



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at
Kings Heath Primary School
Kings Heath, Northampton
October 2011



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Report 11/224
October 2011



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SITE NAME: Kings Heath Primary School, Northampton
NATIONAL GRID REF: SP 7367 6253
CLIENT: Galliford Try
CONTRACTOR: Northamptonshire Archaeology
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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Approved by	Steve Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological evaluation of land at Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton	
Short description	In October 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton. The work was part of a pre-application for development within the school grounds of the primary school. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present in the evaluation.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	School ground/playing field	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/period	-	
Significant finds	-	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton	
Study area	C 2650sqm	
OS NGR	SP 7367 6253	
Height aOD	C 92m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project design	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith (NA)	
Project Manager	Iain Soden (NA)	
Sponsor/funding		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date		
End date		
ARCHIVES	Location	Paper
Accession number		
Paper	NA stores	1 document box
Finds		
Digital		Report and photographs (1 CD)
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological evaluation of land at Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT
KINGS HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINGS HEATH, NORTHAMPTON
OCTOBER 2011**

Abstract

In October 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton. The work was part of a pre-application for development within the school grounds of the primary school. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present in the evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

In October 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Kings Heath Primary School, Kings Heath, Northampton (NGR: SP 7367 6253, Fig 1). The work was part of a pre-application for development within the school grounds of the primary school. A trial trench evaluation was required for the assessment of the potentially archaeologically sensitive application area, which includes a new teaching block, additional parking and hard play areas.

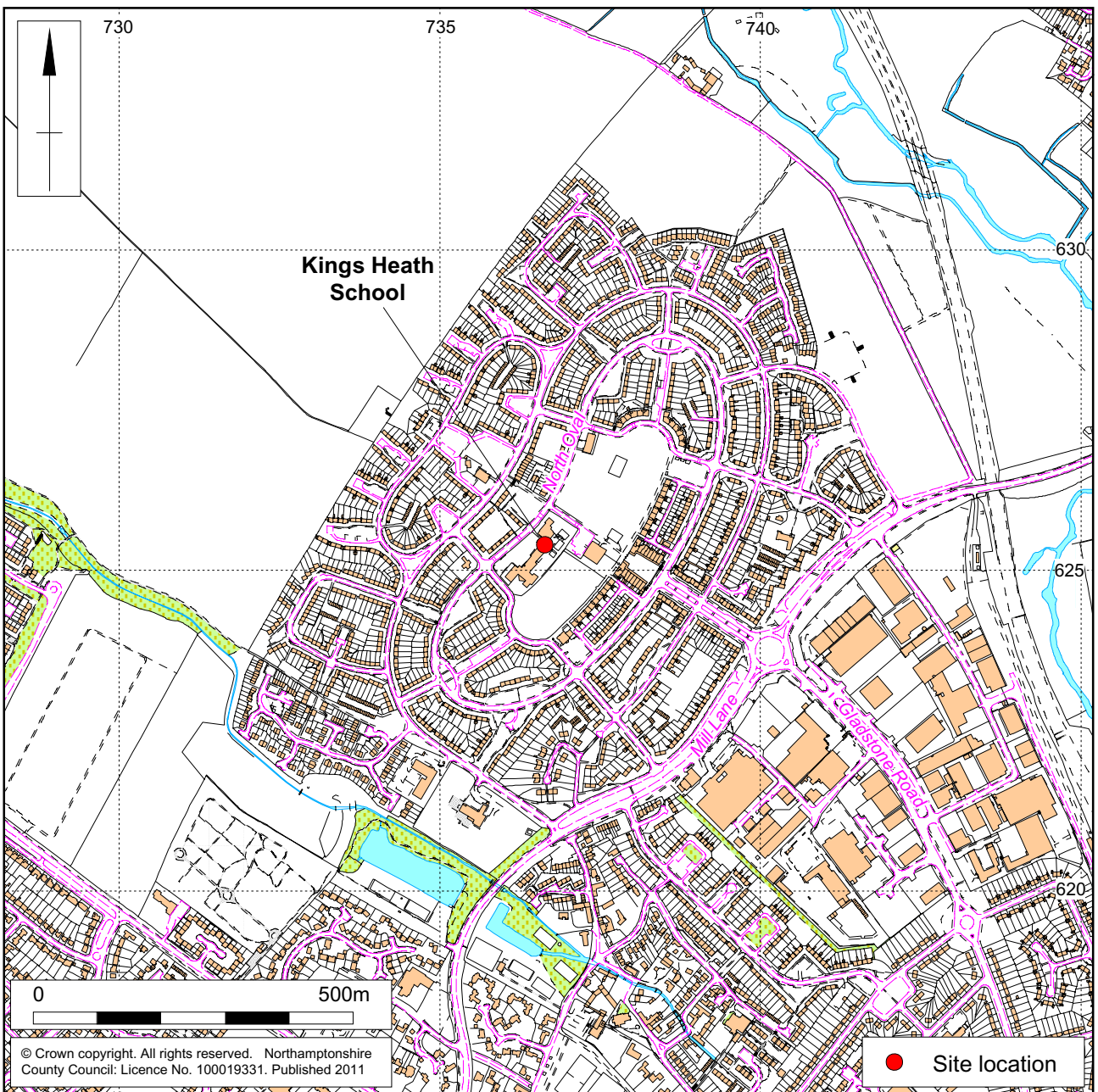
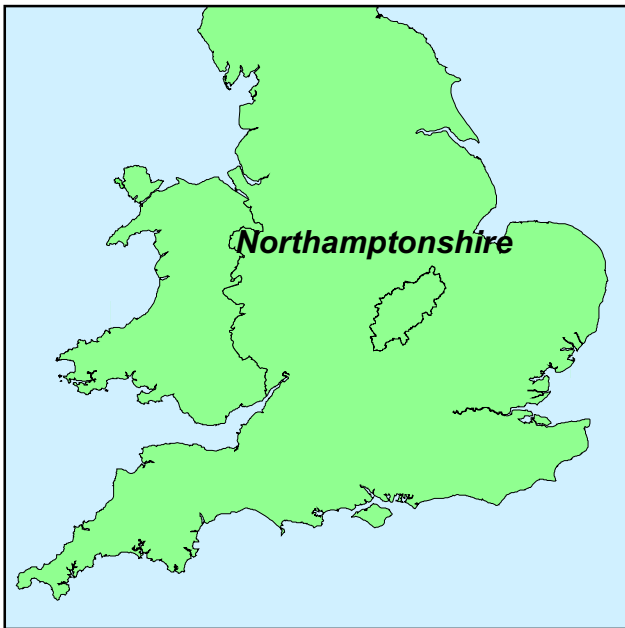
The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and in line with the requirements of the briefs issued by Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (24th August 2011).

