



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation
and recording on land at The former abattoir, Chapel Hill,
Islip, Northamptonshire
April 2013



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Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BN
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

David J Leigh

Report 13/236

November 2013



STAFF

Project Manager Anthony Maull Cert Arch
supported by David J Leigh BA
Text David J Leigh
Fieldwork David J Leigh
Illustrations Amir Bassir BA Alfa
Project Archive Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh BA MA (Bham)
MA (York)

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Anthony Maull		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: 169358
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at the former Abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in April 2013 on behalf of Mr D Sands, during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling and the refurbishment of existing buildings on land at the former abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire. Modern disturbance was recorded in the eastern half of the site closest to the existing building, whilst undisturbed soils were present across the remainder of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording Planning application No: EN/12/00713/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Former abattoir lairage land	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	The former abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	400m	
OS Easting & Northing	498875 278815	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, NCC	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull supported by David J Leigh	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr D Sands	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	April 2013	
End date	April 2013	
ARCHIVES	Location: Northamptonshire Archaeology	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (18) Digital photographs (6)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at the former abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/236	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	November 2013	

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING
ON LAND AT THE FORMER ABATTOIR, CHAPEL HILL,
ISLIP, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
APRIL 2013**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Mr D Sands, in April 2013 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling and the refurbishment of existing buildings on land at the former abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire. Modern disturbance was recorded in the eastern half of the investigation area closest to the existing building with undisturbed soils present across the remainder. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken in April 2013 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling and the refurbishment of existing buildings on land at the former abattoir, Chapel Hill, Islip, Northamptonshire (NGR 498875 278815; Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr D Sands following a request for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in a brief for archaeological work issued on the 21 March 2013 (Mordue 2013).

