



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
on land at The Grange, Haversham,
Buckinghamshire

July 2011

Accession No: AYBCM: 2011.224 Event No: 1289



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

David J Leigh

Report 11/284

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STAFF

Project Manager Stephen Parry, MA, FSA, MIfA
Text David J Leigh BA Hons
Fieldwork David J Leigh
Illustrations Amir Bassir PIfA, BSc Hons
Project Archive Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh BA MA (Bham)
MA (York)

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Charlotte Walker		
Verified by	Andy Chapman		
Approved by	Stephen Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new drainage system on land at The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the area of investigation. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief: Planning application No: 05/00408/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden/private dwelling	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Buckinghamshire	
Site address	The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire	
Study area (sq metres)	20m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 83072 43124	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Senior Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Stephen Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Charles Glasse	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	July 2011	
End date	July 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession No) AYBCM:2011.224 Event No: 1289	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (1) Colour slides (9) black and white contact prints (10) Digital photographs (23)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological watching brief on land at The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire.	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 11/284	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	February 2012	

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT
THE GRANGE, HAVERSHAM,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
JULY 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the installation of a new drainage system on land at The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the area of investigation. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present

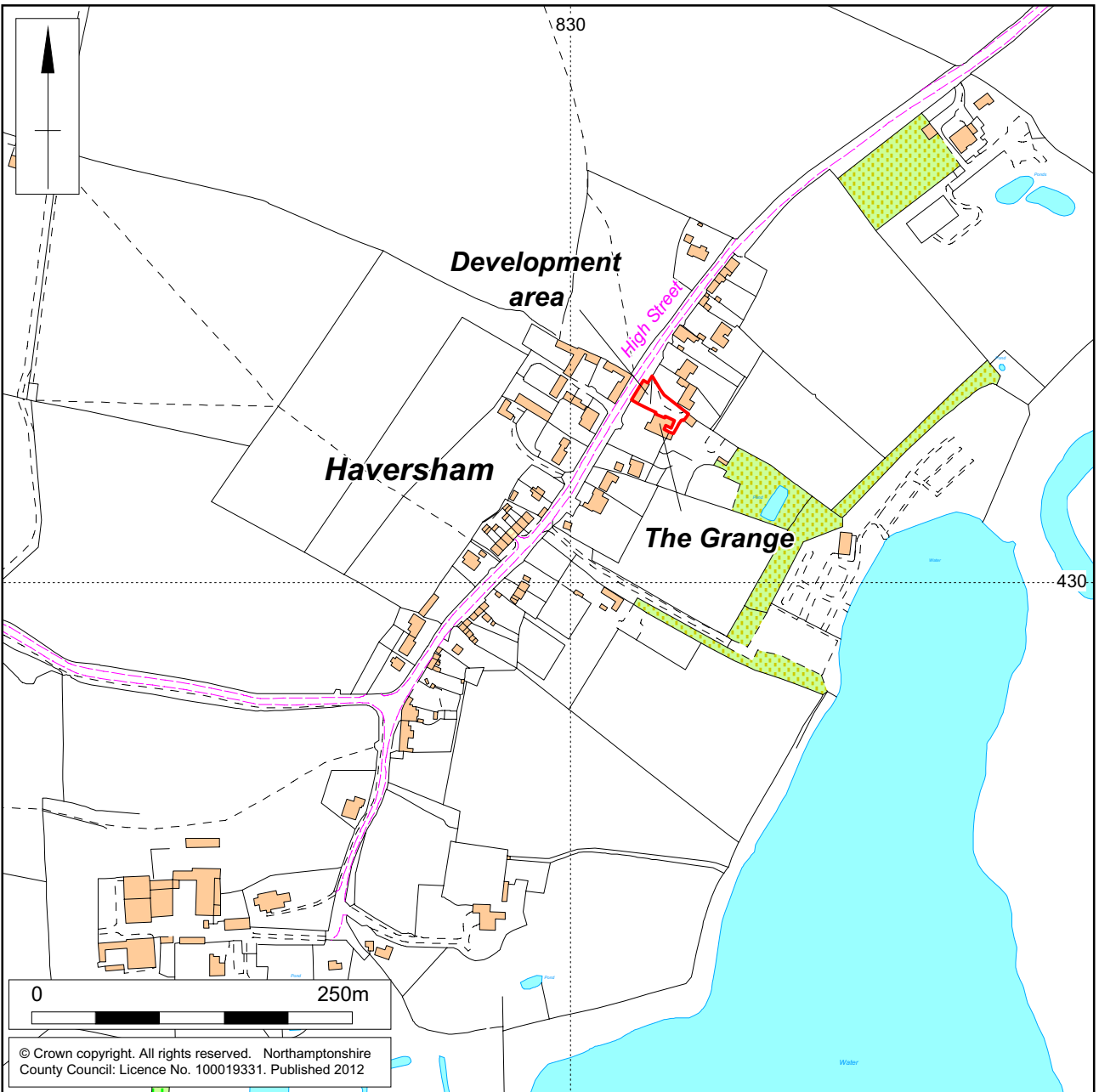
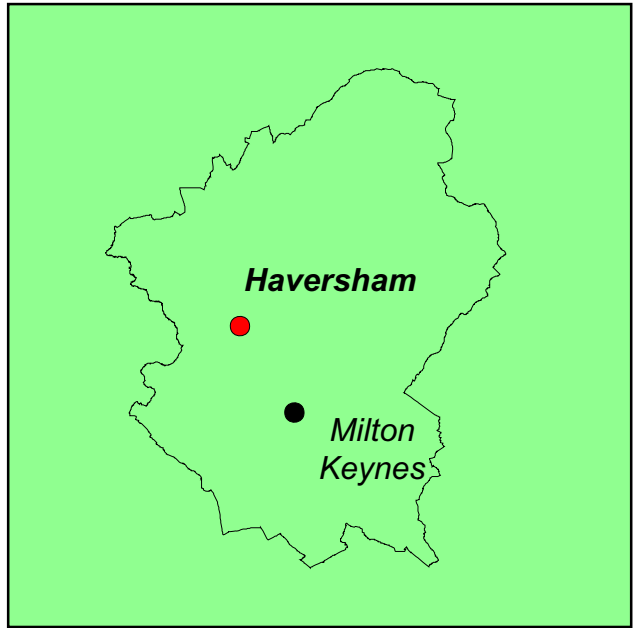
1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in July 2011 during the installation of a new drainage system on land at The Grange, Haversham, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 83072 43124: Planning Application No: 05/00408/FUL; Figs 1 and 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Charles Glasse following a request for archaeological monitoring, recording and publication by the Senior Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council in correspondence dated 28th July 2011. The work was carried out following 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 village of Haversham lies approximately 8km to the north-west of Milton Keynes in the county of Buckinghamshire. The development area (hereon referred to as the site) fronts directly onto High Street. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Whitby Mudstone Formation overlying a drift geology comprising First Terrace Gravels (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

