

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND ADJACENT TO OLD STATION HOUSE,
WELL LANE, BARNWELL,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NGR: TL 04640 85035

on behalf of Ms L Dodge



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

August 2011

ASC: 1439/BWL/2



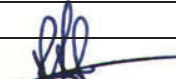
Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	BWL	<i>ASC Project No.:</i>	1439
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	105262	<i>Event/Accession no.:</i>	n/a
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Barnwell		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Barnwell		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 04640 85035		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.770 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of five bedroom detached house		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	EN/10/1447		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	East Northamptonshire		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	02/08/11 – 04/08/11		
<i>Client:</i>	Dean Brown & Lorna Dodge 11 Nine Arches Way Thrapston Northamptonshire NN14 4FD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Lorna Dodge		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	16/08/2011
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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Figure 1: General location (Scale 1: 25,000)

Summary

During August 2011, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire, during groundworks for the residential development of the site. During the initial site visit it became evident that the site had been levelled prior to the commencement of the development, removing between 0.3m and 1m of soil from east to west. As a result, any potential surface remains had been removed. The ground reduction and footing trenches on the western side of the site revealed a probable buried land surface, suggesting that this side of the site had been built up, probably during the construction of Barnwell Station in the mid 19th century. No further archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 In August 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire. The project was commissioned by Ms L Dodge, and was carried out according to a brief (Mordue 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *East Northamptonshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Planning Department of *Northamptonshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2011). The relevant planning application reference is EN/10/1447.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is situated in Barnwell, in the administrative district of East Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). It lies west of the historic core of the village, on the north side of Well Lane and is centred on Ordnance Survey National reference TL 0464 8503.

The development site comprises a sub-rectangular plot of land, part of the approach to the former Barnwell railway station. It is currently laid out with rough grass and trees and access is from the south, off Well Lane (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils of the site comprise the *Elmton 1 Association*, namely shallow well drained brashy loamy soils over 3rd gravel terrace of the river Nene. The underlying geology comprises Middle Jurassic Limestone limestone

(Soil Survey 1983, 343a; BGS sheet 171). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of *c.*45m OD.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The development proposal comprises the construction of a detached house with associated access and services (Fig. 3).

