
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT
THE OLD VICARAGE, MAIN STREET,
FOTHERINGHAY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(FOMS14)**

**Work Undertaken For
Simon Grace**

January 2015

Report Compiled by
Neil Parker MA

Planning Application No: 14/01236/FUL
National Grid Reference: TL 0608 9318
Northamptonshire Historic Environment Service
Event No: ENN107738
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-200530

APS Report No: **05/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological investigation was carried out on land at The Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire as the site lay in an area of known archaeological potential. The site lies within the historic core of the village, immediately north of the 15th century parish church and the site of a 12th century priory. The church was formerly associated with a college, the remains of which lie to the south of the church and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The remains of the medieval settlement are present as earthworks to the east of the Site. The Old Vicarage has its origins in 17th century.

The investigations examined the area of a new oak framed garage, workshop, equipment store and garden room.

The investigation revealed natural sand and gravel layers above a buried layer of peat that overlay natural river silts. No archaeological remains were present within the investigation area.

A single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the topsoil.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning permission (14/01236/FUL) has been granted by East Northamptonshire Council for the construction of an oak framed garage, workshop and equipment store and garden room on land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringhay. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The investigation was carried out on 7th January 2015.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Fotheringhay is located 5km north of Oundle in the administrative district of East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies on the northeast side of Main Street, to the rear of the Old Vicarage centred on National Grid Reference TL 0608 9318 (Fig. 2). The site is at a height of c. 20m OD sloping gently from southeast to northwest.

Local soils are of the Sutton 1 Association, typically fine loamy argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 314). These soils overlie a drift geology of 2nd terrace gravels which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Great Oolite limestones and clays (GSGB 1951).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Fotheringhay is first referred to in a charter of 1055-66, where a Leofrid of Fotheringhay is mentioned as a witness in a land grant to Ramsey Abbey (Hart 1966, 236). Referred to as *Frodigeiai*, the name is derived either from ‘*Frōdinga-ēg*’, meaning the island of Frōda’s people, or a derivation of the Old English ‘*Fōdring*’ meaning foddering or grazing land (Ekwall 1989, 185).

During the Domesday Survey of 1086, Fotheringhay is recorded as belonging to Countess Judith and contained a mill, 40 acres of meadow, woodland 1 league long by nine furlongs wide within which the King had apparent hunting rights (Thorn and Thorn 1979). A priest is also mentioned, which probably indicates the presence of a church.

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the parish church, Garden Farm and the Old Inn (RCHME 1984, 64). The church dates from the 15th century and was part of an ecclesiastical college, the earthworks of which survive to the south. The college was re-founded by the first Duke of York and his son and was originally located within Fotheringhay Castle (*ibid.*). The earthworks of the college have been afforded Scheduled Ancient Monument status, county number 94 (English Heritage 1996, 8). Garden Farm, formerly the New Inn, and the Old Inn are both 15th century buildings, built by Edward IV (1461-1483) to provide supplementary accommodation for visitors to the castle (RCHME 1984, 71).

To the southeast of the village lies the earthwork remains of Fotheringhay Castle, initially built by the Earls of Huntingdon and later passed to the Dukes of York and subsequently Edward IV. It achieved notoriety as the execution place of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1587. Nothing remains of the stone buildings as these were extensively robbed of masonry in the 16th and 17th centuries (RCHME 1984, 64).

The site lies to the rear of the Old Vicarage, a Grade II Listed Building of 17th century date. During the medieval period the site was part of a tenement belonging to the monastic foundation (Foard 1999). Earthworks of possible further medieval tenements and closes survive in the field to the east, part of a wider survival, as earthworks and cropmarks, of settlement remains to the rear of all the properties fronting Main

Street. A previous investigation immediately to the northeast revealed remains apparently associated with garden walls and paths, though the groundworks examined were very shallow (Malone 2011).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the investigation was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation associated with the development.

