



**Archaeological observation, investigation  
recording and analysis of land at  
42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
May 2014**

Report No 14/117

Author: Jason Clarke

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molanort1-180272</b>	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire May 2014		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA, on land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	None		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe		
Easting Northing	SP 64932 46442		
Area (sq m/ha)	425sqm		
Height aOD	120mOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire county council		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA) supported by David J Leigh		
Sponsor or funding body	DJC Associates		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	19/05/2014		
End date	19/05/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Paper			
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire May 2014		
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Front Cover: Development area: pre-works, looking west

Fig 1: Site Location

Fig 2: Area of archaeological observation

Fig 3: The excavated development area, looking east

# **Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis of land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe Northamptonshire May 2014**

## **Abstract**

*An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA, on land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA, on land at 42 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 64932 46442 Fig 1). The investigation was commissioned by DJC Associates and was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for residential development (S/2013/0424/FUL).

The scope of works was outlined in a brief issued by the Environment and Growth Planning Services, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2014) and detailed in the specification prepared by MOLA (NA 2014).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and geology**

Abthorpe is located within the County of Northamptonshire approximately 4.2km south-west of Towcester. The site comprises 425 sqm of land on the north side of Wappenham Road on relatively level ground, at a height of approximately 120m aOD.

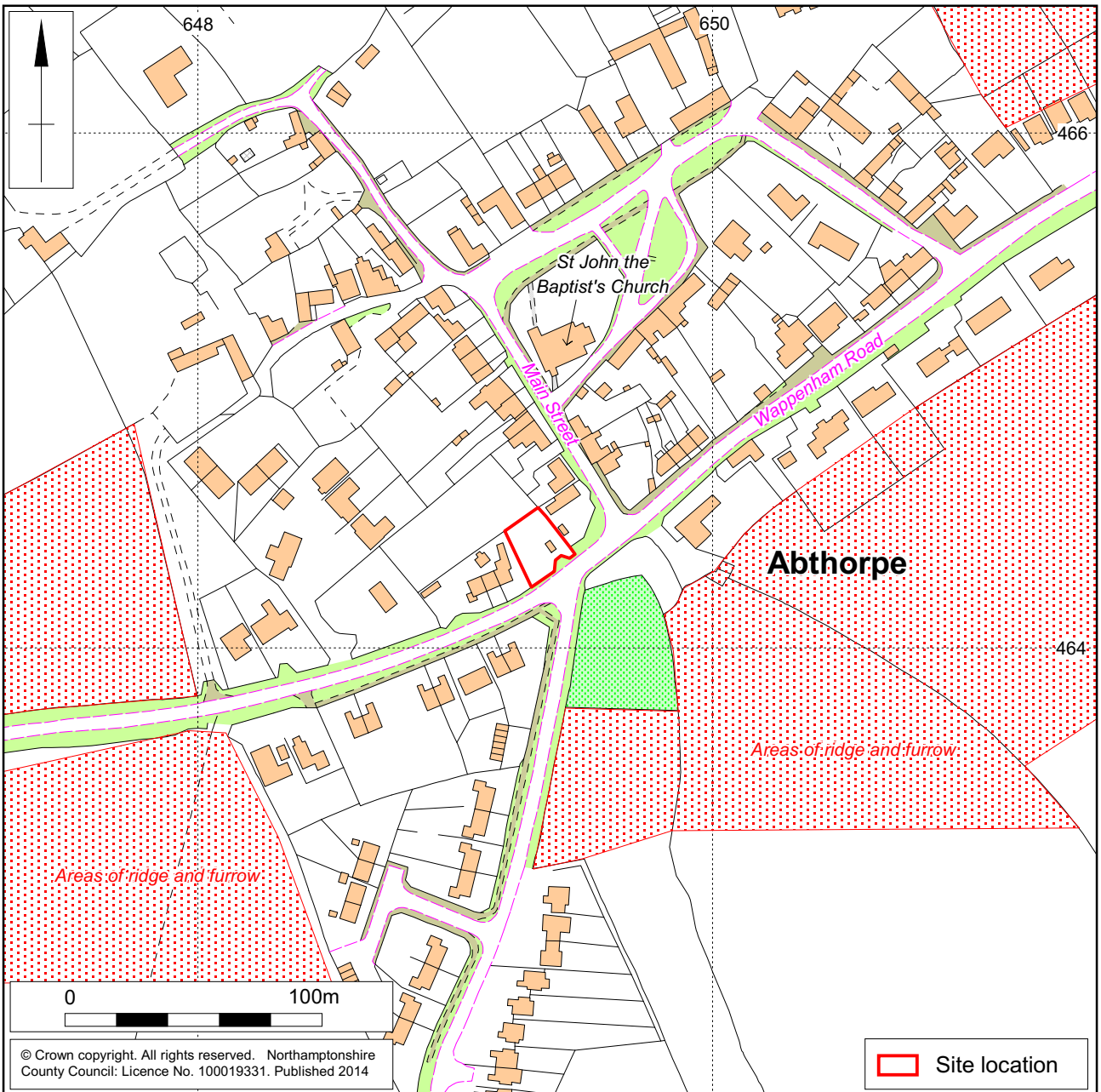
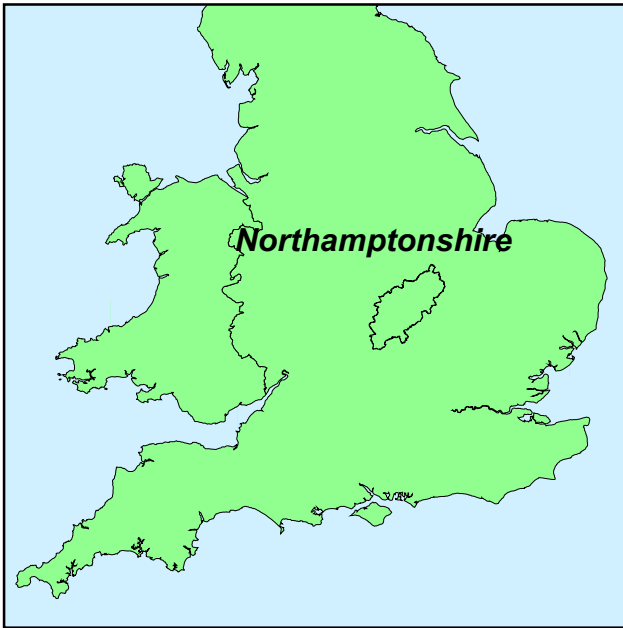
The local geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Glacial Sands and Gravels (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