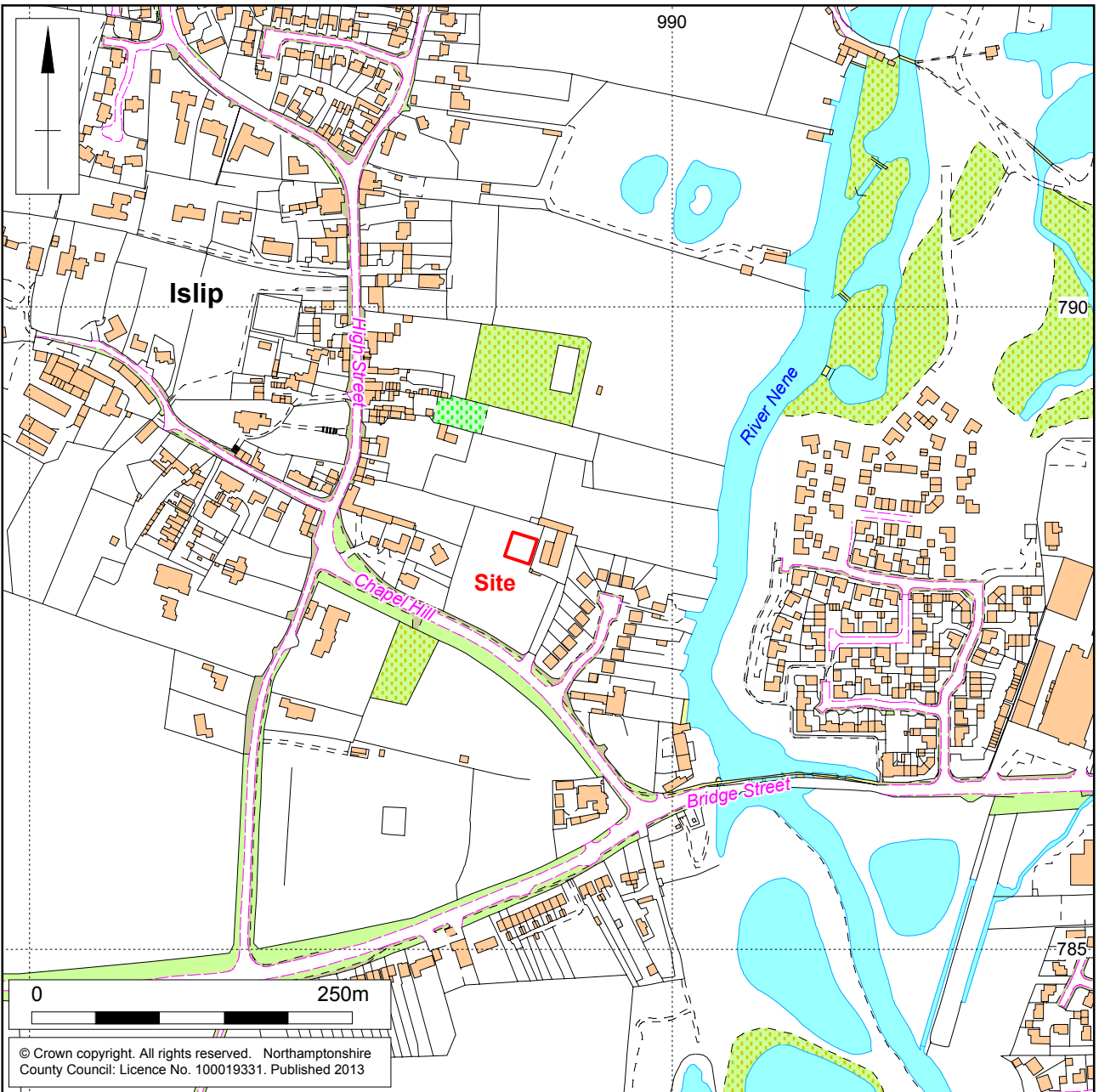
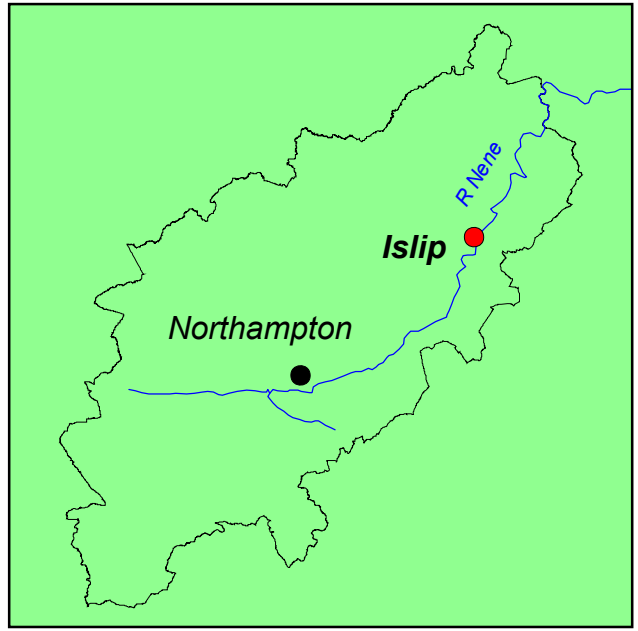
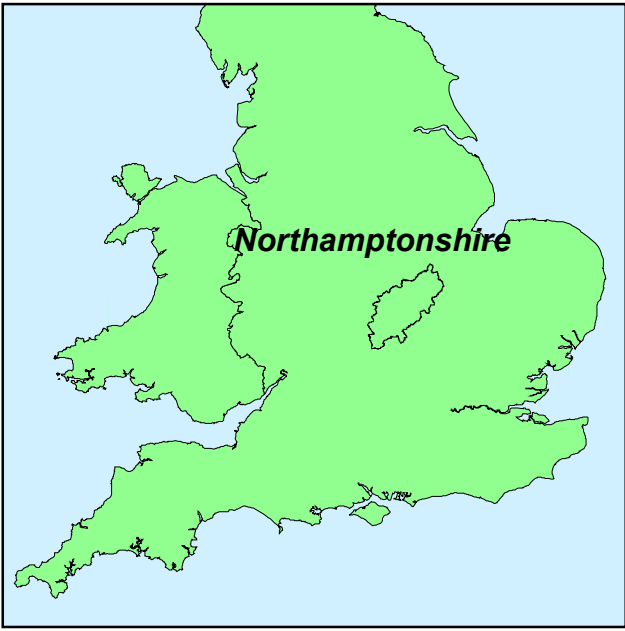
It adhered to the National Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2013) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