The objectives of the investigations were to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered; to as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from them; to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site; and to establish the relationship of any remains found in the wider contemporary landscape.

4. METHODS

The topsoil in the investigation area was removed and the trenches for the footings were excavated by a 3 tonne 360° mechanical excavator.

The trenches were then cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features and deposits.

Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records

were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

5. RESULTS

(Figure 4, Plates 1-3)

Following post-excavation analysis a single phase of natural deposits was identified.

The earliest deposit encountered (006) was soft, pale grey, slightly sandy silt. Overlying this was (004) a layer of peat mixed with clayey silt. Loose, pale yellow coarse silty sand with occasional limestone fragments (003), the next deposit in the sequence, was overlain by a similar but coarser, more gravelly layer (005). These natural deposits were sealed by the soft, mid brown sandy silt subsoil (002). This was covered loose, dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil from which a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered (Appendix 2).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits revealed in the footings trench comprised mostly alluvial deposits associated with the nearby River Nene. The lowest, a fine, laminated deposit of silt was encountered at a depth of about 1.2m below the ground surface and was a fairly high energy alluvial deposit (006).

At some period, the ground was dry enough for vegetation to grow, forming the material that became the peat layer (004). The clay content of this deposit suggests that a continual presence of standing water followed the vegetation growth.

The sandy, gravelly deposits (003 & 005) represent river terrace deposits, perhaps suggesting the peat layer is of considerable age.

The depths of topsoil and subsoil in the investigation area suggest also that, despite the proximity of earthworks to the site, this area has remained largely undisturbed.

Examination of historic maps showed the presence of pathways in the vicinity of the investigation area but evidence of these was not encountered during the groundworks.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire as the site lay in an area of known archaeological potential within the historic core of the village, immediately north of the 15th century parish church.

The investigation revealed natural alluvial deposits and a peaty layer of buried vegetation.

Finds retrieved during the investigation comprised a single sherd of medieval pottery.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Simon Grace for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Neil Parker
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Neil Parker
Illustration: Neil Parker
Post-excavation analysis: Neil Parker

