
**LAND AT
THE OLD VICARAGE
MAIN STREET
FOTHERINGHAY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(FOMS11)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND
RECORDING**

**Work Undertaken For
Simon Grace**

January 2011

Report Compiled by
Steve Malone BSc (Hons) PhD MIfA

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APS Report No: **08/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a rectangular ménage on land to the rear of The Old Vicarage, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire.

The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential within the historic core of the village. Earthworks of possible medieval date have previously been recorded in the adjacent field

No finds or features of early date were encountered. Deposits along the northwestern boundary appear to relate to construction of garden walls and paths. Topsoil stripping elsewhere was very shallow and nothing further was revealed.

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 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Simon Grace to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with construction of a rectangular ménage to the rear of The Old Vicarage, Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire. Planning permission (EN/10/01772/FUL) was

granted by East Northamptonshire Council subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a programme of archaeological work. The watching brief was carried out on January 25th 2011.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The village lies on the north bank of the River Nene, on a low ridge falling away northwards again to the Willow Brook. The site lies at c. 22m O.D. sloping from northwest to southeast. Soils at the site are mapped as fine and coarse loamy soils of the Sutton 1 Association developed on river terrace gravel (Hodge et al. 1984, 314-16)

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Fotheringhay (Fodringeia) is recorded in the Domesday Book (and in records of Ramsey Abbey) indicating an origin for the settlement in at least the late Saxon period. The site lies in the historic core of the village 150m north of Fotheringay Castle, built in the early 12th century and subsequently refurbished in the 15th and 16th centuries. The castle was the birth place of Richard III. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned and executed there after which it fell into decay and was largely demolished by the early 18th century. Some 100m to the southwest lies the 15th century church of St. Mary and All Saints, originally part of the College of the Blessed Virgin and All Saints, a monastic foundation endowed by Edward III.

The site lies to the rear of The Old Vicarage, a Grade II listed building of 17th century date. The site was part of a tenement in the medieval period belonging to the monastic foundation (Foard 1999). Earthworks of possible further medieval tenements and closes survive in the field to the east, part of

wider survival, as earthworks and cropmarks, of remains of probable tenements, closes and roads/hollow ways to the rear of all of the properties fronting Main Street.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Groundworks for the ménage entailed little disturbance to below ground deposits. Adjacent to the southwestern boundary excavation reached a maximum of 600mm and quickly shallowed as the ground sloped away to the east. Over much of the area overburden stripping amounted to little more than removal of the turf and towards the eastern extent of the area there was no ground reduction, spoil from initial excavations being used to level this area up.

Selected sections were cleaned and rendered vertical and selected deposits excavated further in order to make a record of the sequence of deposits and determine their function. 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 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were also checked and a stratigraphic

matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field (see Appendix 2).

A sequence of deposits was only observed along the western boundary where excavations were at their deepest. Locations of recorded sections are shown in Fig. 3.

Section 1 (Fig. 4) shows the soil profile at the western corner of the excavated area. Here dark grey clayey silt (002) with occasional gravel and small limestone, 0.37m in depth, was revealed beneath dark brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (001).

A short way to the south a wide shallow pit (003) was recorded: 3.80m E-W by 0.65m N-S, and 0.40m deep. This was filled with loose buff-brown limestone rubble and degraded limestone (004) and sealed by a loose and friable dark grey sandy silt (005) (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 2). The stone rubble perhaps relates to some phase of construction related to the house, or perhaps more likely given its location, the garden walls. However, no datable material was recovered.

Opposite the door in the garden wall gravel surfaces (010, 012) and vertically set stone and brick (008) may relate to a former path from the existing walled formal garden into this paddock (Fig. 4, Section 3, Plate 3). The possible kerbing aligns with an extant stub of stone on the north side of the doorway. However, gravelly

deposits extend both to the north and south of this 'kerb' so that it is not clear what form, or really in what direction, any paths may have taken. The cut feature (007) in which the brick and stone sit is rather larger than might be thought necessary to set a kerbstone; some other function, perhaps drainage, might be suspected, but there is little evidence either way.

6. CONCLUSION

Monitoring of groundworks associated with construction of the ménage revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. Ground disturbance was minimal, comprising little more than turf removal over most of the area. Impact was greatest along the northern part of the western boundary; to the east the level base for the ménage was formed by levelling up rather than through excavation. Deposits and features recorded along the western boundary are presumed to relate to construction of garden walls and paths, although these were not directly dated.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Simon Grace who commissioned the project and of Trevor Jones who undertook the groundworks for cooperation on site.

8. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Bob Garland
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Steve Malone
 Post-excavation analysis: Steve Malone

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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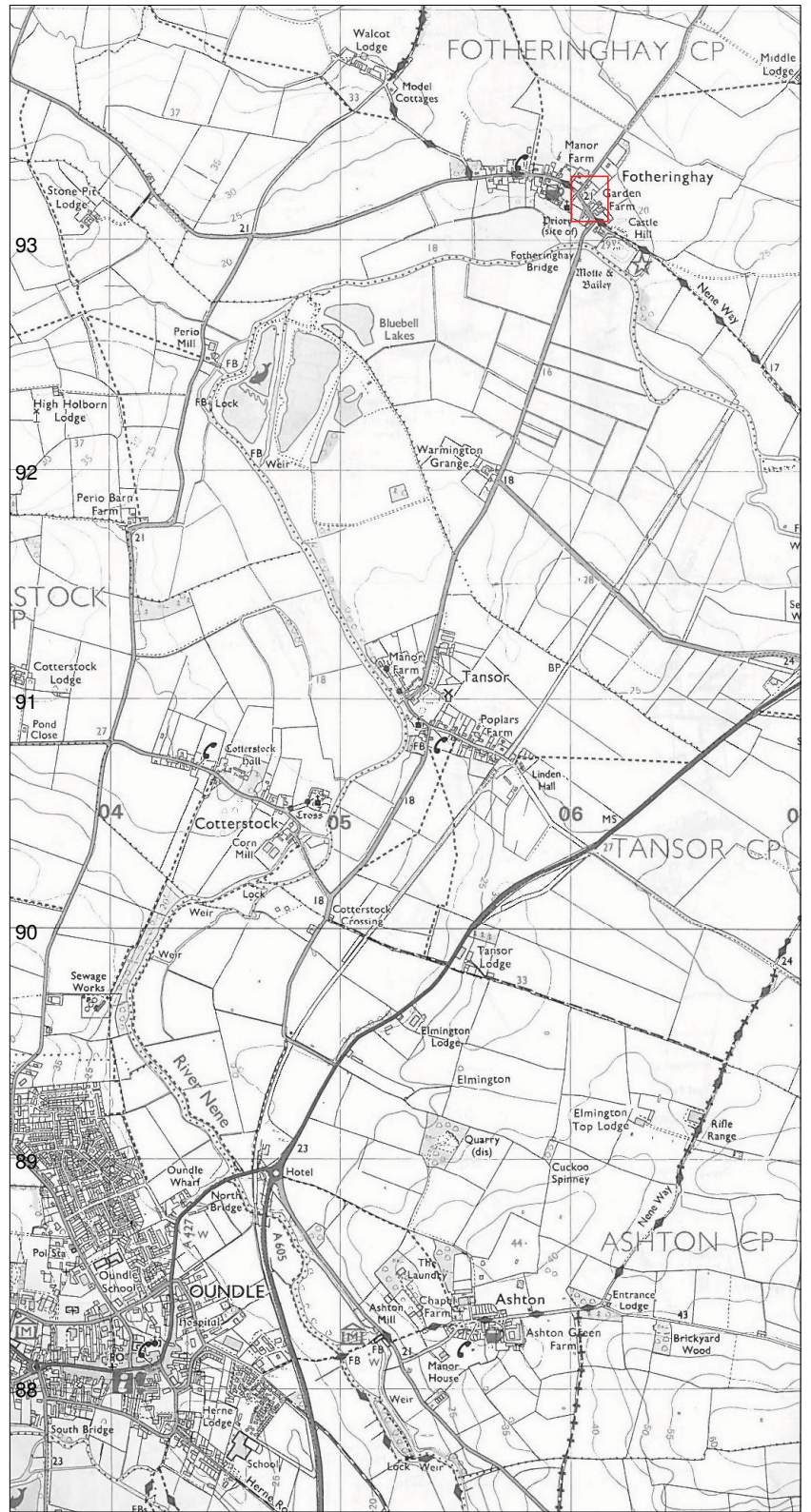
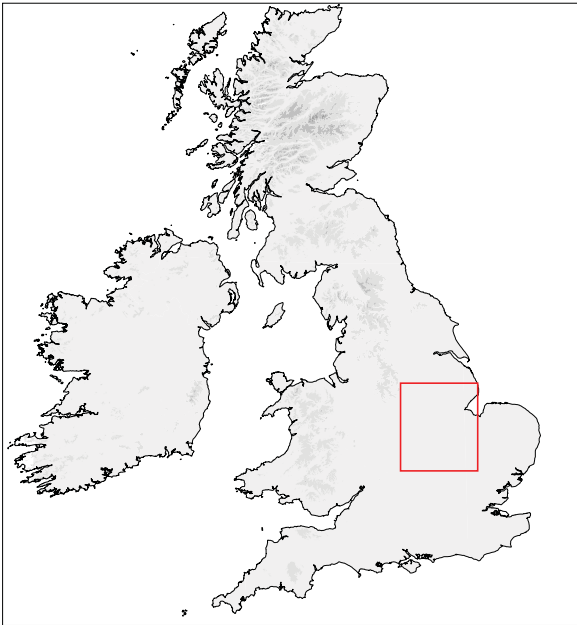
10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



