



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief on land
to the rear of 87 New Road, Woodston
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
August 2011



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Report 11/199

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
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Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	87 NEW ROAD, WOODSTON
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in August 2011 during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 87 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.
Project type	Watching Brief
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Garden
Future work	None
Monument type/ period	None
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Cambridgeshire
Site address	87 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough
OS Easting & Northing	TF 1853 9750
Area	151m ²
Height aOD	11m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor
Project Manager	Steve Parry
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs J Hale
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	26th August 2011
End date	26th August 2011
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	Watching brief forms (1), Col slides (4) B+C contact sheets and negs (5) digital photos (1 cd)
Archive contents	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	An archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 87 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 87 NEW ROAD, WOODSTON
PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AUGUST 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in August 2011 during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 87 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in August 2011 during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 87 New Road, Woodston, Peterborough (NGR TL 1853 9750; Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Hale in response to a brief for archaeological investigation issued by Peterborough City Council Planning Services Archaeologist (PCC 2009). It followed an approved specification prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010) and adhered to 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

Woodston is located on the southern edge of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The development area itself lies within the rear garden of 87 New Road, Woodston. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation (undifferentiated) - mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. The superficial deposits are River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) (BGS 2009).

2.2 Historical background

The development lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest. The manor of Woodston is recorded during the reign of King Edgar (AD959 – 975) when it was given to Bishop Ethelwold of Winchester, who in return gave it to the Abbey at Thorney. The manor was also recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The Historic Environment Record Office (HER), Peterborough City Council which was consulted as a requirement of the brief for archaeological work, lists a number of sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area.

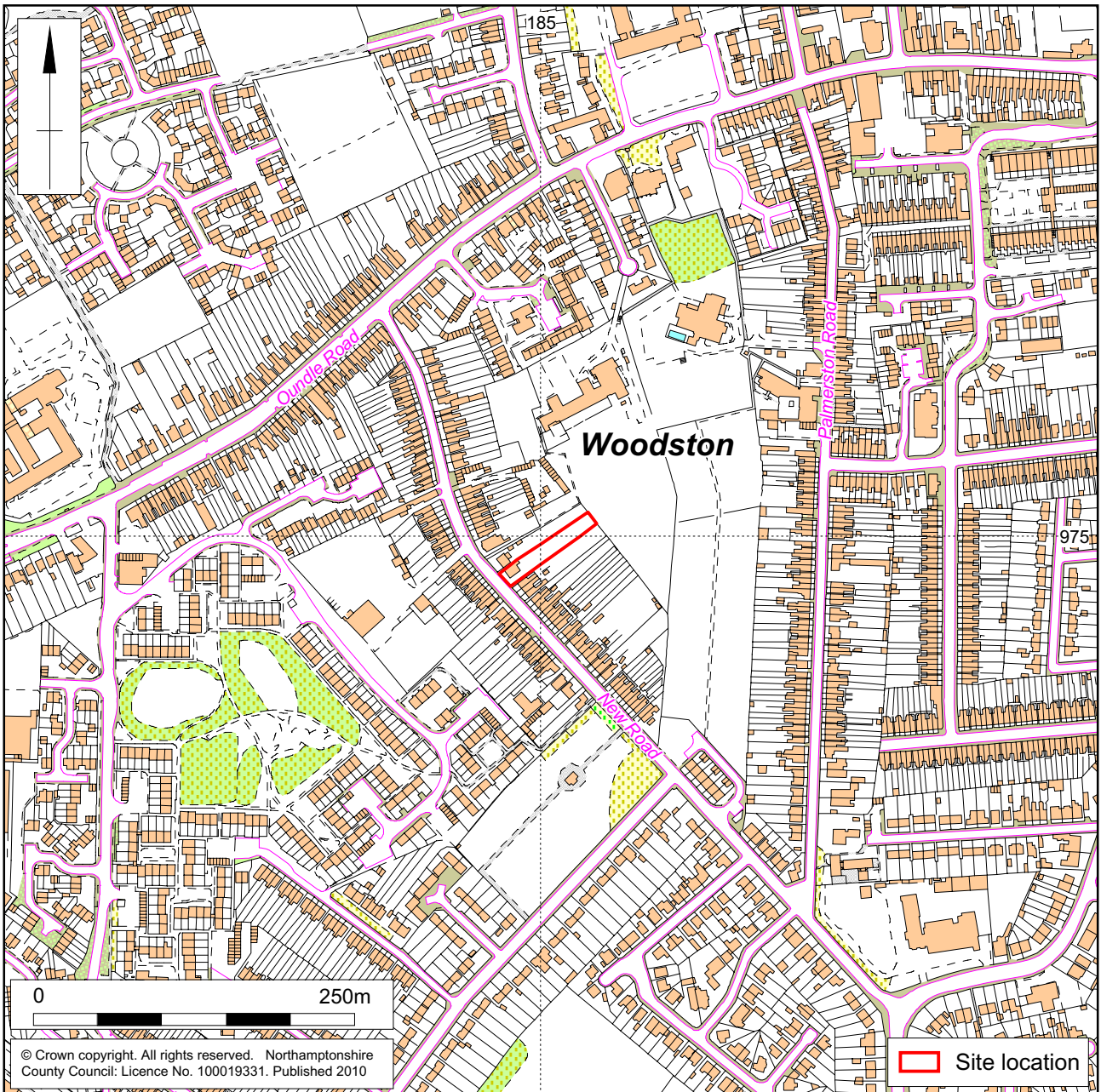
Close to the south-west of the development area an Iron Age settlement and a number of inhumations were recorded in the early 20th century (Historic Environment No: 1711). A number of inhumations were recorded in the early 20th century just to the south of the site (HER No: 01716/01716A/B). Most recently close by to the west an Anglo-Saxon burial was excavated which was associated with a 6/7th century Coptic