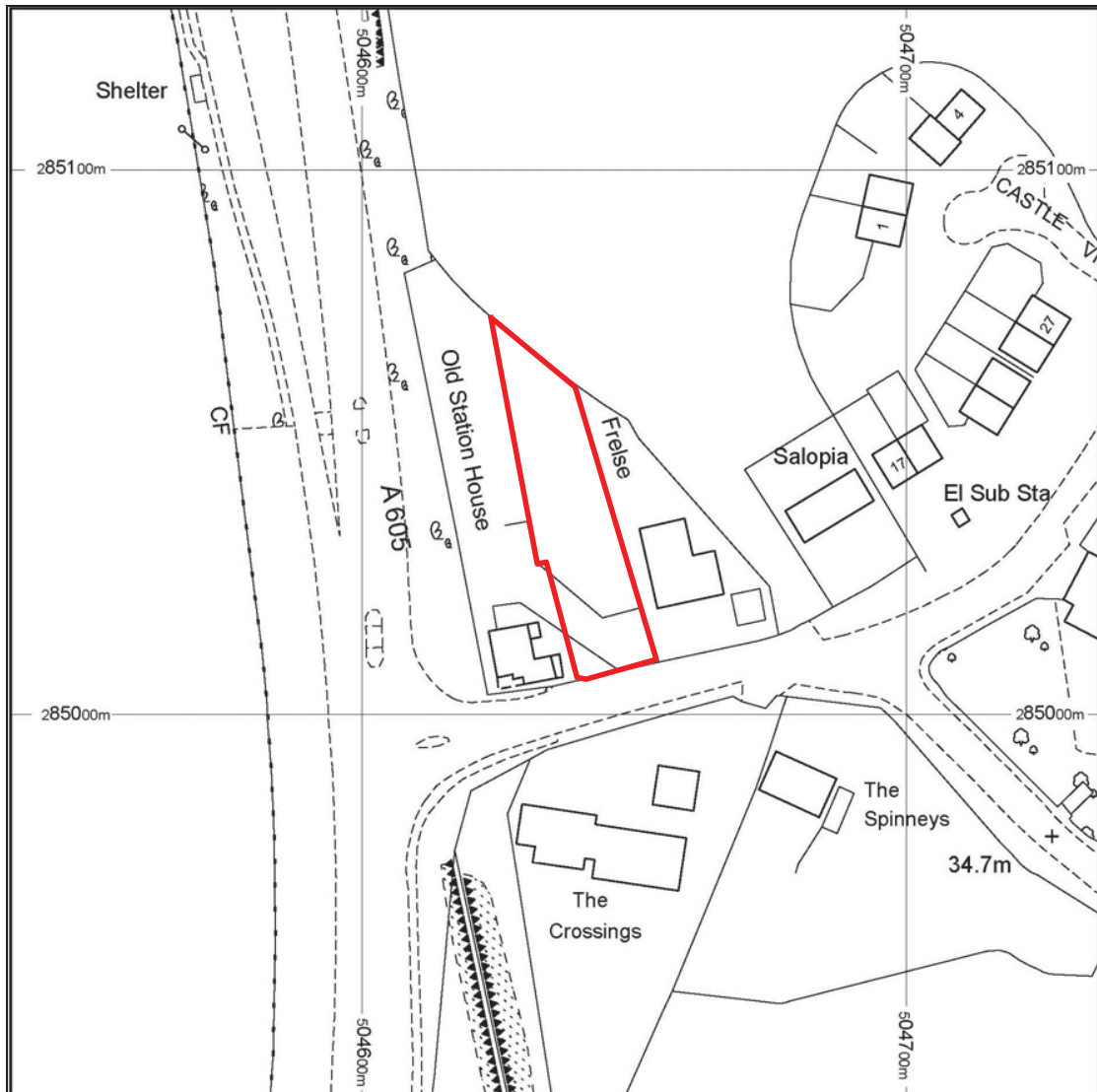


Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1: 1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- The archaeological investigation will consist of the continuous observation of foundation trench excavations
- Excavation and recording of any archaeological remains which may be present

2.4 Constraints

Upon arrival to the site, it was apparent that the western part of the site had been reduced by *c.* 1m prior to the start of the current groundworks.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Northampton Central Library and ASC's reference collection.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

Relatively little archaeological work has been undertaken in Barnwell and little is known of the area during the prehistoric periods. The valley of the river Nene was of importance during prehistory but the development site is situated in an elevated position on the side of the river valley and the only known prehistoric site in the area is a barrow cemetery c.100m northwest of the development site (SMR 2360/1). Cropmarks interpreted as indicating the presence of a prehistoric trackway are present to the north of the assessment site.

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period Barnwell lay within the tribal territory of the *Catuvellauni* (Branigan 1987). Settlement in the area was probably dominated by the small town of Ashton, which was situated c.3km north of the development site (RCHM 1975, 11-12; Upex 2008, 82-4). Little is known of Barnwell during this period but a road, linking the settlements of Water Newton with Thrapston (SMR 1897/1) passed c.50m to the south of the assessment site.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

The early development of Barnwell is not understood in detail but the village probably originated during the Saxon period. The land to the south and east of Well Lane contains a complex of earthworks (SMR 1189) elements of which may be Saxon in origin. The earthworks cannot be dated with accuracy but early elements of the complex may include an east to west aligned track, to the south of the assessment site (SMR 1189/0/24) and adjacent field boundaries (SMR 1189/0/28). The earthworks and cropmarks of a number of enclosures (eg SMR 1189/0/5) and buildings (SMR 1189/0/45) are also present in the area and may be Saxon in origin.

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

Barnwell is included in the Domesday survey (1086) where it is referred to as *Bernewelle*. The land was held by the king and Ramsey Abbey and the holdings were valued at £30 and £4 respectively (Morris 1979).

During the medieval period the village developed into a large polyfocal settlement, centred on two churches. The church of All Saints is situated c.0.500m southeast of the development site and dates from the 13th century (Pevsner and Cherry 2002, 102). Most of the building was demolished in 1825 but the chancel survives and houses the burial monuments of the Montague family, whose manor house was situated

immediately west of the church (RCHM 1975, fig. 26). The parish of All Saints was combined with that of St Andrew in 1821 and St Andrew's church, which is of similar date to All Saints now serves as the principal church in the parish and is situated c.300m east of the assessment site (Pevsner and Cherry 2002, 101-2; SMR 1189/6/1).