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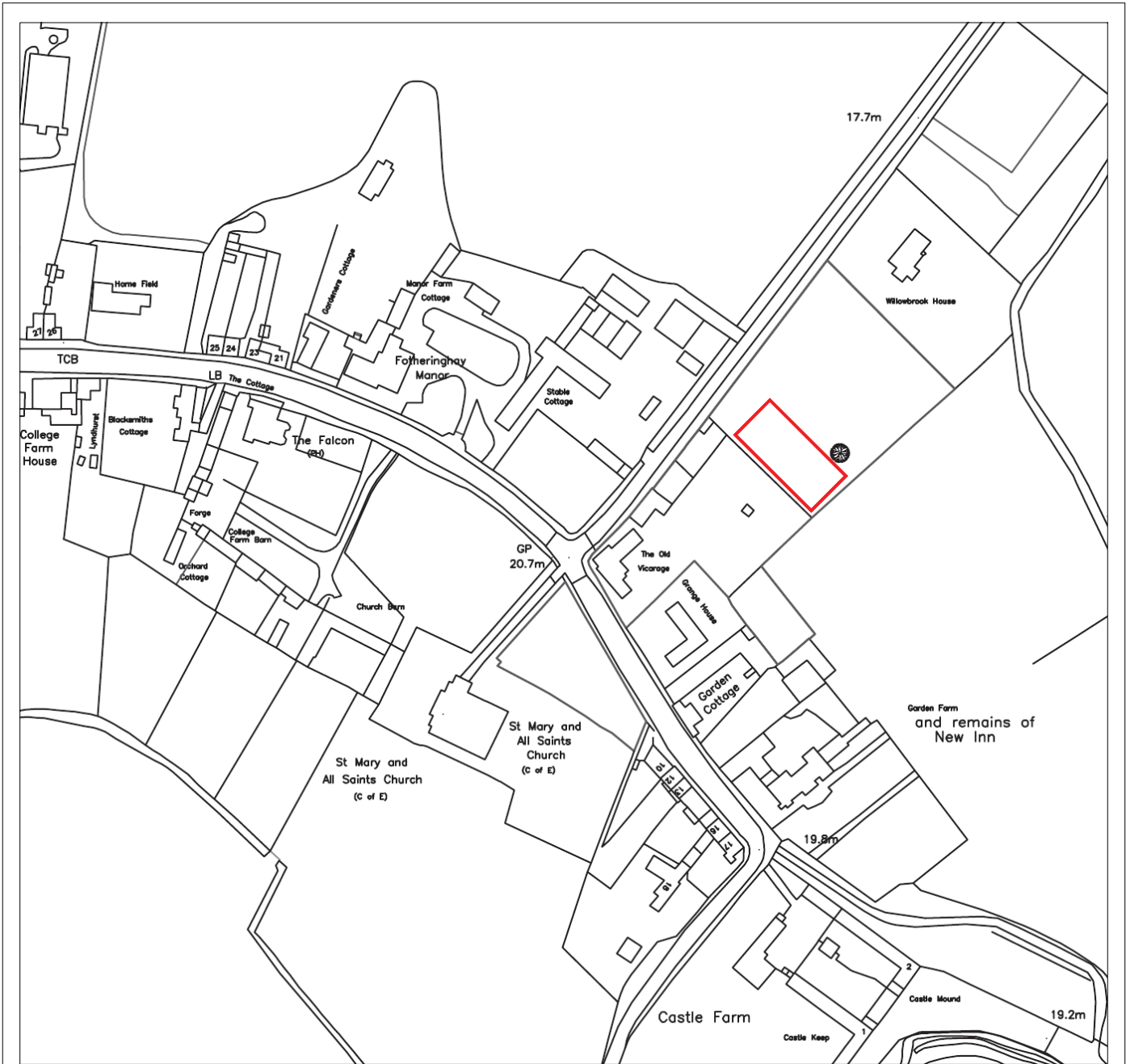
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Fotheringhay Old Vicarage		
Scale: varies	Drawn by: SJM	Report No: 8/11