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

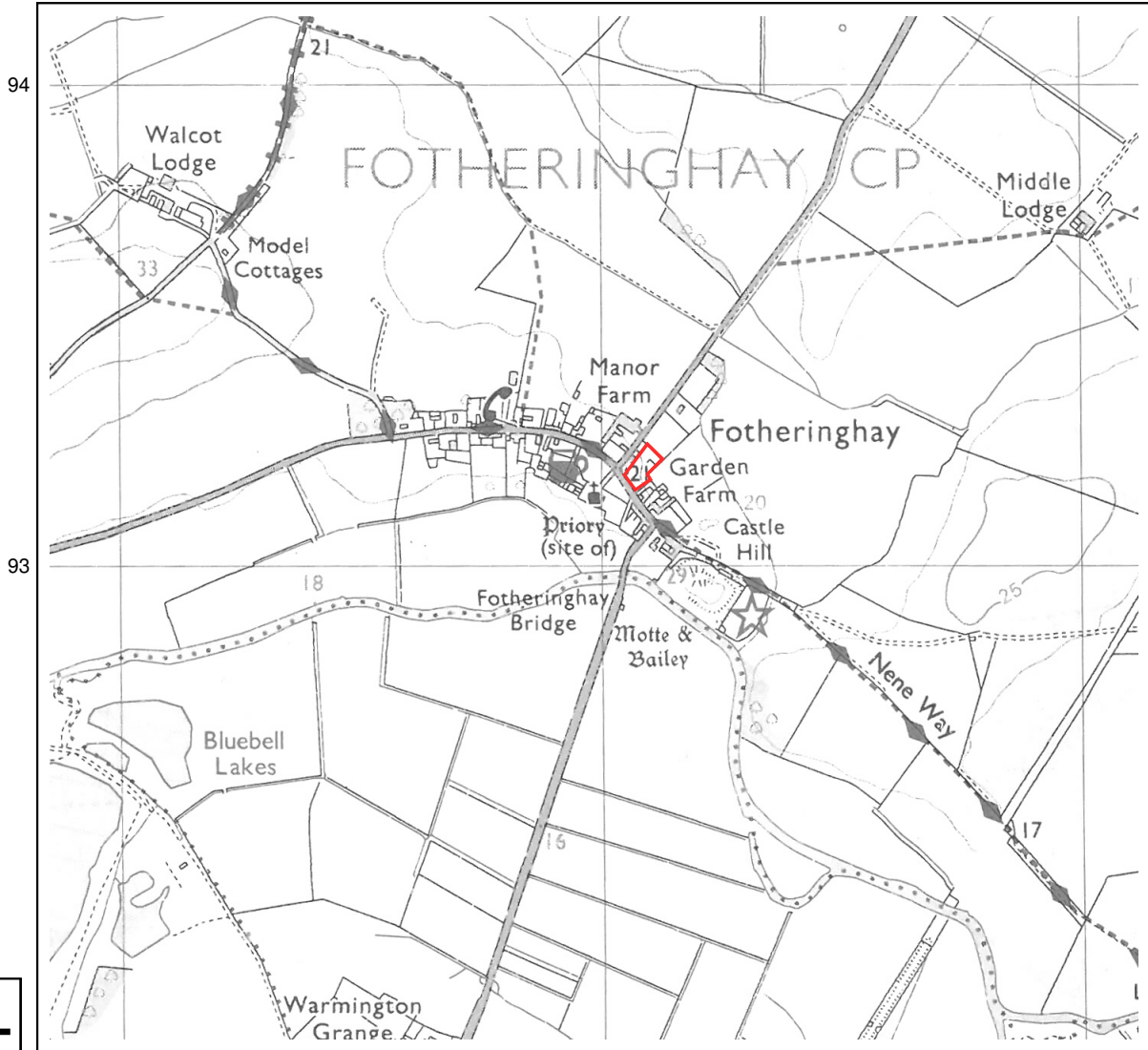
RCHME Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England



