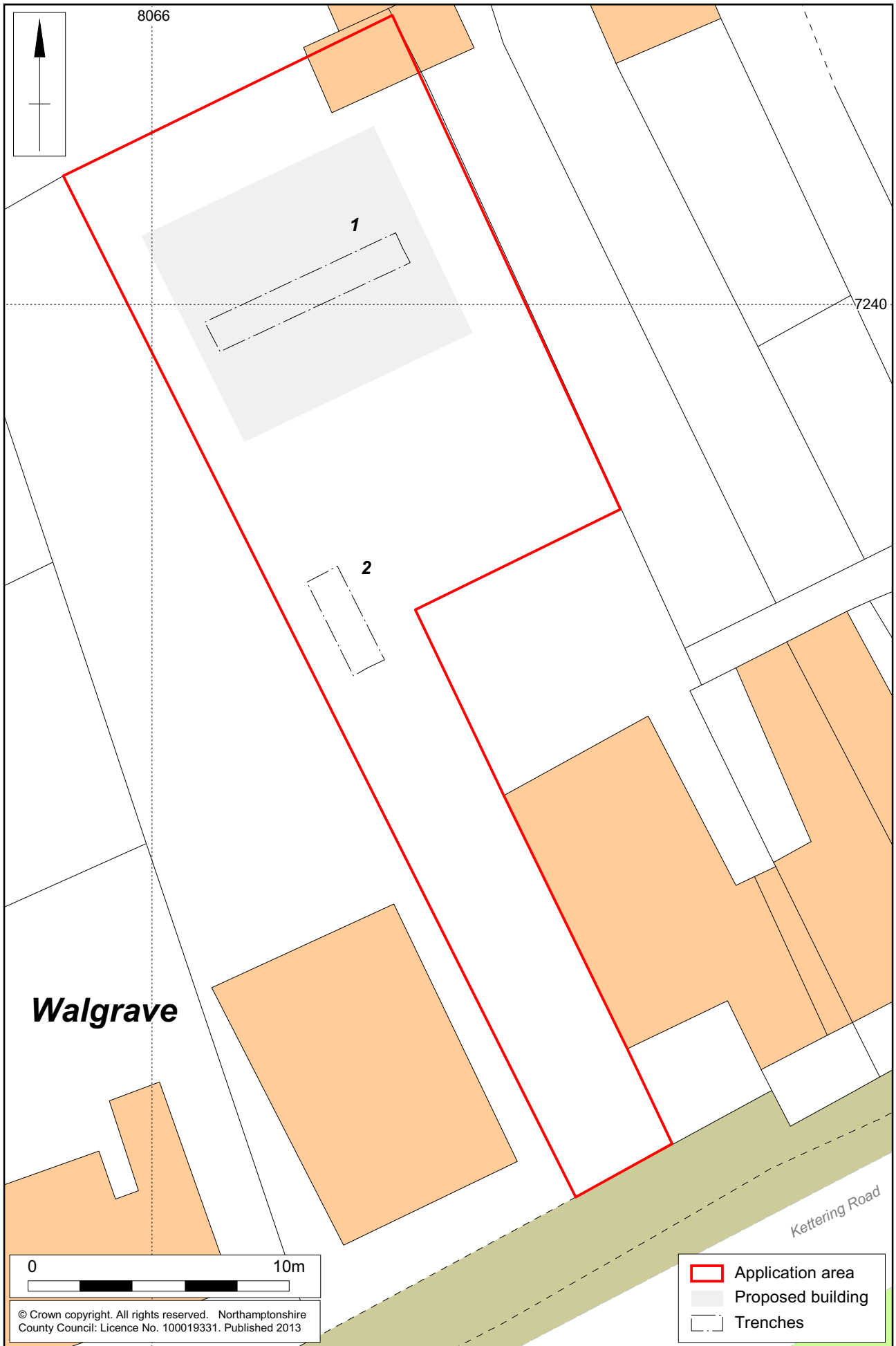
Two trial trenches were excavated, 10m and 5m long by 1.8m wide. The larger trench was placed within the footprint of the proposed building, and the smaller trench within the driveway access, where the impact of development is greatest. These locations were agreed in advance with NCC planning (Brown 2013). The trenches were located so as to avoid principal constraints formed by obstructions and were measured into mapped Ordnance Survey boundaries using hand tapes.

