



**Archaeological observation, investigation and
recording at The Nursery, Isham Road
Orlingbury, Northamptonshire
April to October 2013**

WP/2012/0432

Report No. 14/40

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Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. Molanort1-172189	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury, Northamptonshire		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) in May 2013 for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Mr J Lawson, during the construction of two detached houses at The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury Northamptonshire. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type and period	-		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury, Northamptonshire		
Post code	-		
OS co-ordinates	SP 86305 72420		
Area (sq m/ha)	5000m ²		
Height aOD	98m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	Mike Dawson		
Project Managers	Anthony Maull, Mike Dawson CgMs Consulting		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	16 April 2013		
End date	8 October 2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	NA store	-	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	14/40		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING OF
WORKS AT THE NURSERY, ISHAM ROAD, ORLINGBURY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MAY 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) in May 2013 for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Mr J Lawson, during the construction of two detached houses at The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury Northamptonshire. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of MR J Lawson, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording in May 2013 at The Nursery, Isham Road, Orlingbury, Northamptonshire (SP 86305 72420, Fig 1) during the construction of two detached residential buildings. Planning consent has been granted (WP/2012/0432).

The works were required as part of a planning consent in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council required that the impact of development on heritage assets potentially present on the site be mitigated through a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (Mordue 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the work (Leigh 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

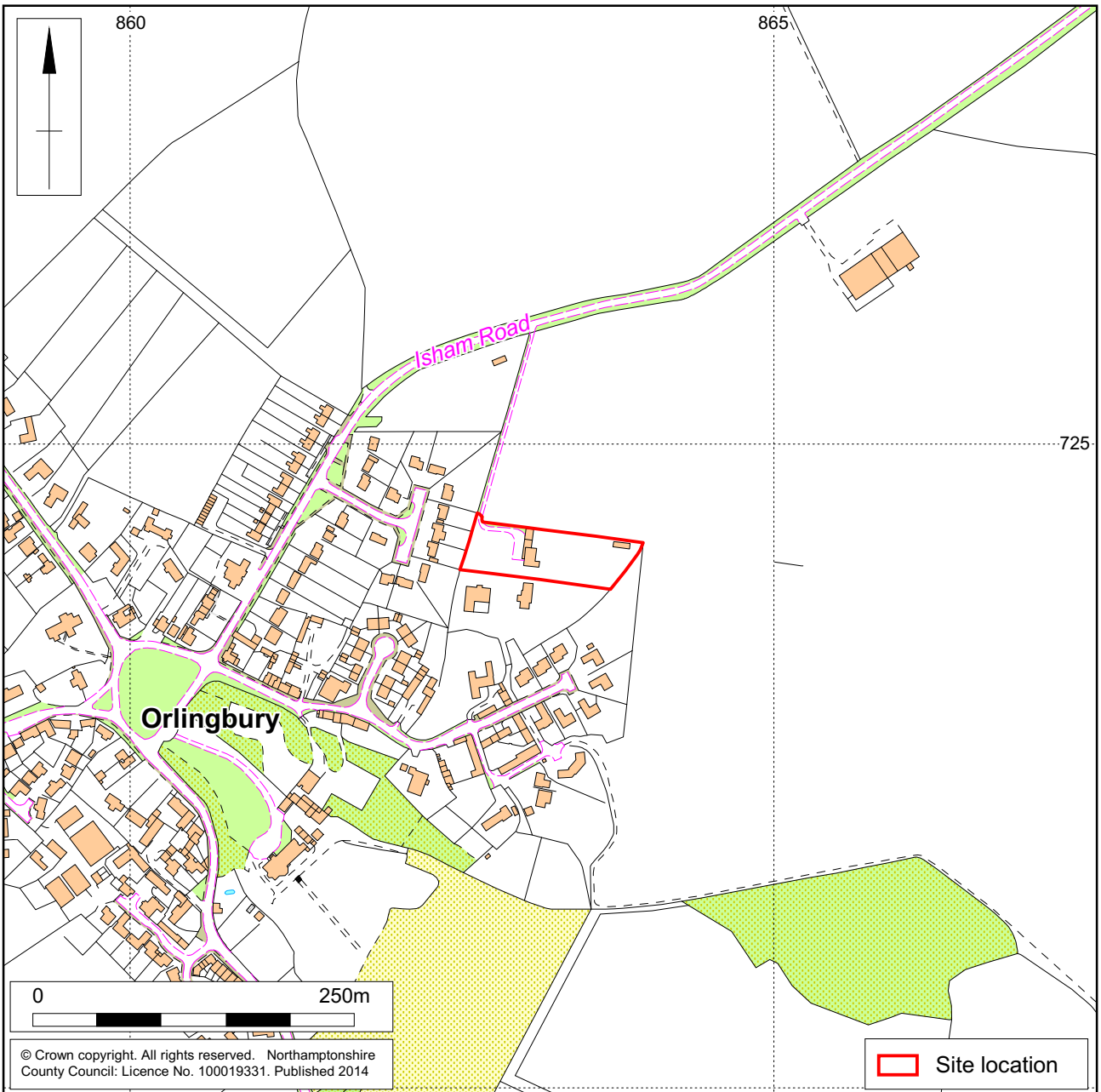
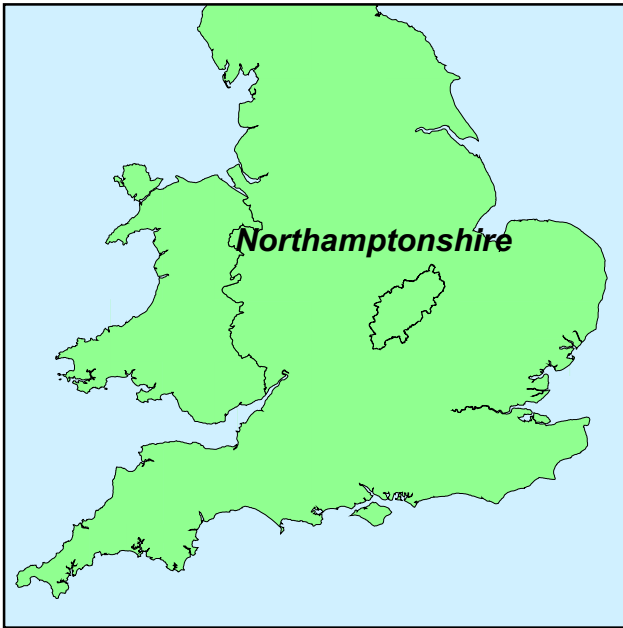
Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. The work was carried out in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Orlingbury lies approximately 8.5km to the south of Kettering. The development area lies on relatively level ground at an approximate height of 98m aOD. The site is bounded by houses to the west and south, and bound by arable fields to the north and east.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Northampton Sand and Ironstone.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and just outside the historic core of the settlement.

