



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks  
at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire  
March 2012  
Accession Number: T/1172



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/42

March 2012



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### QUALITY CONTROL

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**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

121039

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire	
Short description	In March 2012 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for an extension to the existing dwelling at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	none	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address	4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire	
Study area (sq metres)	c.9 sq m	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR: SP 269 487	
Height OD	c.110m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Warwickshire Museum	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (NA)	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Morag Stirling	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	6/3/2012	
End date	7/3/2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeology T/1172	
Paper		Site Records
Digital		Client Report (PDF)
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published, forthcoming, unpublished		
Title	Archaeological watching brief at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire, March 2012	
Author	Paul Clements	
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report, 12/42	
Date	12 March 2012	

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Front cover: View of development area, looking north

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Fig 3: General section, looking south-east

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING GROUNDWORKS  
AT 4 THE SQUARE,  
ETTINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE  
MARCH 2012**

*Abstract*

*In March 2012 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the groundworks for an extension to the existing dwelling at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire. The watching brief was carried out as a condition of the planning consent. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks, and no pre-modern finds were recorded.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Morag Stirling to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for an extension to the existing dwelling at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 269 487) as part of the planning consent (Planning ref: 11/00446/FUL) following a brief for archaeological work (WM 2011).

The scope of works was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) following guidelines in the procedural document MOrPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

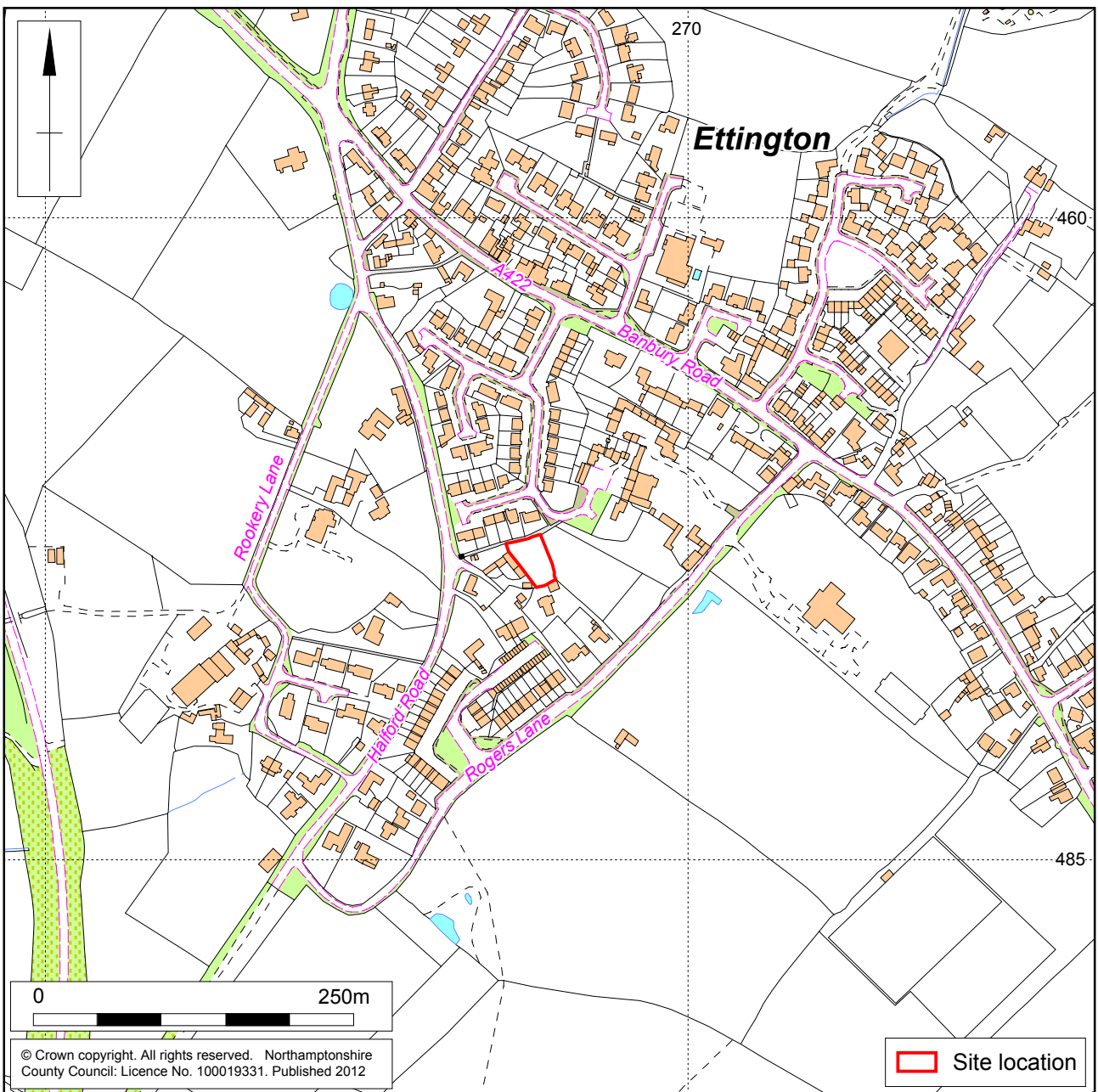
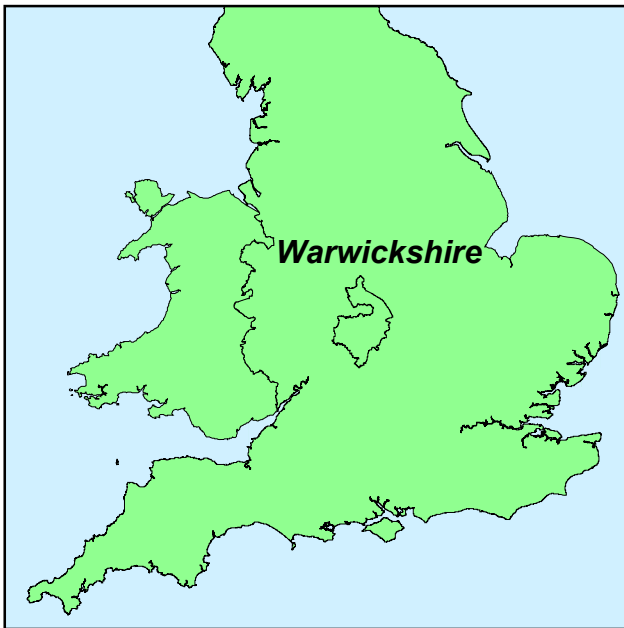
The area of development is located at the back of 4 The Square, Ettington, at a height of c.110m above Ordnance Datum. The site was previously lawn garden with evidence of some landscaping creating thicker topsoil away from the house (Figs 1 and 2).