The medieval settlement may have been more extensive than the present village. Many of the earthworks to the south and east of the assessment site may date to this period and Well Lane may have originated as a hollow way, providing access to the castle (below) and northern part of the village (SMR 1189/0/8).

The development site lies c.300m southwest of Barnwell Castle (SMR 1189), which was reputedly founded in 1266 by a favourite of the king named *Berengarius le Moyne* (Pevsner & Cherry 2002, 103; Page 1930, 70). Little is known of its history but the principal building is square in plan with round corners. It was ceded to Peterborough Abbey in 1276 and at the dissolution passed to Sir Edward Montague, who built a house in the courtyard in 1586.

During the 13th century *Berengarius le Moyne* established a market at Barnwell. It never received royal sanction and following opposition from the Abbot of Peterborough, who controlled the market at Oundle, the market ceased (Taylor *et al* 2002, 36).

3.6 ***Post-Medieval & Modern*** (1500 - present)

The later medieval and post-medieval settlement extended along Church Lane and Main Street and the development site is situated to the west of the main area of settlement.

The assessment site is situated immediately east of the former Barnwell railway station (SMR 7745). The line opened in 1845, linking Blisworth with Peterborough (SMR 6294) and prior to nationalisation was operated by the *London and North Western Railway*. The station closed on 4th May 1964 (Clinker 1978, 9).

The 1886 and 1901 edition twenty five inch to the mile Ordnance Survey maps show the assessment site largely comprising open land. Part of south part of the site was occupied by the station access road.

4. Results

- 4.1 As mentioned in section 2.4 above, the initial site visit revealed that the western part of the site had been reduced by *c.* 1m, prior to the commencement of this development. Inspection of the section suggested that this side of the site had previously been built up (Plates 1 & 6).
- 4.2 The footing trenches were approximately 0.6m wide, and varied in depth between 0.6m and 1m (Plates 2 & 5). There was very little subsoil left *in situ* across the site. In the western part of the site there was a maximum of *c.* 0.1m of grey silty subsoil, overlying the natural strata. The natural subsoil across the site comprised dark orange silty sand, which overlay natural limestone bedrock (Plate 3).
- 4.3 The eastern part of the site had been reduced by *c.* 0.3m, leaving a greater depth of subsoil in this part of the site (Plate 4). Below this, the strata was as previously described.
- 4.4 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1: Footing trench in reduced area, looking south west, 2m scale



Plate 2: Footing trench in south eastern corner, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 3: Southernmost footing trench, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 4: Footing trench section in eastern side of site, 1m scale



Plate 5: Footing trench towards middle of site, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 6: Section of reduced ground and footing trench in western side of site

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Prior to the watching brief, the subject site was thought to have the potential to reveal remains relating to the medieval and post medieval development of Barnwell, as discussed in sections 3.5 and 3.6 above.
- 5.2 The site is immediately adjacent to the former Barnwell railway station. The ground reduction that was carried out on the site prior to this development and the subsequent footing trenches on the western side of the site created a section over 2m deep. This section showed what appeared to be the original ground surface, overlain by c.0.75m of redeposited natural and topsoil. This may have been brought in during the construction of the railway station in the mid 19th century, to provide a level surface for the station to be constructed on.
- 5.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. It is possible that the ground reduction which was carried out on the site prior to the beginning of the development removed surface traces of earthworks relating either to the former station, or to the early village. However, no evidence of either of these things was observed cut into the natural subsoil during the watching brief.
- 5.4 *Confidence Rating*
The watching brief was carried out in mixed conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high level of confidence is attached to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Ms L Dodge. The writer is grateful to Ms Dodge assistance. The project was monitored by Liz Mordue of the Planning Department of *Northamptonshire County Council* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the on-site contractors, and the owner of Old Station House for their assistance.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Sample records
9. Site record drawings
10. List of photographs
11. B/W prints & negatives
12. Original specialist reports and supporting information
13. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be stored by ASC until arrangements for deposition can be made.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. English Heritage (London).
- Fell, D 2011 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief of Land adjacent to Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire* ASC/1439/BWL/1
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Mordue L, 2011 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works on Land at Well Lane (between the Old Station House and no. 9), Barnwell, Northamptonshire*. Northamptonshire County Council

