



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample at The  
Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire  
November 2011 – January 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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David J Leigh

Report 12/78

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### QUALITY CONTROL

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological strip, map and sample at The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a new single storey extension and car-park extension at The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area and a single post-medieval well was recorded. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Archaeological strip, map and sample	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Educational	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Buckinghamshire	
Site address	The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire	
Study area (sq metres)	300m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 82460 13280	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Stephen Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Brocklehurst Associates	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	November 2011	
End date	January 2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location Accession No: 2011.155</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (10) Colour slides (15) black and white contact prints (15) Digital photographs (88)
Digital		Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological strip, map and sample at The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire November 2011 – January 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/78	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	April 2012	

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE  
AT THE GROVE, 41 WALTON ROAD, AYLESBURY,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NOVEMBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between November 2011 and January 2012 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new single storey extension and car-park extension at The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area and a single post-medieval well was recorded. No earlier archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken between November 2011 and January 2012 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new single storey extension and car-park extension at The Grove, 41 Walton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 82460 13280; Figs 1 and 2). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Brocklehurst Associates following a request for an archaeological strip, map and recording exercise by the Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council in an email dated 1 November 2011. It adheres to the national Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5) *Planning for the Historic Environment* (HE12.3) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2011) and following the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

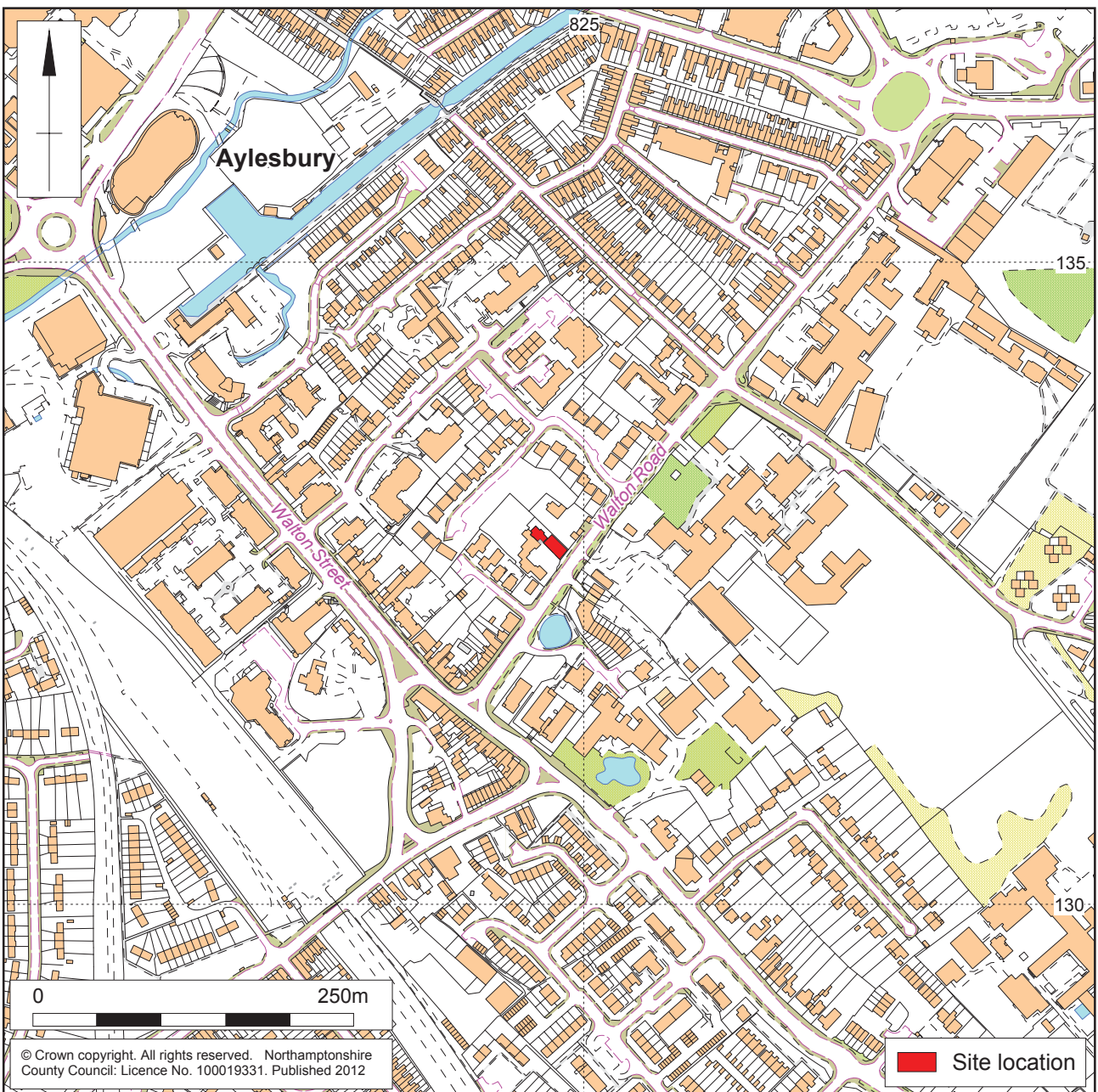
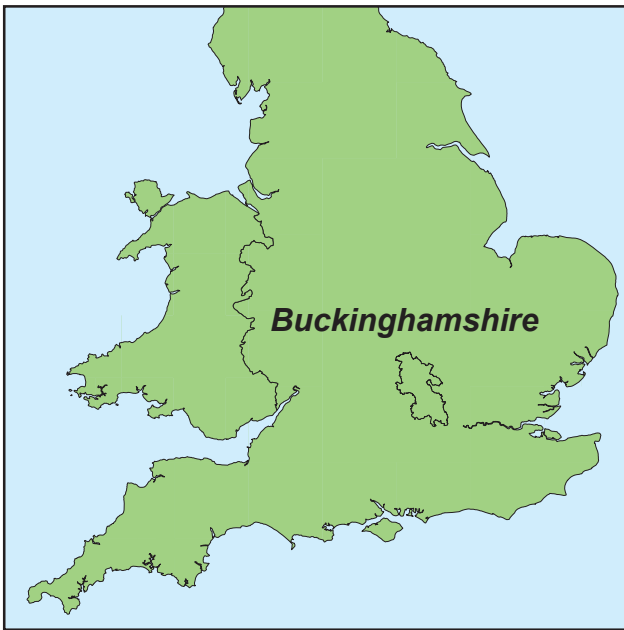
## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The investigation area is located on the south-east side of Aylesbury and fronts directly onto Walton Road. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising West Walton formation, Ampthill Clay formation and Kimmeridge Clay formation (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

