



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation,
investigation and recording of groundworks
on land at
123 Main Street, Aldwincle
Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: 13446
Project name	123 Main Street, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation and recording was undertaken during the excavation of five test pits on land at 123 Main Street, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Modern disturbance was noted in the north-eastern corner of the site, undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the remainder of the area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording.	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden/private dwelling	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	123 Main Street, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	103m	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 004 821	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	David J Leigh Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Stephen Parry and David J Leigh	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Keith Graham	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2012	
End date	May 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (1) Colour slides (15) black and white contact prints (15) Digital photographs (31)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, and recording of groundworks on land at 123 Main Street, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/168	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	September 2012	

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING OF GROUNDWORKS ON LAND
AT 123 MAIN STREET, ALDWINCLE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MAY 2012**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the excavation of five test pits on land at 123 Main Street, Aldwincle, Northamptonshire in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Modern disturbance was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the site, whilst undisturbed soils were present throughout the remainder of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present

1 INTRODUCTION

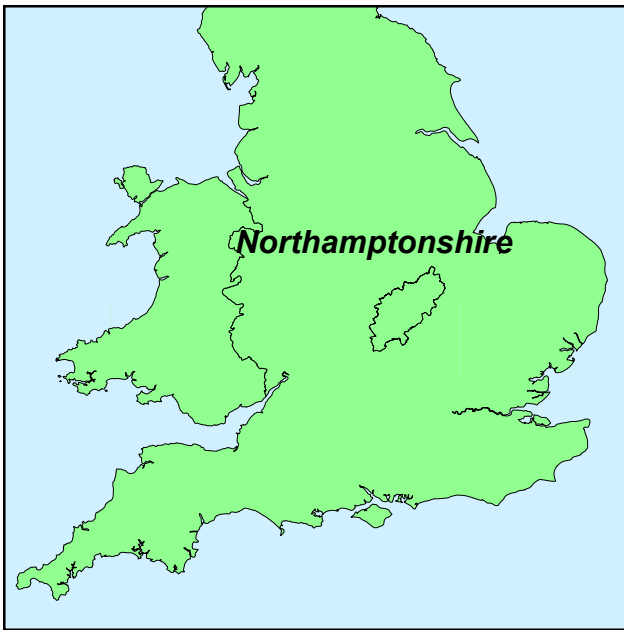
A programme of archaeological observation was undertaken in May 2012 during the excavation of five test pits on land at 123 Main Street, Aldwincle, Northamptonshire (NGR TL 004 821: Figs 1 and 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr Keith Graham following a request for a programme of archaeological observation and investigation by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council. 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