bowl (HER No: 51627). A list of sites held by the HER which lie in the vicinity of the development area is provided below.

Cartographic evidence held by the HER suggests that the site remained undeveloped up to around 1901 when a structure is shown at the rear of the development area on the 1901 Edition Ordnance Survey Map.

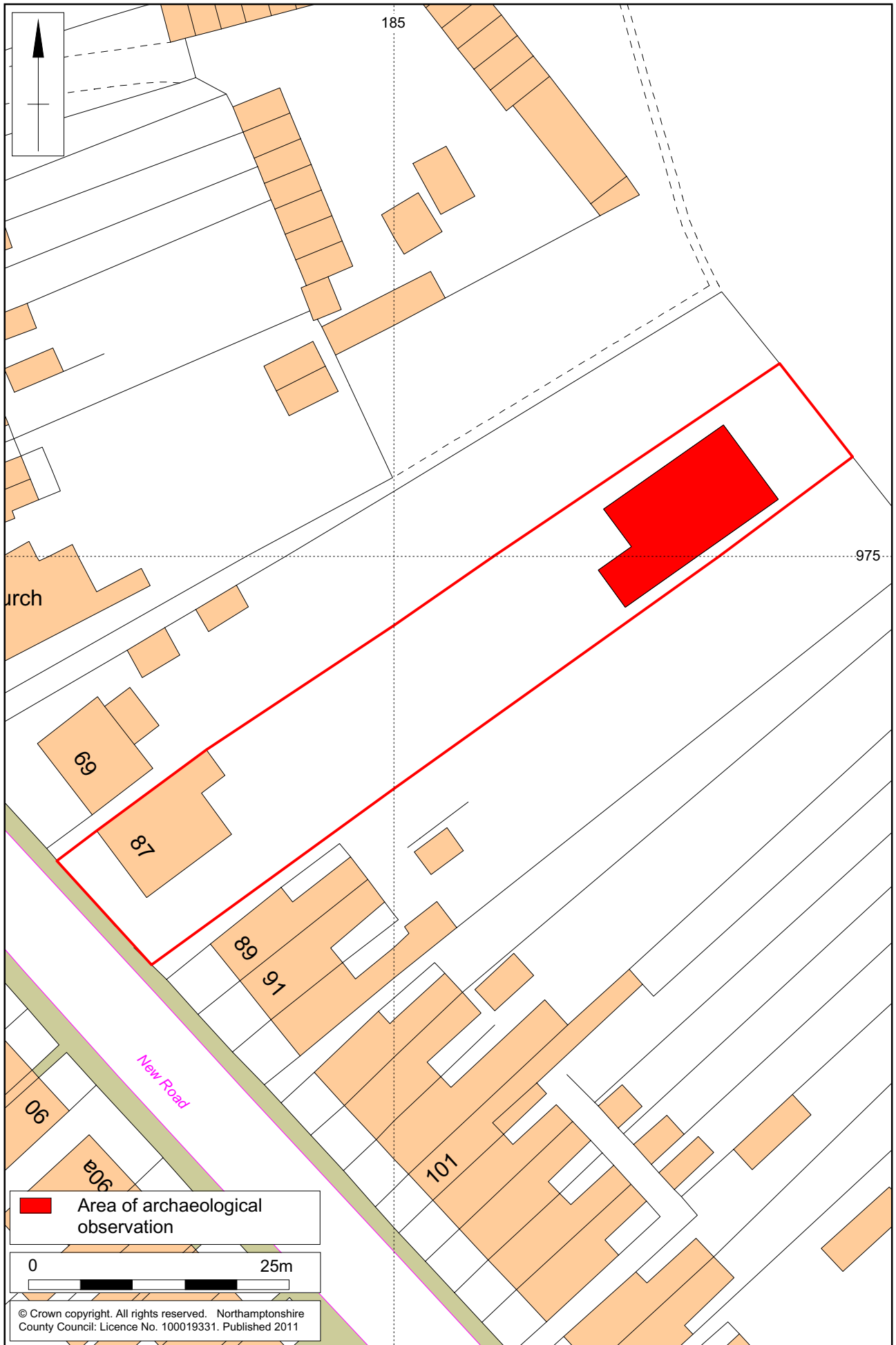
Table 1: Historic Environment Record data

