



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological work at
The Grange, South Luffenham,
Rutland,
October 2010 – May 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/141
October 2012



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Project name | The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland | |
| Short description | A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Richard Gennard acting for his client Mr P Ross during renovation works at The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland. The works comprised a general photographic survey of the building followed by a programme of archaeological observation during renovation works. Modern disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area. A single un-dated well was recorded which had been visible on the exterior of the building prior to the start of renovation work. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. | |
| Project type | Photographic survey and watching brief | |
| Site status | Grade II Listed Building | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current land use | Private dwelling | |
| Future work | None | |
| Monument type/ period | None | |
| Significant finds | None | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Rutland | |
| Site address | The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland | |
| Study area (metres) | 1600m ² | |
| OS Easting & Northing | SK 9397 0196 | |
| Height OD | c53m aOD | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | The Principle Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council | |
| Project Design originator | David J Leigh, Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Director/Supervisor | David J Leigh | |
| Project Manager | Stephen Parry, Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Mr Richard Gennard on behalf of Mr P Ross | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | October 2010 | |
| End date | June 2011 | |
| ARCHIVES | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | | None |
| Paper | Northamptonshire Archaeology | Watching brief forms (12) Colour slides (134) black and white contact prints (144) Digital photographs (116) |
| Digital | NA | Report text and figures |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| | Journal/monograph published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report) | |
| Title | A programme of archaeological work at The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland | |
| Serial title and volume | Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/140 | |
| Authors | David J Leigh | |
| Date | September 2012 | |

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT
THE GRANGE, SOUTH LUFFENHAM,
RUTLAND
OCTOBER 2010 – JUNE 2011**

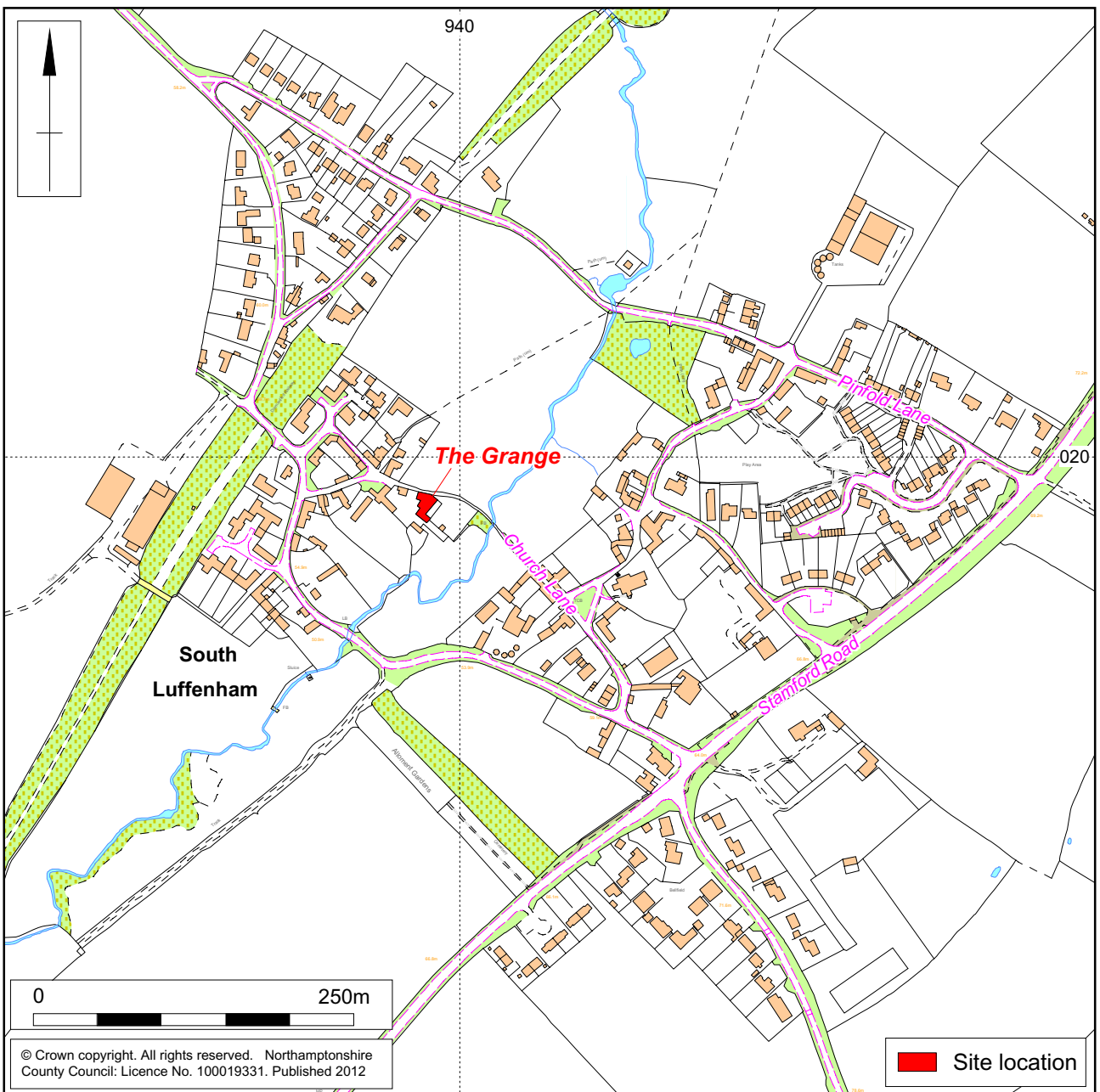
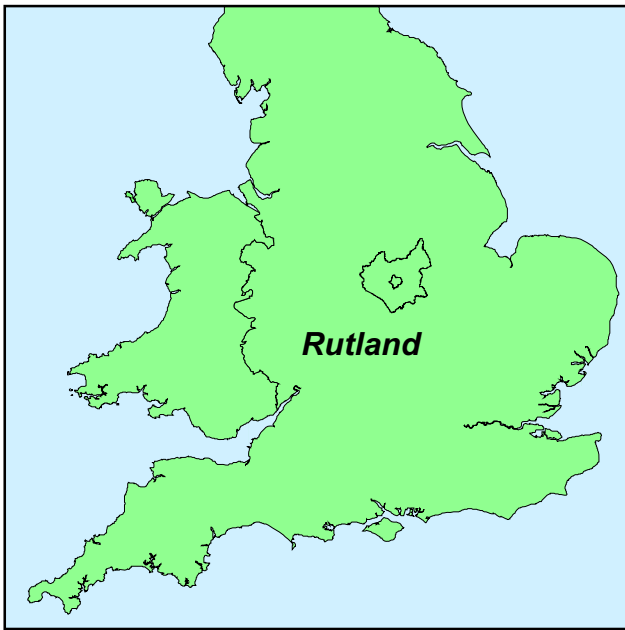
Abstract