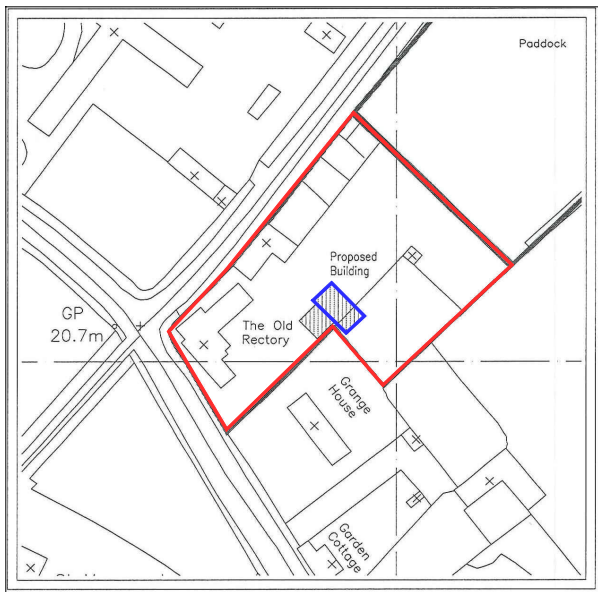
Figure 1 - General Location Plan

0 800m

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TL



Area detailed in Figure 3

0 800m


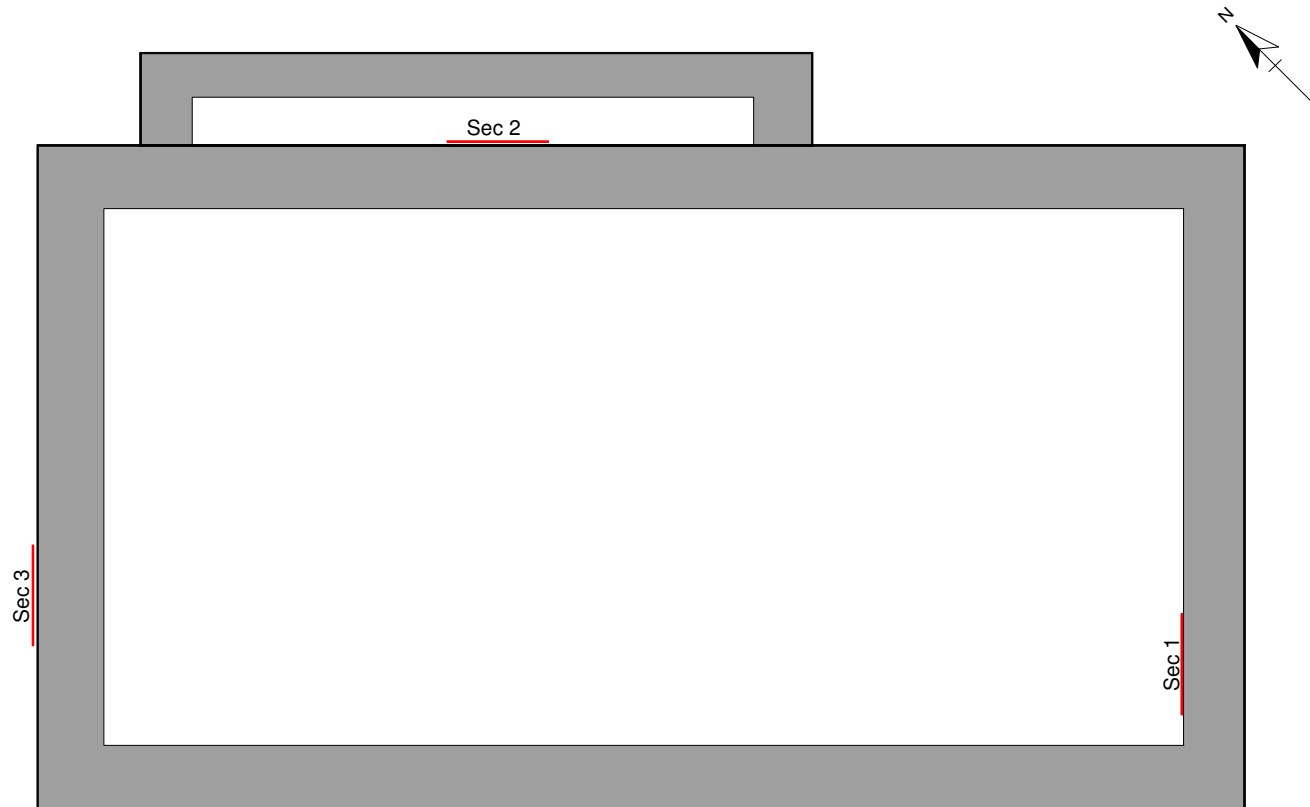
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Project Name: Fotheringhay Main Street FOMS14		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: NP	Report No: 05/15