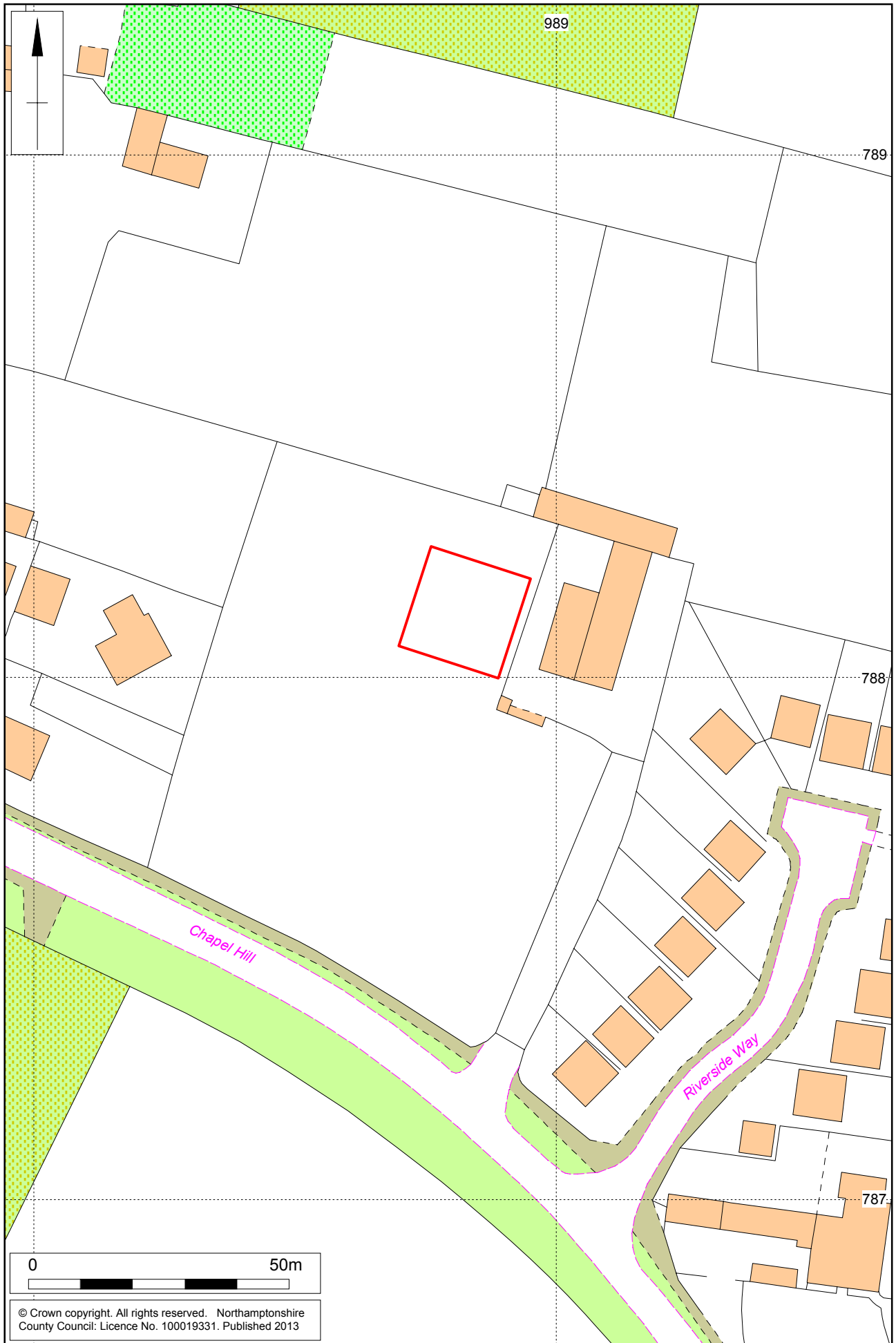
The village of Islip lies approximately 15km to the east of Kettering close to the River Nene. The investigation area lies within the village, and fronts directly onto Chapel Hill on ground sloping down from west to east at an approximate height of 36m aOD and encompassing an area of approximately 241m.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Stamford Member Sandstone and Siltstone (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex>).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within the village of Islip and in an area of archaeological interest.

North-east of the site lies the possible site of a prehistoric burial mound the exact location is currently unknown. Numerous finds have been recovered from around the village with a concentration of Roman coins to the south-west. Saxon and medieval coins have also been recovered to the north of the site.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD, where it is recorded as *Islep*. To the west of the site lies the parish church of St Nicholas, the earliest parts of which date from the 14th century, with later additions and subsequent restoration in 1854-55.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site. Up to the present application the site has comprised an open area adjacent to the former abattoir building.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the new dwelling and refurbishment works 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.