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October 2010 and June 2011 at The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland in advance of and during renovation works. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr Richard Gennard acting for his client Mr P Ross and comprised a photographic survey of the building followed by archaeological observation during renovation works. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. A single undated well was recorded which was visible prior to the start of renovation works. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October 2010 and June 2011 prior to and during renovation work at The Grange, South Luffenham, Rutland (NGR SK: 9397 0196 ; Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr Richard Gennard acting for his client Mr P Ross and followed a Specification for a programme of archaeological works produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2010) and approved by the Principle Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. It adhered to the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006) and *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008, 2012).

The work comprised a general photographic survey of both the exterior and the interior of the building followed by archaeological observation during the renovation works. The work was carried out in order to ensure that any archaeological remains present within the investigation area are located and recorded.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area is located within the village of South Luffenham approximately 11km south-west of Stamford at an approximate height of c53m aOD.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Limestone (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

2.2 Historical background

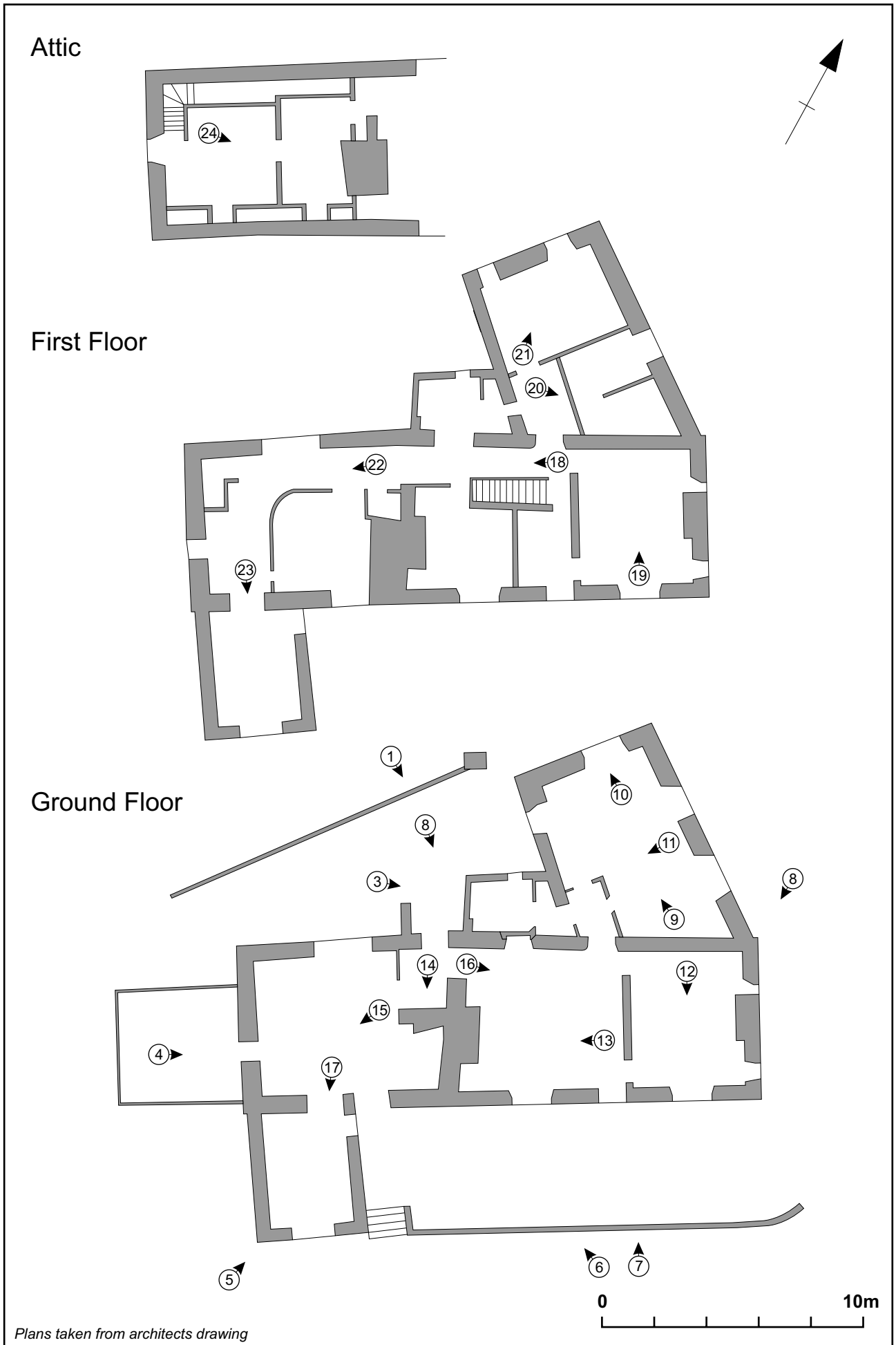
The development area lies within an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village (Historic Environment Record No:MLE 10437). During an archaeological watching brief undertaken on an adjacent site a quantity of Romano-British and post-medieval pottery was collected (MLE 10065, MLE 10066, MLE 10067). Close by to the south-west of the development area is The Church of St Mary the Virgin, which dates from the 12th century with later additions.

A watching brief was undertaken close-by at No 7, The Square (Leigh 2012), although no archaeological deposits were present. The Grange is a Grade II Listed Building of stone construction dating from the 18th century (Listed Building Ref: 187074). No previous archaeological or historical investigations are recorded as having been carried out within the development area.

Up to the present application the dwelling has functioned as a private dwelling.



The Grange, looking south Fig 2



Scale approximately 1:200 (A4)

Photographic survey, direction of photographs Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the programme of archaeological work as set out in the specification for archaeological work (Leigh 2010) were to:

- ◆ Undertake a general photographic survey of both the exterior and interior of the building prior to renovation work;
- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the renovation work 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.

4 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

The photographic survey was carried out during October 2010 in low sun-light conditions and comprised a general photographic record of both the exterior (Figs 4 to 11) and interior of the building (Figs 12 to 23) paying particular attention to those areas scheduled for alteration or replacement.

The photographic survey of several of the rooms on the upper floors was limited due to the structurally unstable condition of a number of the floors and the corresponding health and safety considerations.

The photographs were taken using black and white negative and colour slide film, along with photographs in digital format.

4.2 The survey

The Grange comprises a stone-built two storey building with an attic room (Fig 23). The building is of predominantly 18th-century date with later additions. As part of the renovation works all the existing softwood window frames were replaced and the front porch, which was of relatively modern brick construction, was demolished (Figs 10 and 11). A new extension was constructed on the south-western corner of the building (Fig 3).



The front elevation of the Grange Fig 4



The north-east facing elevation, looking down the public footpath Fig 5



The south-west facing gable, looking east Fig 6



The rear south-east facing elevation of the building Fig 7



The rear south-east facing elevation of the building, looking west Fig 8



The French window in the south facing gable, looking north Fig 9



The porch, looking north-east Fig 10



The porch, looking south-east Fig 11

The floors in all the ground floor rooms were to be lifted and then re-laid with new surfacing. All the ground floors were of concrete construction with the exception of that in room 2 (Fig 13) which was of modern red quarry tiles.

The floors in two upstairs rooms, 7 and 10 (Figs 19 and 22) were in an unstable condition and were replaced during the course of the renovation works.



Room 1 Fig 12

In Room 1 a French window (Fig 12) exiting onto the back of the building was replaced along with the bay window of softwood construction in Room 2 (Fig 14). Two of the interior dividing walls had been demolished prior to commencement of the photographic survey (Figs 17, 18 and 22).



Room 2, floor partially lifted prior to survey Fig 13



The bay window in room 2 Fig 14



General view of Room 3 Fig 15



Room 4, looking north-west Fig 16



Room 5, the kitchen subsequent to demolition of a dividing wall Fig 17



The remains of the dividing wall in Room 5 Fig 18



Room 7, holes in the floor visible in centre of the photograph Fig 19



Room 8 Fig 20



Room 9 Fig 21



Room 10, subsequent to the demolition of the dividing walls Fig 22



The attic, Room 11 Fig 23

5 THE WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Methodology

The watching brief comprised archaeological observation during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new extension and drainage trenches along with the lifting of the existing ground floor surfaces.

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.

The new extension

The foundations for the new extension were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m (Fig 24). The stratigraphic sequence (Fig 25) comprised a natural substratum of pale yellow-brown fragmented limestone, encountered at a depth of 0.35m below present ground level, this was overlain by mid-dark grey-black silt loam, up to 0.50m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and small fragments of un-worked limestone and corroded metal gutter fittings.



General view of the foundation trenches, looking south-east Fig 24



The stratigraphic sequence in the foundation trenches, looking north-west Fig 25

The drainage trenches

A new drainage trench was excavated across the frontage of the building (Fig 26) to a maximum depth of 0.30m below present ground level. Grey-black silt loam containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and irregular fragments of limestone extended the full depth of the trench.



The excavation of the drainage trench Fig 26

The floors

The floors in the ground floor rooms were lifted and re-surfaced. In room 2 the red quarry tiles were lifted to expose a bedding layer of pale-yellow brown sand (Fig 13) up to 0.08m thick. This directly overlay grey-brown clay silt loam, containing occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material.

Within the other rooms a consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded. This comprised grey-brown silt clay loam, containing occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material, overlain by clean pale yellow-brown sand directly sealed by modern concrete screed, up to 0.08m thick.

In Room 1 a single undated well was recorded lying directly the north-east wall of the room (Fig 27) and was sealed beneath the concrete bedding layer inside the building, although it was exposed on the exterior of the wall (Fig 28). It was of dry stone construction and measured approximately 1.0m in diameter, extending into the room 0.60m. Approximately 0.70m of grey-black silt loam, containing very occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material was excavated from within the well to facilitate a concrete seal.



The well in the north-east wall of Room 1 Fig 27



The well visible on the outside of the building Fig 28

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

| RECORD | NUMBER |
|--|--------|
| Trial trench log forms | 12 |
| Colour slides | 134 |
| Black and white contacts and negatives | 144 |
| Digital photographs | 318 |

The project archive will be consolidated and prepared for deposition with Leicester Museums under the accession No: ****

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the programme of archaeological work. The work was undertaken in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

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