1.2 Topography and geology

The development area is located on the western side of Northampton. The site is situated within a residential area and is bounded by Kings Heath Park to the north, North Oval Road to the west, and Withim Walk to the south. The new development lies within the school grounds, the new teaching block to the north-east of the existing school building, currently a grassed area. A proposed hard play area is situated in the school playing field. The site is on gently sloping ground, falling to the south-east (approximately 92 aOD). The underlying geology comprises Inferior Oolite Group (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html).

1.3 Historical and archaeological background

Previously a desk-based assessment had been carried out by MOLAS in 2004, indicating a high archaeological potential within the development area. A Historic Environment Record (HER) search revealed a find spot of Saxon or medieval activity on the school grounds in the form of a socketed iron spearhead (HER 1662/0/0). To the west of the school was a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement (HER 4895). This comprised enclosures noted through cropmarks and geophysical surveys.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

1.4 Aims and objectives

The principal aim of archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource and inform further decisions regarding the archaeological mitigation strategy for the site.

The aim of trial trench evaluation is to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character and date, state of preservation and depth of burial for important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically this will:

- Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which merit preservation *in situ*
- Identify the date, form and function of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and overheads.

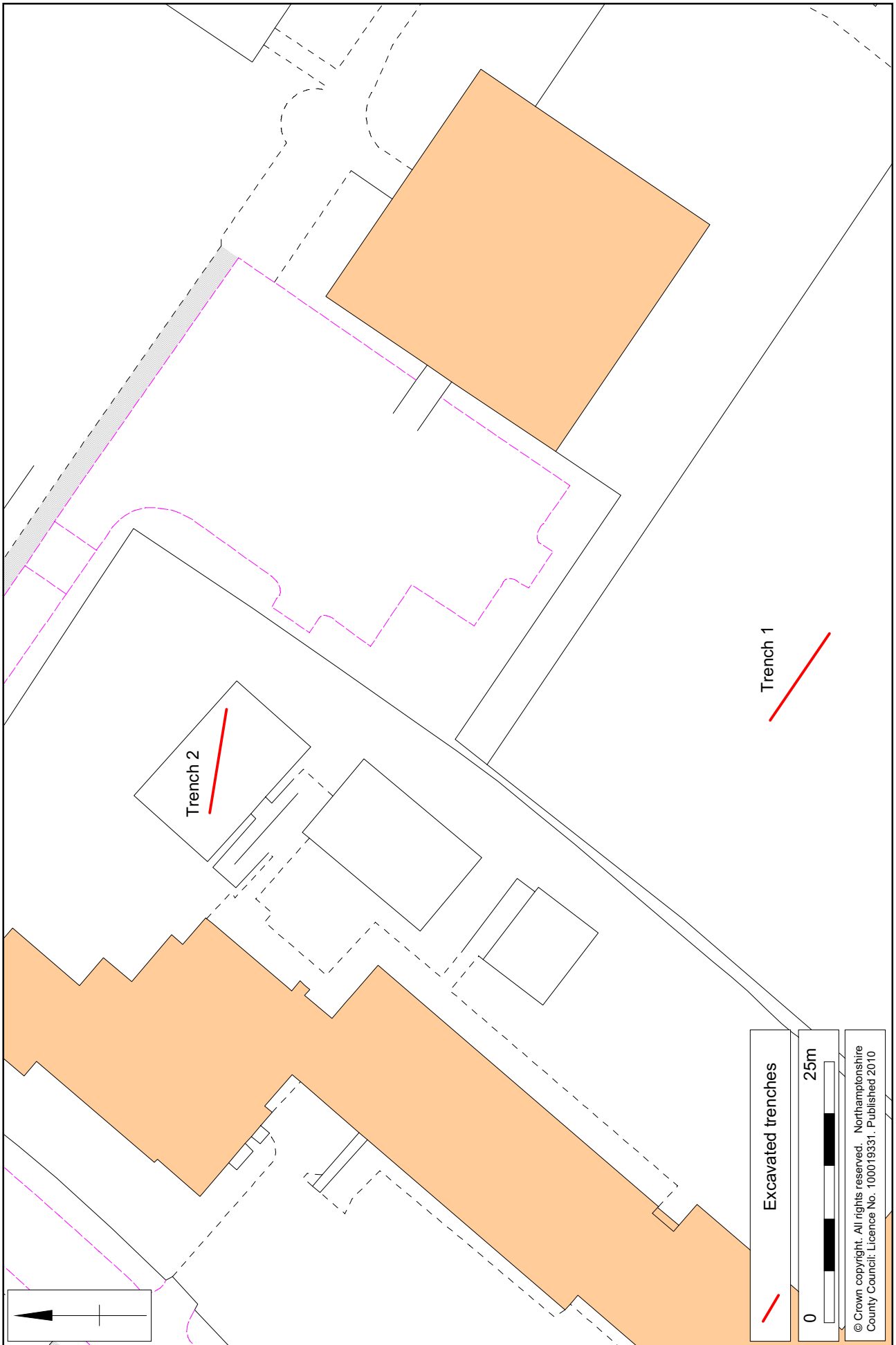
1.5 Excavation methodology

Two trial trenches, each measuring 10m in length, were excavated in the study area. Trench 2 was located in the area of the proposed building footprint, avoiding a tree to the north-east and a climbing frame and services to the south-west. Trench 1 was located in the footprint of a proposed hard playing area in the school playing field, at a reasonable distance from the tree to its north-west (Figs 2, 3 and 4).

The trenches were positioned and machine-excavated using a flat toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision, with the topsoil and subsoil stacked separately and adjacent to the trenches. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate where no archaeology was encountered.