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50 000 scale as Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2012). The soils are classified as lime rich, loams and clays, with impeded drainage (Landis 2012).

### **2.2 Historical background**

As part of the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012) a historical background search was undertaken and is reproduced here.

Archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded from the area of Ettington telephone exchange, where possible prehistoric flints were identified as a surface scatter. Romano-British activity is evidenced by two major Roman roads, The Saltway and The Fosse Way which pass close by the village.



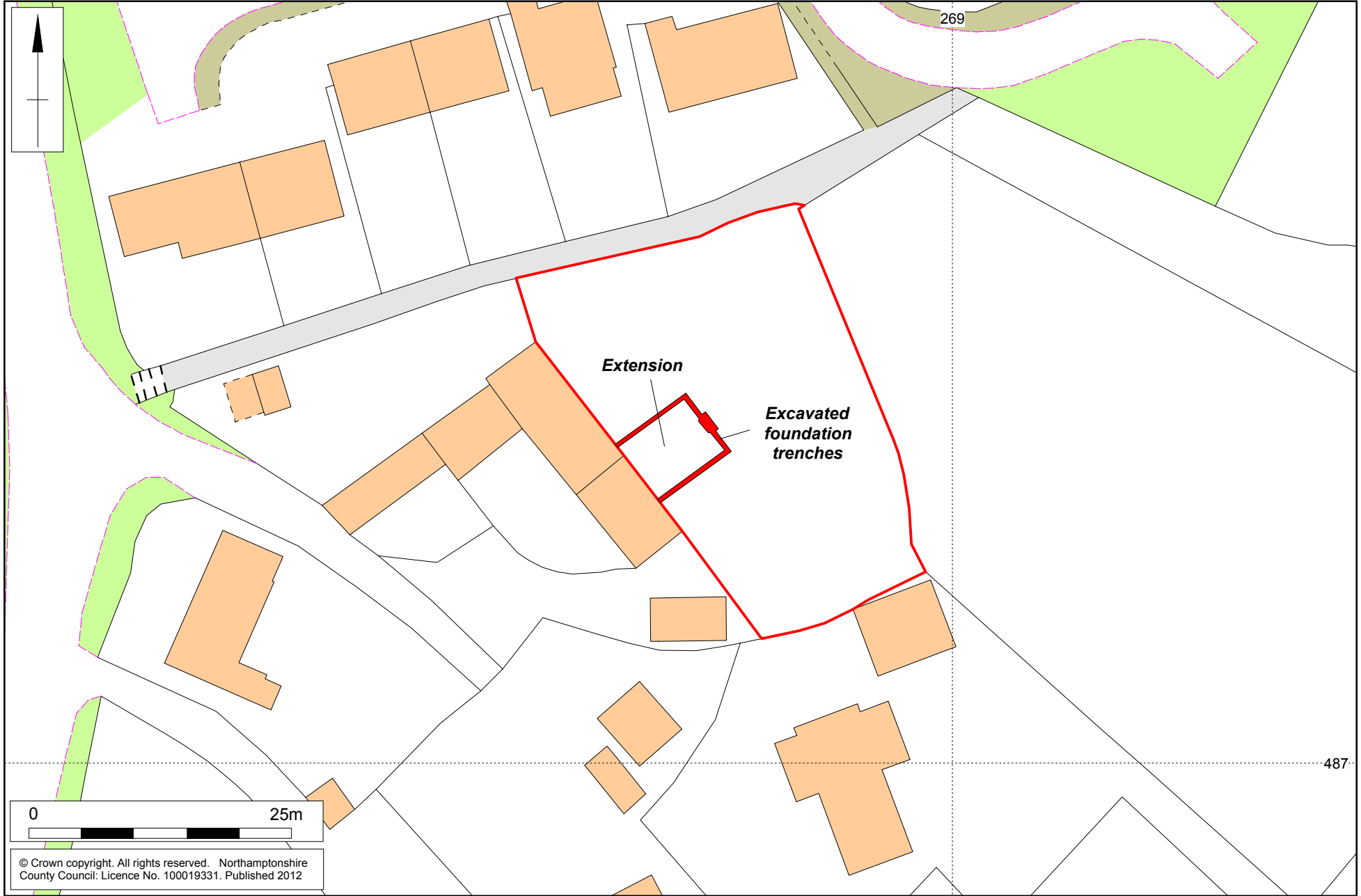
Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:500 (A4)

