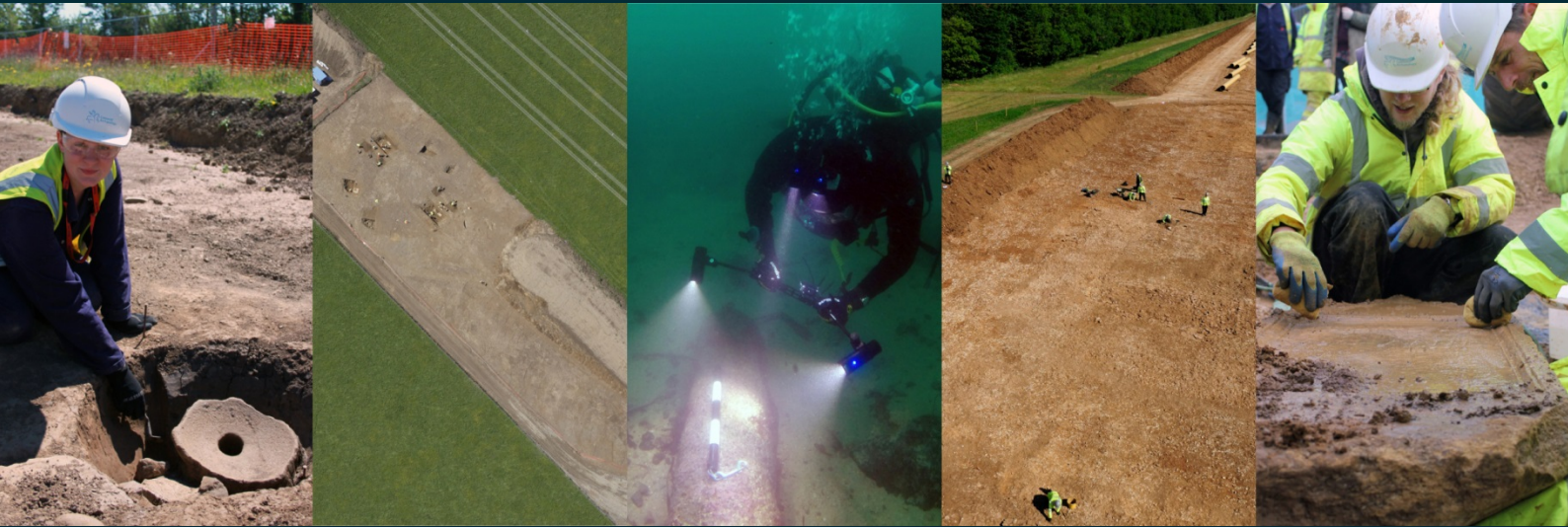


Land Adjacent to 54 Moorend Road Yardley Gobion Northamptonshire

*Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation
Recording, Analysis & Publication*



for
Mr & Mrs John West

CA Project: 660610

CA Report: 16211

Site Code: YGB15

April 2016



Land Adjacent to 54 Moorend Road Yardley Gobion Northamptonshire

Programme of Archaeological Observation Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication

CA Project: 660610
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SUMMARY

Project Location:	54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire
NGR:	SP 7608 4493
Type:	Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication (watching brief)
Fieldwork date:	30th-31st March 2016
Location of Archive:	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (when opened)
Planning Reference:	South Northamptonshire Council S/2015/2074/FUL
Site Code:	YGB15

In March 2016, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (watching brief) for a development site adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire. The work, which was commissioned by Mr & Mrs John West, was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent by South Northamptonshire Council for the construction of a new residential property on the site.

The fieldwork was carried out over two days during the excavation of foundations, a service trench and topsoil removal for an access road. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks for the development and there were no finds pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (watching brief) for a development site adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire (site centred on NGR: SP 7608 4493; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by Mr & Mrs John West, was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent by South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) for the construction of a new residential property on the site (planning ref: S/2015/2074/FUL, Conditions 7 and 8).
- 1.2 Archaeological advice to SNC was provided by Liz Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA) and the requirements for the archaeological investigation were outlined in *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication of Works on Land Adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire* (NCCAAA 2015). The subsequent *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) issued by CA (2015), which was approved by NCCAA prior to fieldwork commencing, was guided in its preparation by the *Brief*.
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CA 2015) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014) and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located off Grays Lane, to the north of Moorend Road, at the northern edge of the village of Yardley Gobion, which lies c. 4km to the north-west of Milton Keynes' north-western suburbs (Fig. 1). The site comprises a rectangular plot of land, covering an area of approximately 168m², which was formerly part of a garden (Figs 2 and 3). It is bounded by residential properties to the east and west, Grays Lane to the south and fields to the north. Locally the ground is

generally flat and the site lies at approximately 101m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), although in the wider landscape the village is located near the crest of a spur of high ground between the River Tove to the north-east and Dogsmouth Brook, a tributary of the River Great Ouse, to the south.

- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Jurassic rocks of the Blisworth Limestone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton (glacial till of the Oadby Member), a brown to grey clay with chalk and flint fragments (BGS 2015).

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.3 The following information has been obtained from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and County Records Office, supplemented with information from available online sources (British History Online; Heritage Gateway; Archaeological Data Service).

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

- 2.4 There are few known prehistoric sites within the vicinity of Yardley Gobion. Nineteenth-century records state that there were two round barrows and one long barrow in a field adjoining Moor End Castle, approximately 1km to the west of the site, although their exact location is unknown and no trace of these monuments survives today (SMR 1221)
- 2.5 Evidence for Iron Age settlement has been identified c. 700m to the west of the village (NMR 973426) and Iron Age remains have been investigated approximately 600m to the east of site (SMR 5376, 5377, 5378).

Roman (AD43-410)

- 2.6 With the exception of the findspots of two Roman coins, one of Gratian and the other of Valerian I, no Roman finds or remains are known of in or near Yardley Gobion. The route of Watling Street (A5), the Roman road that locally ran between the towns of *Lactodurum* (Towcester) and *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford), passes 1.5km to the north-east of the site.

Saxon and medieval (AD410-1509)

- 2.7 The village of Yardley Gobion, previously documented as *Gerdeslai*, *Jerdelai* and *Yardele*, probably originated in the Saxon period, its name deriving from the Old English *gyrda-lēah*, 'woodland from which spars are taken', with the suffix added in

the later medieval period from the personal name of a local landowner, probably Henry Gubyon (Gover *et al.* 1933).

- 2.8 In the medieval period the village had strong ties to the nearby Potterspury pottery industry and a number of 14th/early 15th-century kilns have been excavated within the village. In 1973 two kilns were uncovered 400m to the east of the site (Moore 1974; NMR 343172) and in 1979 a further two kilns were investigated at 44 Moorend Road during the construction of a bungalow extension, 100m to the east (Moore 1979; NMR 343171).
- 2.9 Study of aerial photographs show that during the medieval period Yardley Gobion extended further to the north, with the remains of earthworks present in the field to the north of the High Street (RCHME 1982; NMR 343169). These lie 500m east of site and form rectangular plots, probably representing abandoned buildings and closes. The site of the manor house probably lay to the south of Moorend Road, where a moated enclosure is shown on aerial photographs, but this has been entirely destroyed by modern housing. The site of the manor house is described in this location in Baker's *History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton, Volume II* (Baker 1836-41).
- 2.10 The site of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Moor End Castle and its associated fishponds and earthworks is located 500m south-west of site (SAM 1010806). Documentary evidence is sparse and little is known about the site, but Thomas de Ferrers was granted a licence to crenellate his residence of *Le Morende* in 1327 and in 1363 the manor passed to the Crown, with substantial building work being undertaken over the following years. Stone-robbing in the 19th century revealed a substantial rectangular building on the site, with towers at each corner (Baker 1836-41, 229).
- 2.11 Adjacent to the 'castle' are the earthwork remains of the medieval village of Moor End (NMR 343170), which lie 500m south-west of current site and demonstrate that like Yardley Gobion, it was also once a larger settlement. The rectangular enclosures and building platforms can still be seen and appear to be overlying the ridge and furrow.

Post-medieval and modern (AD1509-present)

- 2.12 Eighteenth-century pottery kilns were found in Yardley Gobion in 1968, 600m to the south-east of site, showing that pottery production in the village continued into the post-medieval period.
- 2.13 The medieval open fields surrounding the village were enclosed by an Act of Parliament of 1775. Ridge and furrow earthworks are still visible near Moor End; elsewhere they have either been ploughed out or the land has been developed for housing.
- 2.14 The houses clustered around the fork in the road immediately adjacent to the site are of post-medieval or modern date, including the adjacent property at 54 Moorend, which dates to the 19th century. The Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows that this cluster of houses were at that time separated from the main body of the village to the east. Yardley Gobion remained a small, narrow linear settlement until the mid 20th century, when residential development extended the village to the south of High Street.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2015), was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains that may have been encountered within the site and to set these within their cultural and environmental setting.
- 3.2 The main objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.3 Specific objectives were to:

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

3.4 Reference to regional research frameworks identifies medieval and post-medieval pottery production as a major research theme for the East Midlands region (Cooper 2006, 214; Knight *et al.* 2012, 116). The investigation sought to recover any evidence for pottery production within the site (waster pits, grab pits, kilns and associated structures) to assist in enhancing our understanding of the regionally important pottery production centre of Potterspury and surrounding villages, from the medieval period up until the advent of the Industrial era. However, no such remains or artefacts were encountered during groundworks for the development.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015), with the archaeological investigation comprising the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks by an experienced archaeologist, including the excavation of foundations, service trenches and access road. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

4.2 A photographic record of the project was maintained in high resolution digital images and included photographs of the general site and working shots. There were no finds and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

4.3 The archive from the project is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes; this will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre when this facility becomes available. A summary of information from this project, as

set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 5.1 The geological substrate (203/303), consisting of limestone bedrock, was revealed in foundation trenches at depths of between 0.87-1.23m below present ground level (Figs 3–5). This was overlain by a layer of glacial till (diamicton), which comprised mid yellowish-brown firm sandy clay with limestone inclusions (202/302) and measured between 0.45-0.83m thick. This was sealed in turn by subsoil, a 0.12-0.20m thick layer of mid greyish-brown firm sandy clay (201/301/401), and topsoil (200/300/400), recorded as dark greyish-brown firm sandy loam between 0.22-0.28m thick. Ground reduction for the access road was limited to a depth of c. 250mm, revealing the surface of the subsoil.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the archaeological investigation encountered no archaeological remains during groundworks. With the exception of tree rooting the site was relatively undisturbed, with a developed subsoil horizon evident across the site and no evidence for quarrying or other truncation. The site is known from documentary evidence to have been peripheral to the main areas of local settlement in the medieval period, which has been borne out by the current investigation.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne. The report was written by James Coyne and the illustrations were prepared by Sam O’Leary. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O’Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 13 November 2015

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Moore, W R G, 1979 *Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1978: Medieval, Northants. Archaeol.* **14**, 111

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RCHME (Royal Commission of Historical Monuments England) 1982 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 4: Archaeological Sites in South-West Northamptonshire, 175–177*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1 (service trench)**

Context	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
100	Cut	Modern Drain	Cut of modern drain.	>2.5	>0.9	0.73	Modern
101	Fill of 100	Fill of modern drain	Deliberately backfilled rubble fill of modern drain 100. Mid yellowish brown friable sandy clay with occasional rubble material (10%).	>2.5	>0.9	0.73	Modern

Trench 2 (Foundations)

Context	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown firm clayey loam with moderate charcoal and small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	0.28	Modern
201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with occasional charcoal and limestone inclusions (5%) and moderate small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	0.12	
202	Layer	Oadby Member (diamicton)	Mid yellowish brown firm sandy clay with moderate small stones (1%) and occasional limestone blocks >0.05m (5%).	N/A	N/A	0.83	
203	Layer	Geology	Limestone bedrock.	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Trench 3 (Foundations)