Archaeological excavation and recording followed the guidelines outlined in the NA Archaeological Fieldwork Manual (2006). Each feature or deposit was given a unique number consisting of the trench number and an individual context number. The details of each context were recorded on pro-forma sheets. The trenches were planned and sections drawn where necessary at an appropriate scale. Levels, which were related to Ordnance Datum, were taken on the trenches at appropriate points, on section datum and on all major features. Trench locations were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record was made of the excavation, using 35mm black and white negative film, supplemented by digital images.

All works were carried out accordance with the WSI prepared by NA (NA 2010), with the procedural documents the *Management of Archaeological Projects* issued by English Heritage (1991), and the IfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2008).



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Kings Heath School, Northampton, trench layout

Fig 2

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Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 3



Trench 2, looking west Fig 4

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

There were no archaeological remains in either trench. The natural geology, encountered between 0.38m and 0.44m below ground level, consisted of buff clay in Trench 1, which became orange-brown sandy clay in the more northerly Trench 2. The overlying subsoil, between 0.20m and 0.22m thick, in Trench 1 was orange-brown silty clay becoming sandy clay loam in Trench 2 underneath made ground of tar chippings, brick fragments, rubble, and topsoil. The topsoil in both trenches was brown-grey loam between 0.18m and 0.20m (Figs 5 and 6).



General stratigraphy in Trench 1, looking north-east Fig 5



General stratigraphy in Trench 2, looking north Fig 6

DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains or artefacts were present in the evaluation. The trial trenches exposed the clay geology and silty/sandy clay subsoil. Trench 2 was situated in an area of demolished buildings, thus directly below the turf was made-up ground.

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Maps

<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/default.aspx>



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