Each trench was grade under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation continued to reveal undisturbed natural horizons, in the absence of an archaeological horizon. Machine excavation removed topsoil and modern garden cultivations soils. Deposits below this were cleaned to identify any possible features. Spoil was scanned by eye and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

Each excavation area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded. The recording followed the standard NA context recording system with context record sheets using unique each deposit, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs in digital, and on 35mm monochrome film (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* record sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Archaeological sections of trenches were drawn at scale 1:10, and all levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were determined for each trench and significant deposit using the recent topographical survey of the site.

Unstratified animal bones and modern artefacts were noted, but not retained. The field data has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing in accordance with best practise (IfA 2008b; MGC 1992; AAF 2007).





Scale 1:250 (A4)

Trench locations Fig 2

#### 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate was light yellowish blue-grey Upper Lias Clay, which contained occasional shattered sub-angular Oolitic Limestone fragments throughout. The surface deposits were distributed above this geological horizon, with no evidence for features cut into the substrate (Figs 3-4). Clear evidence of root disturbance from the apple tree was observed penetrating the natural clay.

Immediately above the substrate was a homogeneous garden soil of late 20th-century origin. The layer was observed in both trenches and comprised dark orange-brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions <6mm in size, small pieces of charcoal <8mm in size, charcoal flecks, russet-brown burnt clay smears and small angular pebbles <15mm in size throughout. Localised areas of the garden soil contained greater concentrations of charcoal coupled with hints of reddish-pink colour tinting the soil, suggesting the presence of small garden bonfires that have been turned over into the soil. The depth of the soil was up to 280mm thick in Trench 1 and 180mm thick in Trench 2. A single sherd of 20th-century undecorated miscellaneous whiteware and a sherd of dark purplish-brown manganese-glazed ceramic foul water pipe were noted but not retained. The owner stated that he had previously used the larger part of the rear garden as a vegetable plot and the lawn had been created some years later (Mr Prakash Naidu, pers comm).



Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 3





Trench 2, looking south-west Fig 4

The topsoil, which has formed over the former vegetable garden, was fairly evenly distributed at 160-180mm thick. The topsoil comprised dark reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional small angular pebbles <8mm in size and charcoal fragments <10mm in size. The topsoil was covered by a well maintained lawn.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The nature of the garden soils and the materials that they contain, both ceramic and charred materials, corroborate that the garden has been used for small scale garden horticulture of the kind associated with a vegetable plot and the disposal of associated garden refuse by periodic bonfires. The remains from these bonfires have been raked into the soil during the latter part of the 20th century.

There is no evidence to suggest that archaeological features may be found within the proposed development footprint. No finds were recovered as residual artefacts amongst the 20th-century garden soils to suggest that such features had been disturbed nearby during construction of the nearby greenhouse or planting of the fruit trees.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology  
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27th September 2013

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>Trench 1 10m x 1.8m NE-SW</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	topsoil	dark reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional small angular pebbles <8mm in size and charcoal fragments <10mm in size	160mm thick	-
102	subsoil	dark orange-brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions <6mm in size, small pieces of charcoal <8mm in size, charcoal flecks, russet-brown burnt clay smears and small angular pebbles <15mm in size	280mm thick	20th-century misc whiteware not retained
103	natural	light yellowish blue-grey Upper Lias Clay, occasional shattered sub-angular Oolitic Limestone fragments	-	-

<b>Trench 2 5m x 1.8m NW-SE</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
201	topsoil	dark reddish-brown sandy loam with occasional small angular pebbles <8mm in size and charcoal fragments <10mm in size	180mm thick	-
202	subsoil	dark orange-brown silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions <6mm in size, small pieces of charcoal <8mm in size, charcoal flecks, russet-brown burnt clay smears and small angular pebbles <15mm in size	180mm thick	20th-century purplish-brown manganese-glazed ceramic pipe sherd not retained
203	natural	light yellowish blue-grey Upper Lias Clay, occasional shattered sub-angular Oolitic Limestone fragments	-	-





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