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

The fieldwork was undertaken in April 2013 during groundworks for the new dwelling. The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket (Fig 4) and comprised the excavation of up to 1.30m of soil to formation level for the new dwelling.



The investigation area, looking east Fig 3



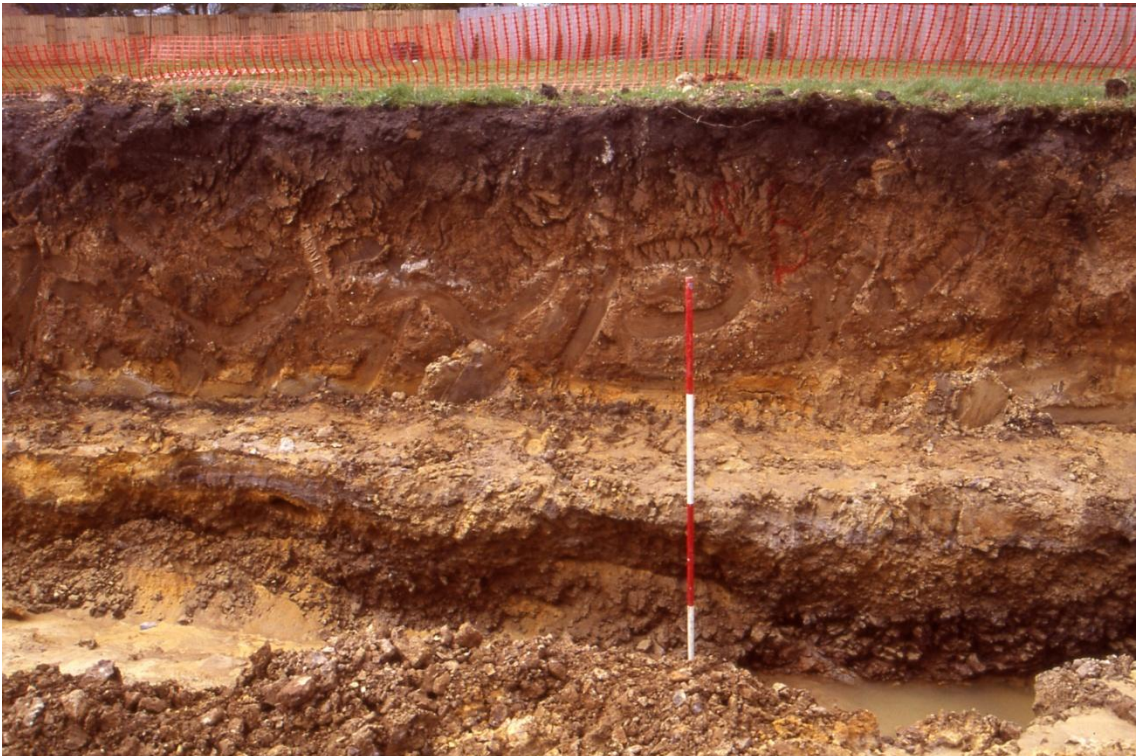
General view of the groundworks, looking south-east Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.80m below present ground level on the western edge of the site (Fig 5). This comprised orange-brown Northampton Sand and Ironstone. This was overlain by pale-mid brown sandy loam subsoil, up to 0.55m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. This in turn was sealed by grey-brown sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.25m thick, containing occasional irregular stones.

On the eastern edge of the site, closest to the existing buildings the natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.08m below present ground level. This was overlain by an area of modern overburden comprising a spread of modern ceramic building material and fragments of plastic building items within a thin matrix of grey-black sandy loam, up to 0.08m thick (Fig 6).

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The stratigraphic sequence in the western half of the site, looking west Fig 5



Modern overburden on the eastern edge of the site, looking south Fig 6

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	18
Digital photographs	6

The archive will be consolidated and prepared for deposition. This will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed soils were present in the western half of the investigation area, with modern disturbance in the eastern half closest to the existing building.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The absence of any artefactual evidence would suggest, but not discount, that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate area. The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website
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- NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology