



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological observation, investigation
recording, analysis and publication during
groundworks on land at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury
Northamptonshire
August 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/148

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Jason Clarke		10/8/12
Verified by	Adam Yates		10/8/12
Approved by	Steve Parry		10/8/12

OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire	
Short description	In August 2012 an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings. No archaeological features were observed during the excavations. Modern pottery and bricks were recovered from the topsoil, but were not retained.	
Project type	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury	
Study area (sq metres)	c 0.07 Ha	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR: 476264 243058	
Height OD	c.90m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Steve Parry (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr S Holton	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	7/8/2012	
End date	8/8/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Paper		Site Records
Digital		Client Report (PDF)
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published, forthcoming, unpublished		
Title	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire, August 2012	
Author	Paul Clements	
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report No: 12/148	
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Front cover: Western dwelling looking north-east

Back cover: View of eastern dwelling looking west

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION DURING GROUNDWORKS ON LAND
AT 1 FURTHO LANE, POTTERS PURY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,
AUGUST 2012**

Abstract

In August 2012 an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings. No archaeological features were observed during the excavations. Modern pottery and bricks were recovered from the topsoil, but were not retained

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Mr S Holton to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during the groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR: 476264 243058). The work fulfils Condition 6 of planning consent (S/2012/0220/FUL) following a request for archaeological investigation by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

The scope of works was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) which followed a brief for archaeological work (NCC 2012). It followed guidelines in 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