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Branigan K, 1987 *The Catuvellauni*. Alan Sutton
- Clinker C R, 1978 *Clinker's Register of Closed Passenger Stations and Goods Depots in England, Scotland and Wales 1830-1977*. Avon Anglia
- Morris J (ed), 1979 *The Domesday Book: Northamptonshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore
- OS, 1979 *Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain*. Ordnance Survey
- Page W (ed), 1930 *The Victoria History of the County of Northamptonshire 3*
- Pevsner N & Cherry B, 2002 *The Buildings of England. Northamptonshire*. Yale University Press
- RCHM, 1975 *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites on North-East Northamptonshire*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden)*.
- Taylor J, Foard G & Ballinger J, 2002 *Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey. Overview*. Northamptonshire County Council
- Upex S G, 2008 *The Romans in the East of England. Settlement and Landscape in the Lower Nene Valley*. Tempus

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD				
Project: OLD STATION HOUSE, BARNWELL		Project No/Code: 1439 1 BWL		Sheet: 1 of 3		
		Date of visit: 2/8/11				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 1 PM		Finish: 3.30 pm		
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Site & weather conditions:						
SUMM						
Observations:						
ARRIVED ON SITE TO FIND WORK WASN'T STARTING UNTIL TOMORROW.						
SITE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY REDDUCED BY 1M ON WEST, FALLING TO 0.3M AT WEST. SOME SUBSOIL REMAINS ACROSS SITE. SITE BUILT UP AT W - BURIED SUBSOIL NOTED - SEE PHOTOGRAPHS						
Comments:						

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: OLD STATION HOUSE		Project No/Code: 1439 1 BWL	Sheet: 2 of 3
BARNWELL		Date of visit: 3/8/11	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7.15	Finish: 5PM	
Completed by: CR			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST / SUNNY			
Observations: OBSERVED EXCAVATION OF FOOTING TRENCHES IN SW PART OF SITE. 0.6M X 1M - 0.6M DEEP. C.O. 1M SUBSOIL OVER NAT. NAT LIMESTONE ENCOUNTERED C.O. 0.5M BELOW SURFACE, MAKING EXCAVATION SLOW NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS / FEATURES OBSERVED			
Comments: RETURN MID MORNING TOMORROW			

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: OLD STATION HOUSE BARNWELL		Project No/Code: 1439 1 BWL		Sheet: 3 of 3		
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 4/8/11				
Contact:		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10 AM	Finish: 5 PM				
Completed by: CR						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify): #
Site & weather conditions: WET						
Observations: OBSERVED REMAINDER OF FOOTING TRENCHES. STRAT AS BEFORE.						
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS / FEATURES OBSERVED						
Comments:						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land adjacent to Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1439/BWL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Westernmost footing trench and ground reduction, looking SSE, 2m scale
2	✓	✓	South western corner of footing trenches, looking WSW, 2m scale
3	✓	✓	South eastern corner of footing trenches, looking SE, 2m scale
4	✓	✓	Southernmost footing trench, looking E, 1m scale
5	✓	✓	Easternmost footing trench, looking SE, 1m scale
6		✓	Working shot, looking north
7		✓	Working shot, looking northwest
8	✓	✓	Footing trench section in eastern side of site, 1m scale
9	✓	✓	Footing trench towards middle of site, looking east, 1m scale
10	✓	✓	Section of reduced ground and footing trench in western side of site
11		✓	Site shot, looking southwest

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land adjacent to Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire	OASIS reference:	105262
Short Description:	During August 2011, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire, during groundworks for the residential development of the site. During the initial site visit it became evident that the site had been levelled prior to the commencement of the development, removing between 0.3m and 1m of soil from east to west. As a result, any potential surface remains had been removed. The ground reduction and footing trenches on the western side of the site revealed a probable buried land surface, suggesting that this side of the site had been built up, probably during the construction of Barnwell Station in the mid 19 th century. No further archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.		
Project Type:	Watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	-
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Northamptonshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 04640 85035
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land adjacent to Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.770	Height OD: (metres)	c.45
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	L.Mordue	Project design originator:	D.Fell
Project Manager:	D.Fell	Director/Supervisor:	D.Fell
Sponsor / funding body:	L.Dodge		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	02/08/2011	End date:	04/08/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	To Be Confirmed	-	
Paper:		Archive Box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Old Station House, Barnwell, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1439/BWL/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	18	Date:	16/08/2011