Figure 1 General location map




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Fotheringhay Old Vicarage		
Scale 1:2500	Drawn by: SJM	Report No: 8/11

Figure 2 Site location map

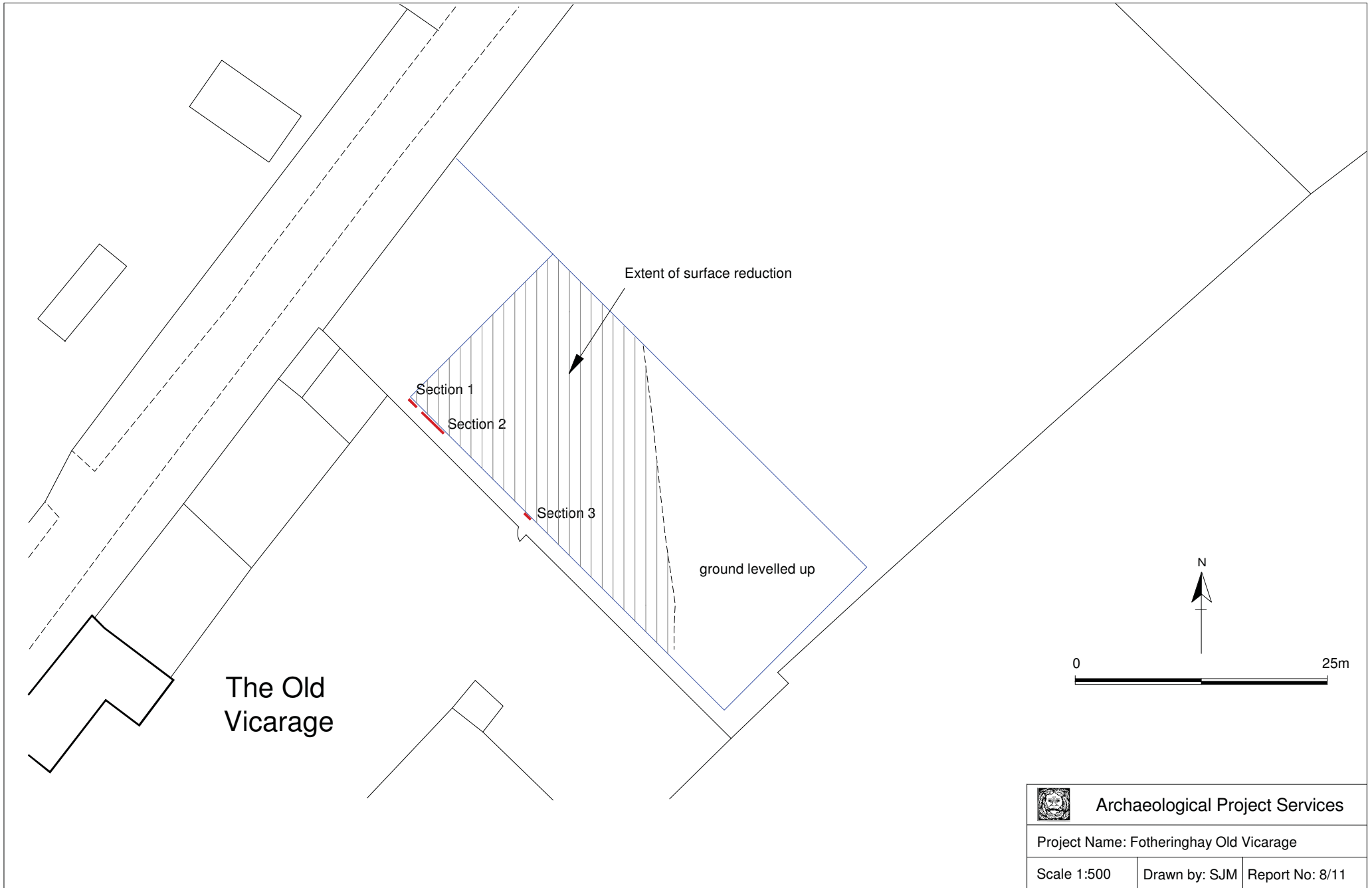
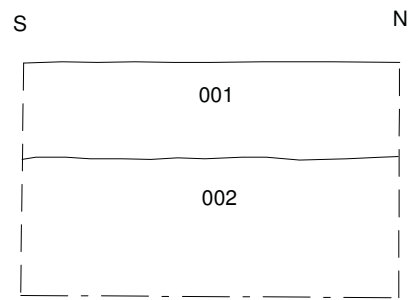
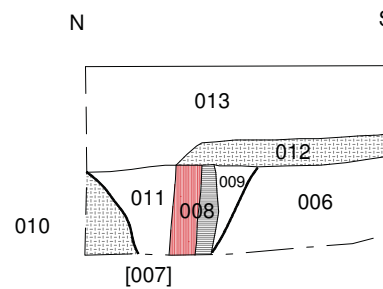