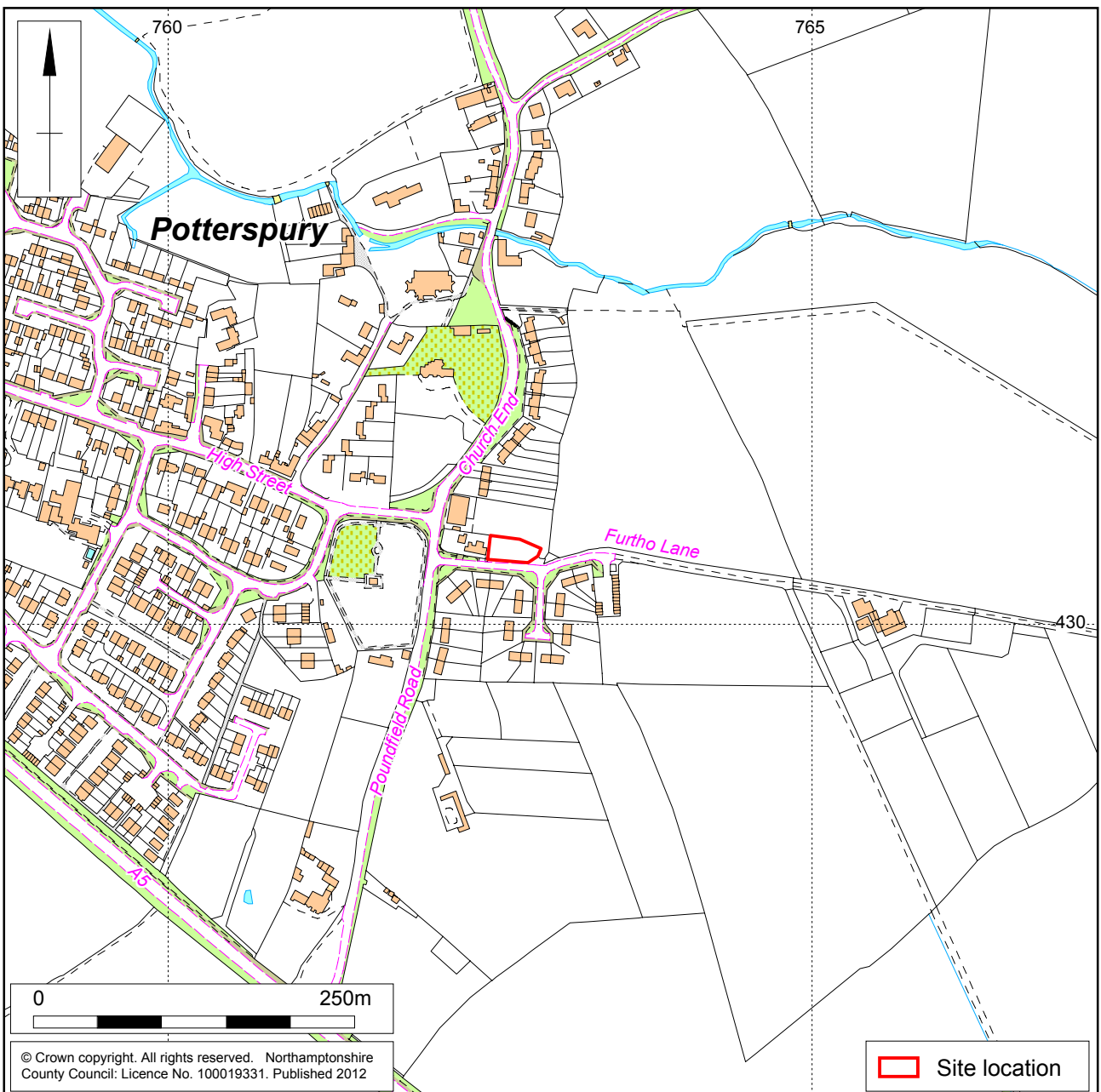
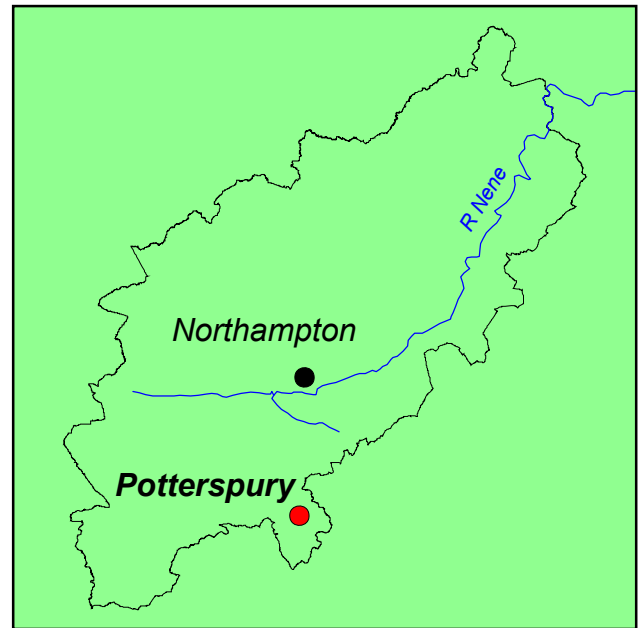
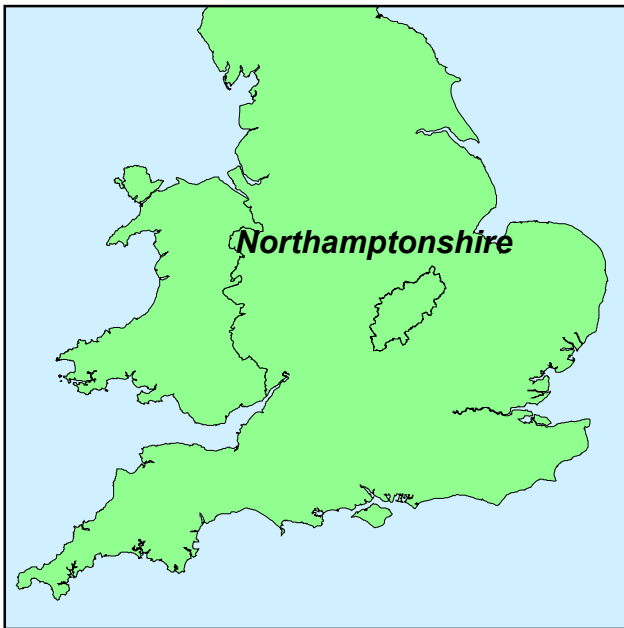
2.1 Location and topography

The area of development was located on the eastern edge of Potterspury at 1 Furtho Lane at a height of c.90m aOD (Fig 1). The site was formerly gardens belonging to 1 Furtho Lane. Situated on flat ground approximately 1m below the modern road surface covering an area of 0.07ha (Fig 2). Prior to the groundworks vegetation clearance had taken place around the perimeter of the site.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50000 scale as Rutland formation mudstone (BGS 2012). The soils are classified as lime rich loams and clays with impeded drainage (Landis, 2012).