Figure 2 - Site location plan




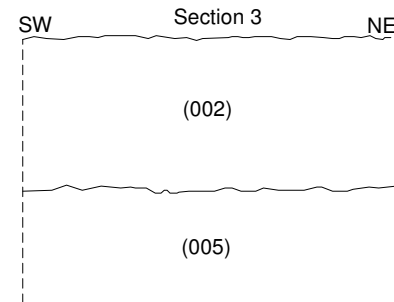
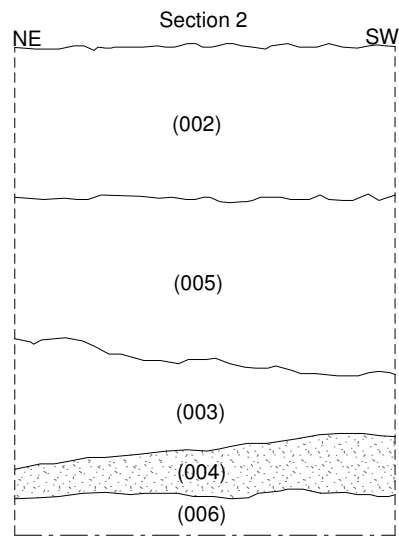
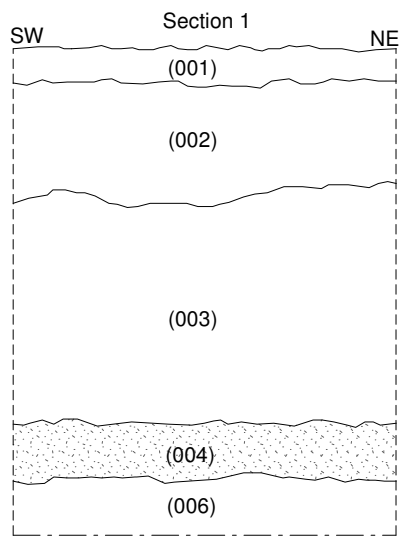
	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Fotheringhay, Main Street			
Scale 1:75	Drawn by: NP	Report No: 05/15	

Figure 3 Footings Plan



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Fotheringhay, Main Street

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: NP

Report No: 05/15

Figure 4 Sections

The Plates



Plate 1.
General view of the entrance to the site with the Old Vicarage on the left. Looking north towards the excavation area



Plate 2.
The topsoil stripped from the area where the footings were excavated. Looking northwest



Plate 3.
Representative Section 1 showing the sequence of natural deposits present throughout the site. Looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Descriptions	Interpretation
001	Loose, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.	Topsoil
002	Soft, mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones	Subsoil
003	Loose, pale yellow, coarse silty sand with occasional small limestone fragments	Natural alluvial deposit
004	Firm, plastic, dark brownish grey and mid brown peat and clay silt	Buried vegetation layer
005	Mixed, soft and hard coarse gravelly sand with small limestone fragments	Natural alluvial deposit
006	Soft, pale grey, slightly sandy silt	Natural alluvial deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codename used (Cname), is in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. A concordant code from the Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type series (CTS) (Blinkhorn, 1996, unpublished) is also included in Table 1 below. A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 17 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was weighed and then examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the early Medieval period.

Condition

The sherd is small but fresh.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	CTS code	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Comment	Date
001	STANLY	B	F320	Jug	1	1	17	Grid stamped lozenge and pellet decoration; applied clay strips	BS	Applied decoration in light firing clay	13th

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from the topsoil (001).

Range

There is a single sherd from a jug in Stanion Lyveden ware (STANLY); this is a common type in this area.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery sherd be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	13th	Topsoil; based on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels

W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- Blinkhorn, P. 1996, *Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type Series*, unpublished report
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Old English	The language used by the Saxon occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
6	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record Event Number: ENN 107738

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FOMS 14

OASIS record number archaeol1-200530

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-200530

Project details

Project name	Fotheringhay Main Street (The Old Vicarage)
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of footings of an oak framed garage, workshop and equipment store on land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringhay. No archaeological features were observed during the excavation. Natural deposits comprised sands and gravels, a peat layer and river silts. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2015 End: 07-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FOMS14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOTHERINGHAY Fotheringhay Main Street
Postcode	PE8 5HZ
Study area	3747 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0608 9318 52.5257815186 -0.436196799462 52 31 32 N 000 26 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20m Max: 20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Archaeological Project Services
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Neil Parker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Northampton Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Northampton Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on Land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Parker, N.
Other bibliographic details	05/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Lincolnshire NG34 9RP
Description	A4 ringbound
Entered by	Neil Parker (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	20 January 2015

OASIS:

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