Cropmarks suggest a Romano-British settlement lies to the north of the site, from which building material and Romano-British pottery has been recovered during fieldwalking. Roman and early to middle Saxon finds have been recorded during development work to the south of the site at Lamm Close.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Ordinbaro*. Evidence of medieval field systems and ridge and furrow agriculture is visible as cropmarks to the east of the site. To the south-west of the site lies Orlingbury Hall, the earliest parts of which date from the early 18th century.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site, up to the present application the site has been occupied by a single dwelling, now demolished.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the investigation were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new dwelling and any associated groundworks;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images and black and white photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009).

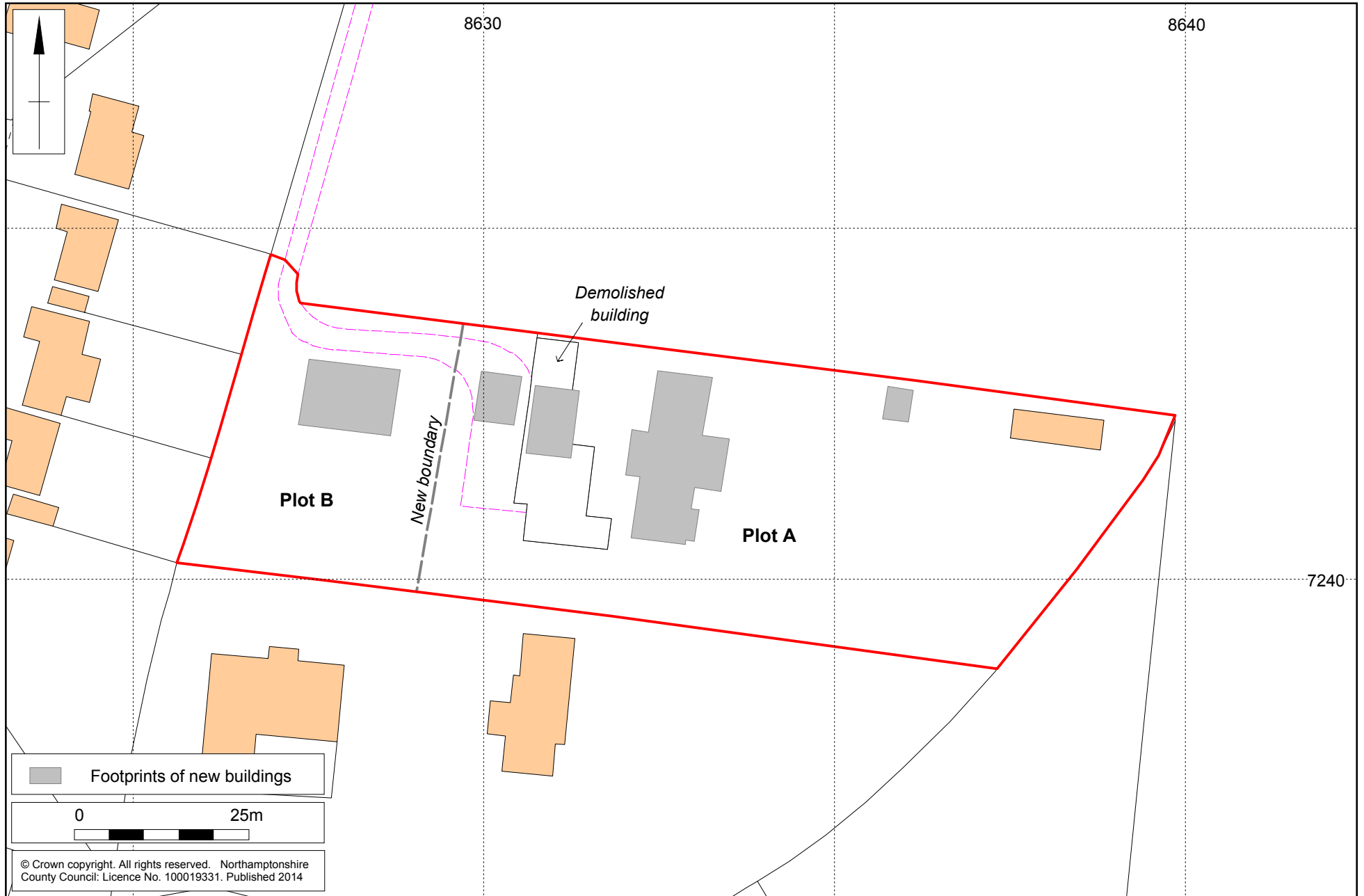
The development site comprised an area of c 5000m², Plot A and Plot B (Figs 2 and 3). The fieldwork was undertaken in May 2013 during the groundworks associated with the proposed development. This comprised of topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation of trenches down to foundation levels of the two detached dwellings and service trenches.

A mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was used for topsoil removal, for deeper excavation a toothed bucket was also used. The conditions were good and observation of the excavated groundworks was possible throughout the machine excavation. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

Scale 1:750 (A4)

The area of archaeological observation

Fig 2



4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

On Plot A and Plot B the natural substrate comprised the Northampton Sand Formation of Ironstone and Oidal. This was overlain by c 0.10-0.20m of topsoil. Remains of the nursery was still present, debris was located within the topsoil. Plot A was terraced leaving the natural substrate truncated.



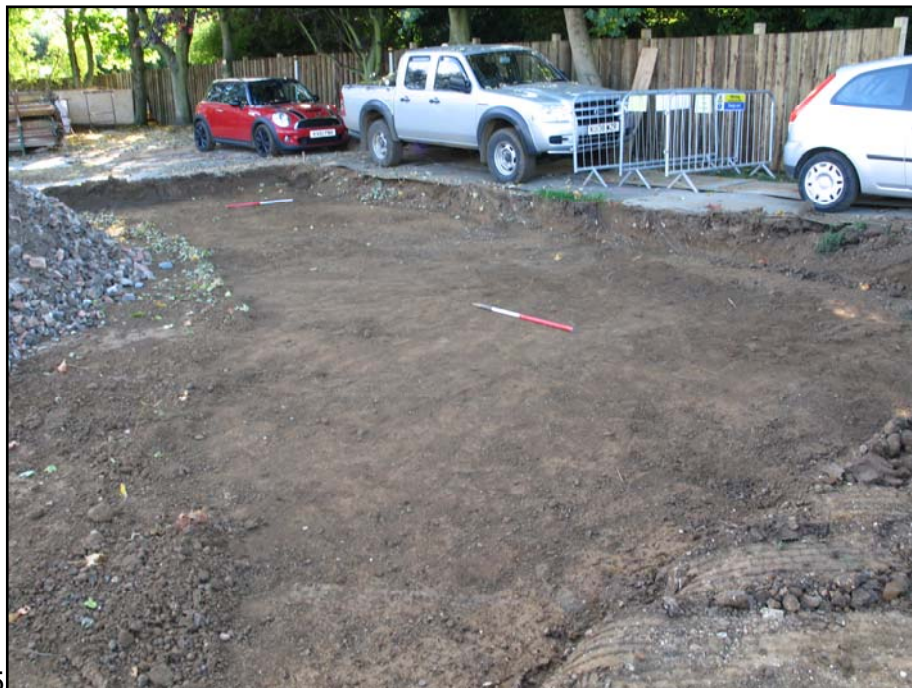
Nursery building remains and terracing on site, looking west Fig 3



Plot A showing general stratigraphy, looking north Fig 4



Excavated foundation trenches of Plot A, looking north Fig



5

Plot B stripped, looking north-west Fig 6



Section showing stratigraphy in a foundation trench of Plot B, looking west Fig 7

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared and consolidated for deposition. However, until such time a suitable depository has been appointed the project archive will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology.

6 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on the machine excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of two detached dwellings were carried out. Undisturbed soils were uncovered on Plot B. However, a glasshouse had been constructed on the site of Plot A, resulting in the truncation of the natural when it was originally levelled. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were present.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Websites

BGS 2013 www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex British Geological Survey



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