HER No:	NGR:	DETAILS:
1405	TL 1810/9740	Three burials of possible Romano-British date found in 1931.
1416	TL 1750/9760	Three Anglo-Saxon vessels from Woodston cemetery.
1618	TL 18/98	Three carved fragments of Anglo-Saxon headstones-1000-1050AD. Exact provenance unknown.
01631/a	TL 189/974	Roman pot sherds found in 1886 and Anglo-Saxon houses identified in 1923.
1656	TL 1825/9735	Site of ancient huts along with pottery, pins and human remains found in 1910 on the east side of Oundle Road.
1666	TL 186/976	Anglo-Saxon burial ground containing cremation and inhumation burials dating from 550AD.
1668	TL 1902/9815	Gold ring known as the "River Nene ring" found in 1850 under the Great Northern Viaduct.
1711	TL 182/973	Iron Age settlement identified in the early 20th century along with a number of inhumations.
1716/a/b	TL 1771/9752	Anglo-Saxon cemetery.
8181	TL 1860/9780	Small plain Anglo-Saxon urn with iron knife found in a cemetery in the late 19th century.
10086	TL 181/973	Remains of a male skeleton associated with pottery of 4th century date.
50480	TL 1883/9760	Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch found in gravel pits.
50623	TL 1790/9780	Anglo-Saxon spearhead found in 1977. Exact find spot not known.
50656	TL 1894/9715	Inhumation burial found during gravel extraction.
51158	TL 1858/9777	The Church of St Augustine of Canterbury is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086.
51207	TL 1793/9751	Four ditches of probable late Bronze Age date found during excavation in 2002.
51239	TL 1792/9749	Site of possible Anglo-Saxon building.
51627	TL 1864/9753	Anglo-Saxon burial associated with a Coptic bowl datable to the 6/7th century.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Site location showing building footprint Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new building 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 the excavation of foundation trenches for the new building (Fig 3). The foundations were dug to a maximum width of 0.70m and a maximum depth of 1.20m below present ground level and were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

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 development area, looking south-west

Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate was encountered between 0.50m-0.70m below present ground level and comprised pale yellow-brown clay and gravels (fig 4). This was overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil 0.30m thick which underlay a dark grey-brown silty loam topsoil, 0.40m thick. This contained frequent inclusions of ash, clinker, bottle glass and brick fragments.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the investigation area.



The stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches

Fig 4

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	1
Colour slides	5
Black and white contacts and negatives	5
Digital photographs	5

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the course of the watching brief. There was no evidence of the earlier building shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey Map other than brick fragments within the topsoil.

The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* English Heritage Procedural Document

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

NA 2010 *A Specification for an archaeological watching brief at 87 New Road, Woodstone, Peterborough*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

PCC 2009 *Brief for archaeological investigation: 87 New Road, Woodstone Peterborough*, Peterborough City Council



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