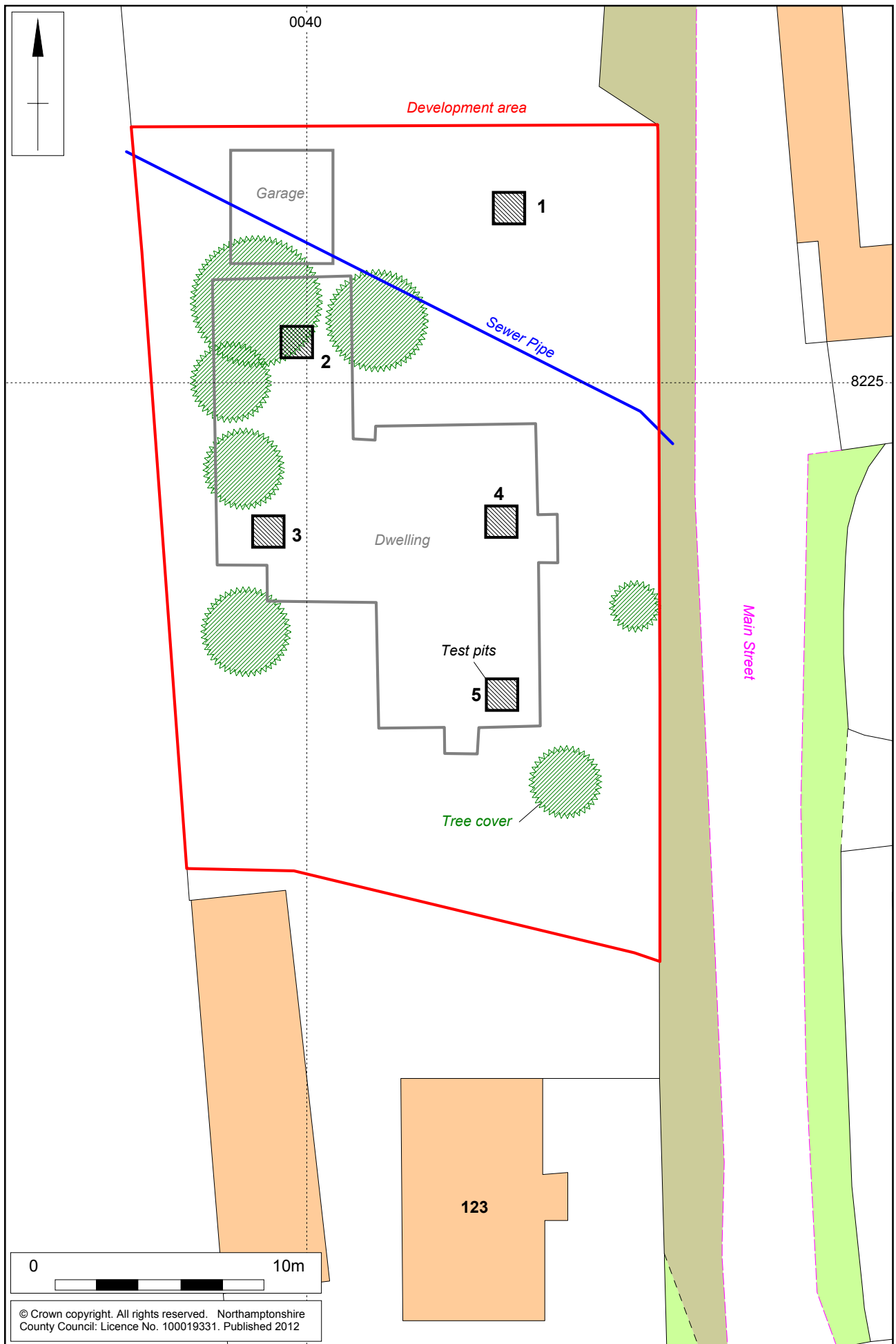
The village of Aldwincle lies in East Northamptonshire approximately 20km to the east of Kettering. The development area (hereinafter referred to as the site) lies on the western side of Main Street in the northern part of the village.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Kellaways formation and Oxford Clay formation (undifferentiated), Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:250 (A4)

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest. A Neolithic ring ditch and Bronze Age round barrows were excavated south of the site during the 1960s, whilst west of the site a possible Roman settlement has been identified (Jackson 1976, 1977).

The village of Aldwincle is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Aldevincle*. Two parish churches lie within the village, All Saints Church which dates from the 13th century and St Peters Church which dates from the late 12th century, both churches were subject to restoration during the mid to late 19th century.

No archaeological investigations are recorded as having been undertaken within the site, however the 1796 estate map of Aldwincle indicates that the site was part of a long narrow enclosure containing a building.

Up to the present application the site has comprised an area of the domestic garden belonging to 123 Main Street (Fig 4).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the programme of archaeological observation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the excavation of the test pits 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 five geotechnical test pits positioned across the area subject to development (Fig 2) and avoiding several tree stumps located around the site. The groundworks were carried out using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Up to the present application the site comprises an area of rough grass and vegetation. Several tree stumps were noted around the site indicating the position of trees felled prior to the application, root disturbance was noted in the test pits.

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 Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).



The investigation area, looking north from Main Street Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The test pits were excavated down to the upper surface of the natural substratum and measured approximately 1.2m square. Subsequent to archaeological investigation the test pits were further excavated to a maximum depth of 4m below present ground level. Root disturbance was noted throughout the investigation area.

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout test pits 2 – 5 (Fig 5). The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.75m below present ground level and comprised orange-red sand and gravel. This was overlain by mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.35m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. Sealing this was grey-brown silt loam, up to 0.40m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material.

Within test pit 1 a disturbed stratigraphy was recorded. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.80m below present ground level. This was overlain by mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.70m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and fragments of roofing slate along with fragments of hard Portland cement which had fallen out of the frogs from modern bricks (Fig 6). This was sealed by grey-brown silt loam, up to 0.10m thick, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material.

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



The investigation area, looking south towards No 123 Main Street Fig 4



The stratigraphic sequence within the test pits Fig 5



Modern building material within test pit 1 Fig 6

5 THE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	1
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	15
Digital photographs	31

The archive will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the investigation area. Building material recorded within test pit 1 was of clearly modern origin, throughout the remainder of the investigation area undisturbed soils were recorded.

The archaeological observation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be 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

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