### **2.2 Historical and archaeological background**

The site lies in the village of Abthorpe and within an area of archaeological interest. During the Anglo-Saxon period the village lay within the royal estate at Towcester.

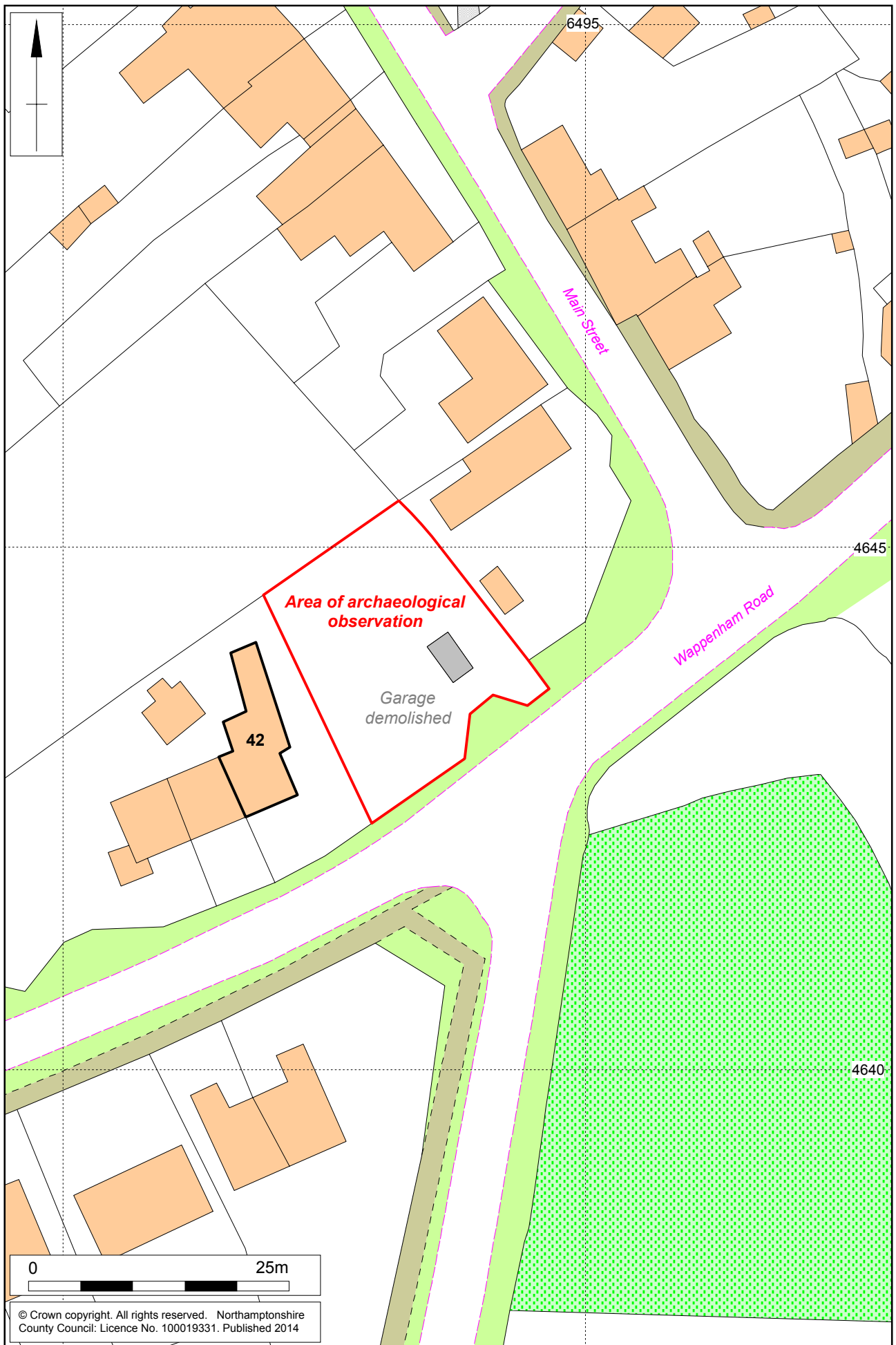
The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record lists areas of ridge and furrow south of the investigation area, however, these have suffered heavily from erosion caused by repeated ploughing. North of the investigation area, especially in the area of the manor, a number of earthworks have been identified by aerial photography.

Up to the present application the investigation area has comprised an area of private garden.



Scale 1:2500

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the investigation were to:

- identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the groundworks;
- determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- 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 landscape;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

#### 3.2 Methodology

All groundworks were undertaken by a 360° mechanical excavator with a flat ditching bucket to remove topsoil and subsoil within the development area (Fig 2). The area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features, if present.

Recording followed standard MOLA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and digital images. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

#### 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The underlying geology of mid yellow-brown sandy clay was observed throughout the development area. It was overlain by 0.05-0.10m of mid black-brown sandy clay subsoil, which was overlain by 0.20-0.30m of dark black-brown sandy clay garden soil. Both soils contained brick, tile and concrete fragments probably derived from past building works. The underlying geology was disturbed in the areas of the recently demolished garage, greenhouse, garden paths and dug out magnolia tree.

No pre-modern features or finds were present.



The excavated development area, looking east

Fig 3

#### 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

Record	Number
Watching brief logs	1
Photographic record sheets	2
Black and white contacts and negatives	12
Digital photographs	12

## 6 DISCUSSION

The development area lies on the edge of the medieval village of Abthorpe, Historic Environment Record data shows ridge and furrow from the medieval cultivation system to the south and the Victorian graveyard lies to the north, the archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features within the development area. Consultation of the 1826 map of the village's enclosure plan shows the development as an open area within enclosure plot 5 and within the garden of a property fronting Main Street. By 1884 the Ordnance Survey map shows the development area to be garden space for the adjacent property on Wappenham Road.

The area of the former garden was undisturbed, with only recently modern disturbance from the construction of a greenhouse with brick foundations and a car garage.

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### Websites

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<http://www.abthorpe.net>

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4th June 2014



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