2.2 Historical background

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the development area, but lies within an area of high archaeological potential.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:200 (A4)

The observation area showing excavated footings

Fig 2



Prehistoric finds including a white flint stone axe and other stone implements have been found in the area along with evidence of enclosures from aerial photographs indicating activity in the area.

Potterspury is located on the Roman Road of Watling Street. During development on the eastern side of Potterspury late Iron Age and early Roman pottery sherds were found indicating the location of a possible settlement (RCHME 1982, 118).

The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Perie* or *Pirie*. Approximately 150m to the north-west lies the Church of St Nicholas, the earliest parts of which date from the 12th century with later additions in the 14th and 15th centuries, subsequently undergoing extensive restoration in 1848 (NA 2012).

Evidence of pottery production during the medieval and post-medieval periods is well recorded within the village. These include a 14th century kiln and another kiln containing fragments of several types of late medieval pottery found near the vicarage. To the north-west of the site in Church Lane two 17th century kilns, a drying hut, and a possible potters workshop were found during an excavation in 1965 within the grounds of the vicarage (RCHME 1982).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new dwellings 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.

The fieldwork comprised continuous monitoring of the excavations of the foundations of the two new dwellings (Fig 2).

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (NA 2011). All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008b). A photographic record was kept in digital format.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 General site stratigraphy

The underlying natural geology was encountered at a depth of between 0.20m and 0.70m below the modern ground surface. This comprised of a north-east aligned band of yellow brown friable mudstone 0.30m thick over a light grey and orangey grey clay (Fig 3). Subsoil of dark reddish brown clay loam was present across most of the site between 0.18m and 0.30m thick. It was not visible in the south-east corner which was highly

disturbed through root action (Fig 4). A dark grey brown clay loam topsoil containing modern bricks, pottery and several clay pipe fragments overlay the subsoil (Fig 5).

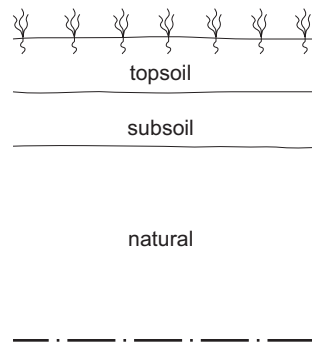


Fig 3 South-west section of western dwelling

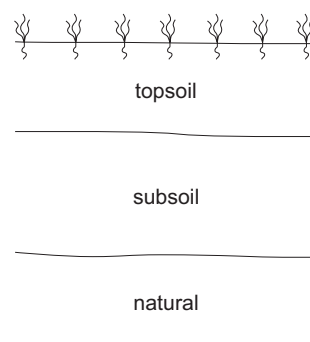


Fig 4 South-east section of eastern dwelling showing root disturbance

Section 1



Section 2



0 1m

A scale bar with a horizontal line and vertical tick marks. The left end is labeled "0" and the right end is labeled "1m". There are five equal segments between the ends, creating six tick marks in total.

Scale 1:25 (A4)

Representative sections Fig 5

4.2 The groundworks and archaeological evidence

The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.00m below the modern ground surface and 0.40m wide. No archaeological features were identified during the excavations. One modern, disused, ceramic pipe was observed in the north-west corner of the western dwelling. Twentieth century brick, pottery and glass were recovered from the topsoil, but not retained.

5 CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were observed during the excavations for the two new dwellings despite the potential for surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. Residual finds within the topsoil included modern bricks, pottery and glass.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage Procedural Document

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2012 *Written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication during groundworks on land at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2012 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at 1 Furtho Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire*. Northamptonshire County Council

RCHME 1982 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northampton Volume iV*

WEBSITES

BGS 2012 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

Landis 2012 <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> Cranfield University National Soils Resources Institute



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