Figure 3 Plan showing stripped area and recorded sections

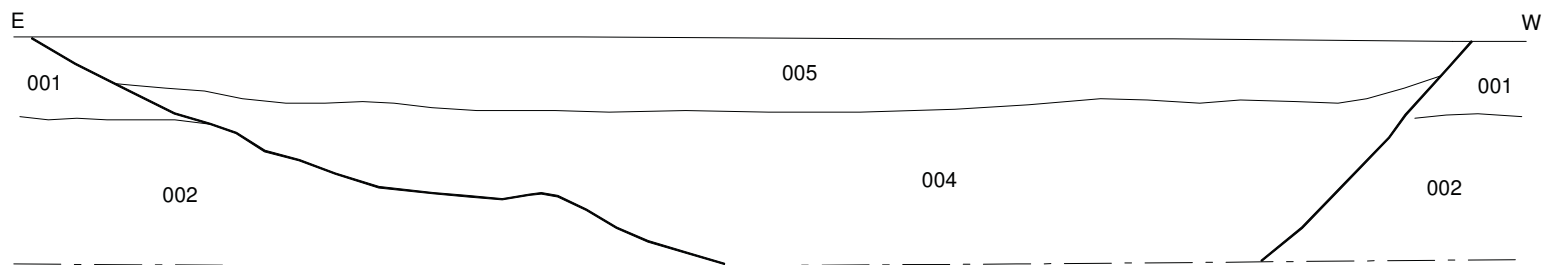


Section 1



Section 3

-  gravel
-  brick
-  limestone



Section 2




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Fotheringhal Old Vicarage		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: SJM	Report No: 8/11

Figure 4 Sections



Plate 1 Site before commencement of excavations, looking southwest



Plate 2 Section 2, looking southwest



Plate 3 Section 3, looking southwest



Plate 4 Site on completion of earthmoving

Appendix 1

Project Design for Archaeological Monitoring

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of archaeological investigation and recording is required during construction of a rectangular ménage on land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringay, Northamptonshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential within the historic core of the village. Earthworks of possible medieval date are recorded in the adjacent field.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a programme of monitoring and recording during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigations. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological investigation and recording during construction of a rectangular ménage on land at the Old Vicarage, Main Street, Fotheringay, Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Fotheringay is located in the northeastern part of the county of Northamptonshire some 5km northeast of Oundle and 14km southwest of Peterborough. The site lies to the rear of The Old Vicarage within the historic core of the village, centred on National Grid Reference TL 06105 93260.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (EN/10/01772/FUL) has been granted by East

Northamptonshire Council for the construction a rectangular ménage on land to the rear of The Old Vicarage. 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. This document provides such a written scheme of investigation.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The village lies on the north bank of the River Nene, on a low ridge falling away again to the Willow Brook to the north. The site lies at c. 22m O.D. sloping from southwest to northeast. Soils at the site are mapped as fine and coarse loamy soils of the Sutton 1 Association developed on river terrace gravel (Hodge et al. 1984, 314-16).