The development area showing the excavated foundations

Fig 2



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The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Ete(n)done*. The site lies within the extent of the probable medieval settlement of the village. Earthworks remains of medieval date are recorded close-by.

Archaeological investigations carried out to the north-east of the site on land west of Hockley Lane revealed features of medieval date including ditches of possible 10th century date and the remains of possibly four medieval buildings including a complete barn revealed in plan. Further ditches and pits along with a possible yard surface, drains and postholes and other deposits including pottery of 12th and 14th century date, indicative of medieval settlement have also been recorded.

Nearby lies the former church of St Thomas a Becket of which only the tower incorporated into a private dwelling now survives. The church was built in 1798 and subsequently demolished in 1913, being replaced by Holy Trinity Church which was built in 1903 and is a Grade II Listed Building.

A number of listed buildings are recorded in the village, these include Ettington Hall which is a Grade II \*Listed Building, the earliest parts of which date from 1684 when it was first constructed as a Quaker meeting house. The Manor House off Rogers Lane along with its attached barn and stables is Grade II Listed, as is Saracens Well which is of unknown date although it is within a mid-late 19th century setting.

Number 4 The Square whilst being of 15th century date, is not listed. Up to the present application the site has comprised an area within the rear garden of No 4. No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried within the site.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- Observe the groundworks for the construction of the new rear extension and all 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 fieldwork comprised continuous monitoring of the excavations for the foundations of the extension to the current dwelling.

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (NA 2011). All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008). A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format.

## **4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 General site stratigraphy**

The underlying natural geology was encountered between 0.20m and 0.75m below the modern ground surface. This appeared as a mid orange-brown clay and sandy clay with



occasional bands of grey clay (fig 3). A subsoil of mid grey-brown sandy clay was evident only along the north and north-eastern sections of the foundation trenches. It was not visible closer to the cottage. A topsoil of dark grey-brown sandy clay that contained small angular stone and modern building debris was observed across the extent of the site. It varied between 0.10m and 0.35m thick. The increase in depth of the topsoil and subsoil away from the cottage was likely due to landscaping of the garden.



General section, facing south-east Fig 3

#### **4.2 The groundworks and archaeological evidence**

The foundation trench was excavated to a width of 0.60m and to between 1.55m and 1.70m below the modern ground surface. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks for the foundation trench. Early 20th century glass bottles and pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil, but not retained.

### **5 CONCLUSION**

Despite the potential for surviving archaeological deposits, the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension to the current dwelling revealed no archaeological features. Residual finds within the topsoil included modern pottery and bottles.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage Procedural Document

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring, Investigation and Recording at 4 The Square, Ettington, Warwickshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

WM 2011 *Brief for Archaeological work; 4 The Square, Ettington*, Warwickshire Museum

## **WEBSITES**

BGS 2012 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

Landis 2012 <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> Cranfield University National Soils Resources Institute



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