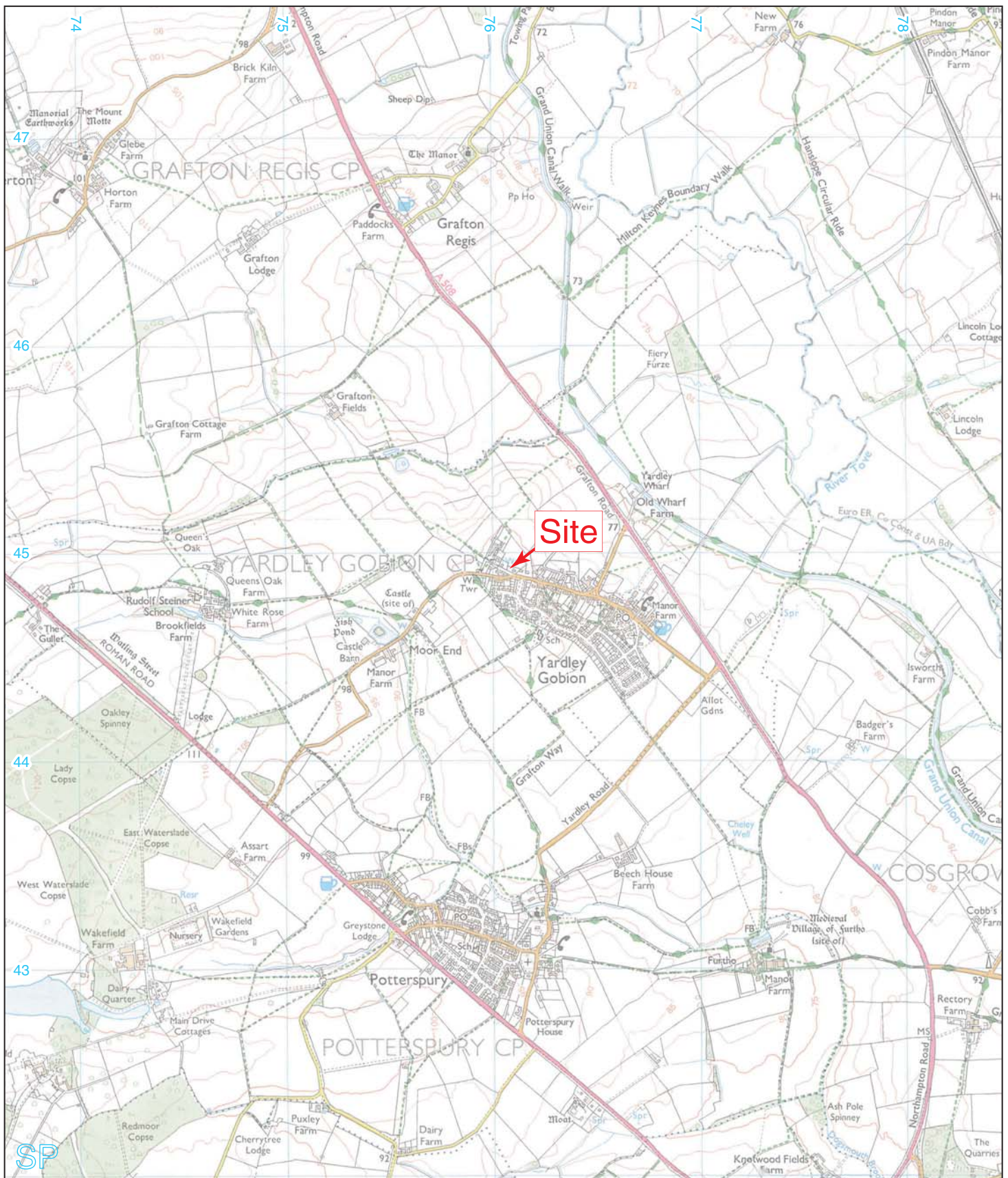
Context	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown firm sandy loam with moderate charcoal and small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	0.22	Modern
301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with moderate charcoal and small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	0.2	
302	Layer	Oadby Member (diamicton)	Mid yellowish brown firm sandy clay with moderate small stones (1%) and occasional limestone blocks >0.05m (5%).	N/A	N/A	0.45	
303	Layer	Geology	Limestone bedrock.	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Trench 4 (Access Road)

Context	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown firm sandy loam with moderate charcoal and small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	0.25	Modern
401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm sandy clay with moderate charcoal and small stones (1%).	N/A	N/A	N/A	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land Adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire	
Short description	The fieldwork was carried out over two days during the excavation of foundations, a service trench and topsoil removal for an access road. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks for the development and there were no finds pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposits.	
Project dates	30th-31st March 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire	
Study area	168m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 7608 4493	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Liz Mordue, NCCAAA	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
		Content
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (when opened)	None
Paper		Site records
Digital	Northamptonshire HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land Adjacent to 54 Moorend Road, Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire: Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis & Publication</i> . CA typescript report 16211		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to 54 Moored Road
 Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	660610	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	19/04/2016	
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- access road
- footprint of new building
- ← Fig. 4 photograph location



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to 54 Moorend Road
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FIGURE TITLE
 Plan showing footprint of new building
 and area of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	660610	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	19/04/2016	2
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A3	1:5,000	





3



4

3 General view of the site, looking south-west

4 General view of Trench 2, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to 54 Moored Road
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FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs: General view of the site
 and Trench 2**

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	660610	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	19/04/2016	3 & 4
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5



6

5 General view of Trench 3, looking north-east (scale 1m)

6 Trench 2 section, looking south-west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to 54 Moarend Road
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs: General view of Trench 3
 and Trench 2 section

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	660610	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	19/04/2016	5 & 6
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	N/A	

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