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 Fotheringhay (*Fodringeia*) is recorded in the Domesday Book (and in records of Ramsey Abbey) indicating an origin for the settlement in at least the late Saxon period. The site lies in the historic core of the village 150m north of Fotheringay Castle, built in the early 12th century and subsequently refurbished in the 15th and 16th centuries. The castle was the birth place of Richard III. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned and executed there after which it fell into decay and was largely demolished by the early 18th century. Some 100m to the southwest lies the 15th century church of St. Mary and All Saints, originally part of the College of the Blessed Virgin and All Saints, a monastic foundation endowed by Edward III.

6.2 The site lies to the rear of The Old Vicarage, a Grade II listed building of 17th century date. The site was part of a tenement in the medieval period belonging to the monastic foundation (Foard 1999). Earthworks of possible further medieval tenements and closes survive in the field to the east, part of wider survival, as earthworks and cropmarks, of remains of probable tenements, closes and roads/hollow ways to the rear of all of the properties fronting Main Street.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the investigations will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation associated with construction of the ménage.

7.1.2 The objectives of the investigations will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site; and
- Establish the relationship of any remains found to the wider contemporary landscape.

7.1.3 The site has the potential to inform various aspects of the Regional Research Agenda for the Medieval period, particularly in relation to rural settlement and the establishment of castles and monastic foundations (Lewis 2006, 211-213).

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the works.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIfA). Archaeological Project Services is IfA Registered Organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The investigations will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the investigations a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should deposits or feature fills with environmental potential be encountered then samples of such fills will be collected for processing. Environmental samples will be collected in accordance with English Heritage (2002) guidelines.
- 8.2.6 Should human remains be located the appropriate care will be taken and the appropriate Department for Constitutional Affairs and environmental health regulations followed. The Assistant Archaeological Advisor and the local Coroner will be informed immediately upon discovery of human remains. Where human remains are encountered as part of the investigation, they will be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. If they are removed, post-excavation assessment will contain an analysis of the remains and a statement for the final deposition of the assemblage. The qualified statement will address future research potential, where applicable, and the options for reburial.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigations will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled,

the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigations will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the investigations.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigations.
- A text describing the findings of the investigations.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, East Northamptonshire District Council and two copies (one hardcopy, one digital) will be sent to the Assistant Archaeological Advisor Client ultimately for the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigations will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to Northampton Museum, for long-term storage and curation (AAF 2007; IfA 2008). As there is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of the county, provision will therefore be made for retaining the project archive until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). If appropriate a note on the investigation will also be submitted to the journal *Northamptonshire Archaeology*.

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council Built and Natural Environment Service. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The investigations will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of such projects will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – A Beeby, APS or B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman – Dr A Boyle, APS or P Blinkhorn, Independent Specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	M Holmes, independent specialist or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	G Weston, independent specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed

from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cooper, NJ (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester

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IfA 2008, *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

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Specification: Version 1, 3 December 2010

Appendix 2
Context Descriptions

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	friable dark brownish grey sandy silt with freq. small gravel and stone fragments; 0.25m deep	
002	friable dark grey clayey silt; occ gravel; occ. small limestone; 0.37m deep	buried soil
003	cut feature 3.80m E-W, 0.65m N-S, 0.40m deep	pit
004	loose buffish brown limestone rubble and degraded limestone	fill of 003; demolition material?
005	v loose and friable dark grey sandy silt; occ stone fragments; up to 0.20m deep	upper fill of 003; levelling
006	moderate to friable mid brown mottled sandy, clayey silt; occ charcoal flecks; occ burnt clay; at least 0.21m in depth	
007	cut feature 0.45m wide by at least 0.25m deep; steep-sided, base not exposed	cut for kerbing to gravel path 012
008	dark red brick and rough hewn limestone; brick 230mm x 70mm; limestone similar in dimension	kerb of garden path
009	friable dark grey sandy silt; occ gravel	backfill of 007 around kerb
010	firm but friable yellowish buff degraded mortar and gravel	former path surface?
011	as 009	backfill of 007 around kerb
012	friable yellowish buff pea gravel	path surface
013	friable dark grey sandy silt; occ gravel; up to 0.27m deep	topsoil

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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 interpretations 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.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe 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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

13	Context records
1	Daily record sheet
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Sheets of scale drawings
6	Photographs

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is Northampton Museum:

Accession Number:	<i>Pending</i>
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	FOMS 10

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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.