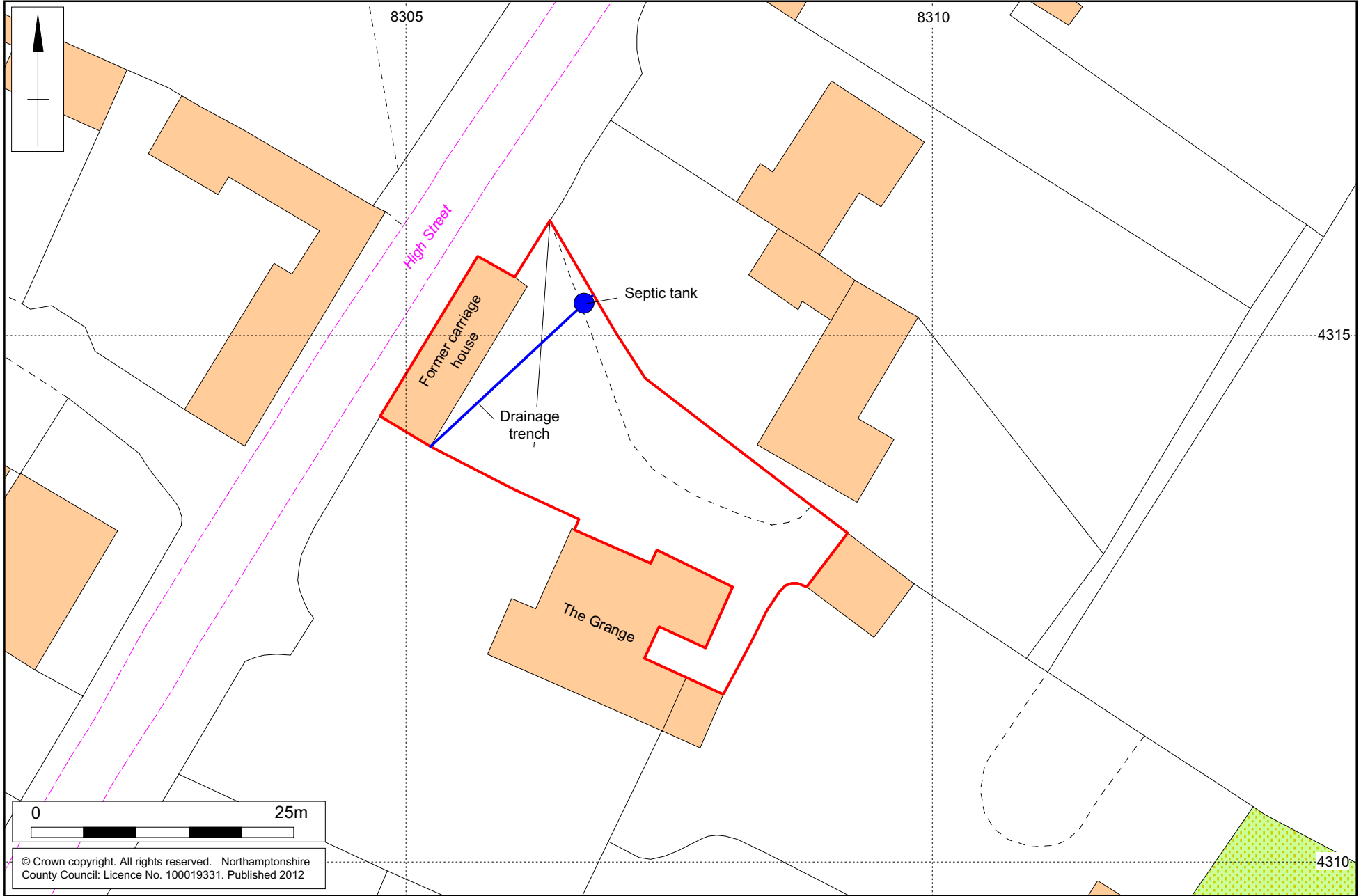


Scale 1:5000 (A4)

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:500 (A4)

Area of archaeological investigation Fig 2



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2.2 Historical background

The site is located within the village of Haversham and within an area of archaeological interest.

Archaeological evidence for Romano-British activity in the area is recorded from around Hill Farm, approximately 700m to the north-east of the site. Here archaeological excavation revealed hard packed floor surfaces and associated building debris datable to the Romano-British period (Mudd 2005). Roman pottery sherds have also been recovered nearby from Stone Pit Field.

The village of Haversham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Havresham*. Approximately 500m to the south-west of the site are located the earthwork remains of Manor Farm Moat, which comprises a moated site with associated earthworks and fishponds. The ruins of St Peters Church lie approximately 500m to the south-east.

The Grange fronts directly onto High Street and is a Grade II* Listed Building. Up to the present application the site has comprised a domestic garden to the Grange within which sits a former carriage house presently subject to refurbishment as part of the current application, and to which the new drainage system is to be connected.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the installation of the new drainage system and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised a single visit to the site during groundworks for the new drainage system. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini-digger fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets. The work comprised the excavation of a pit for the new septic tank located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site (Fig 2). A drainage trench was then excavated from the tank southwards to the south-east corner of the outbuilding subject to re-furbishment (Fig 2).

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).



The investigation area at the start of groundworks, looking south-east Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The septic tank and drainage trench

The area of the new septic tank (Fig 4) measured approximately 1.2m by 1.2m. The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.40m below present ground level and comprised mid-pale grey-brown friable sandstone. This was directly overlain by grey-black silt loam, up to 0.40m thick, containing numerous irregular stones and numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and occasional small fragments of modern concrete.



The area of the septic tank during excavation Fig 4

The new drainage trench measured approximately 18m long by 0.30m wide (Figs 5 and 6). It extended from the septic tank to the south-east corner of the former carriage house. A stratigraphy consistent to that in the area of the septic tank was recorded.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The drainage trench with the carriage house in the background Fig 5



The drainage trench after excavation, looking north-east Fig 6

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	1
Colour slides	9
Black and white contacts and negatives	10
Digital photographs	23

Following final consolidation of the archive arrangements will be made for its deposition with Buckinghamshire Museums.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the archaeological watching brief clearly indicate that the area has been subject to relatively modern disturbance which was noted throughout the area of investigation. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

The watching brief was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

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