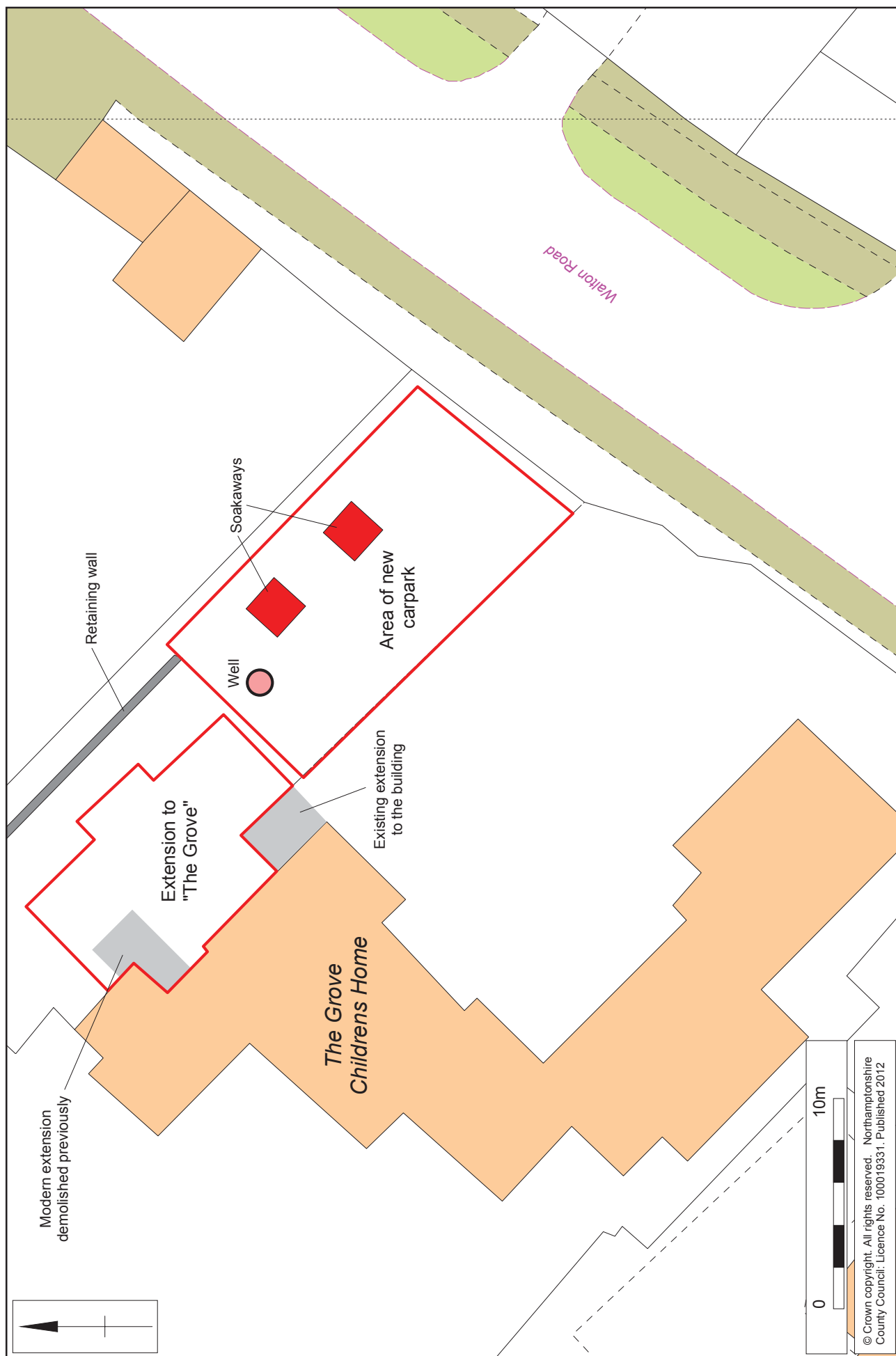
Up to the present development the investigation area has comprised an area of light vegetation and grass which had been mounded up to a maximum height of approximately 0.50m in the northern half of the area (Fig 3).





Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



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Scale 1:250

The investigation area Fig 2

## 2.2 Historical background

The investigation area lies within an area of archaeological interest and within the historic core of Walton, which is known to date from the Saxon period. Walton is characterised as a historically significant zone in the Aylesbury Historic Town Assessment Report. A series of excavations conducted along Walton Road during the late 20th century revealed that Walton had considerably earlier antecedents with Bronze Age and Roman settlement remains revealed during the course of the excavations. Of particular significance were those relating to an Anglo-Saxon hamlet, comprising the foundations of a number of post built structures, buildings and sunken-floored buildings (*Grubenhaus*) dating to the 6th to 8th centuries AD.

By the 10th century the settlement had undergone a reorganisation to form the characteristic plots typical of medieval rural settlement along Walton Street. The archaeological potential of the site was considered to be high as the area has been demonstrated to be one of the earliest areas of Aylesbury containing well preserved remains of regional and national importance dating to the later prehistoric, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods (Alqassar 2011).

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the removal of soils down to the natural substratum within the investigation area and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork was undertaken between November 2011 and January 2012 during groundworks for a new single storey extension and the car-park extension. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).

The groundworks comprised soil reduction down to formation height for the new extension and car-park extension followed by the excavation of two new soak-aways and a retaining wall.





The investigation area at the start of groundworks, looking north-west Fig 3



The stratigraphic sequence in the area of the new extension, looking north-west Fig 4

## 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 The area of the new extension

The area of the new extension was stripped of soils under archaeological supervision down to formation height followed by the excavation of a foundation trench for a new retaining wall (Figs 4 and 5). The natural substratum was encountered approximately 1.4m below present ground level and comprised pale-mid brown fragmented stone. This was cut by pockets of modern disturbance comprising foundations and concrete paving slabs (Fig 6). Sealing this was mid grey-brown silt loam subsoil, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and fragments of modern metallic construction material, up to 1.4m thick. No discernable topsoil-subsoil division could be identified.

### 4.2 The car-park extension

Up to 0.65m of material was removed down to formation level, following which two soak-aways were excavated to a depth of approximately 2m below present ground level. A similar stratigraphic sequence to that recorded in the northern half of the investigation area was found.

On the northern edge of the area of the new car-park a water-filled well (Figs 7 - 8) was exposed. This cut the natural substratum and the shaft measured 0.86m in diameter with a depth in excess of 5.0m. It was constructed of un-worked stone with brick repairs to the upper surface. The bricks measured 23cm long by 11cm wide and 7cm thick, traces of limestone mortar were noted on two of the bricks. No further recording could be made of the well due to instability of the structure. Following the agreement of the Archaeological Officer the well was backfilled with concrete.



The retaining wall foundation trench Fig 5





Modern material in the northern half of the investigation area Fig 6



The post-medieval well Fig 7





The interior of the well Fig 8

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	10
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	15
Digital photographs	88

The project archive will be consolidated and deposited with Buckinghamshire Museums under the Accession No:2011;155

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The stratigraphic sequence clearly identified relatively recent disturbance throughout the area of investigation. A single well of probable post-medieval date was recorded. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the investigation. The absence of any artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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