



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation
and recording on land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High
Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire
July 2012



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Report 13/125

July 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 154811
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for the erection of a new pavilion in April 2013. The work comprised the excavation of six foundation trenches using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.7m toothless and toothed bucket. Observations were made throughout the work. No evidence of archaeological activity was found during the observation work.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Old Pavilion plot	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	145sqm	
OS Easting & Northing	475050 267715	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke Amir Bassir	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Pitsford Parish Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	12 July 2012	
End date	13 July 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper		Watching brief forms (2) Digital photographs (42)
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	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 on land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/125	
Author	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Date	July 2013	

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT PITSFORD RECREATION GROUND
HIGH STREET, PITSFORD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JULY 2012**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of a new pavilion on land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire in July 2012. The work comprised the excavation of foundation trenches using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.7m toothless and toothed bucket. Observations were made throughout the work. No evidence of archaeological activity was found during the observation work.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 12 and 13 July 2012 during the groundworks for the construction of a new pavilion on land at Pitsford Recreation Ground, High Street, Pitsford, Northamptonshire (NGR 475050 267715) (Fig 1). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology following the granting of planning permission to Pitsford Parish Council (Planning application No: Da/2011/0406). This followed a request for an archaeological watching brief by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in a brief for archaeological work (Mordue 2012).

The work adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2012) The work followed 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).

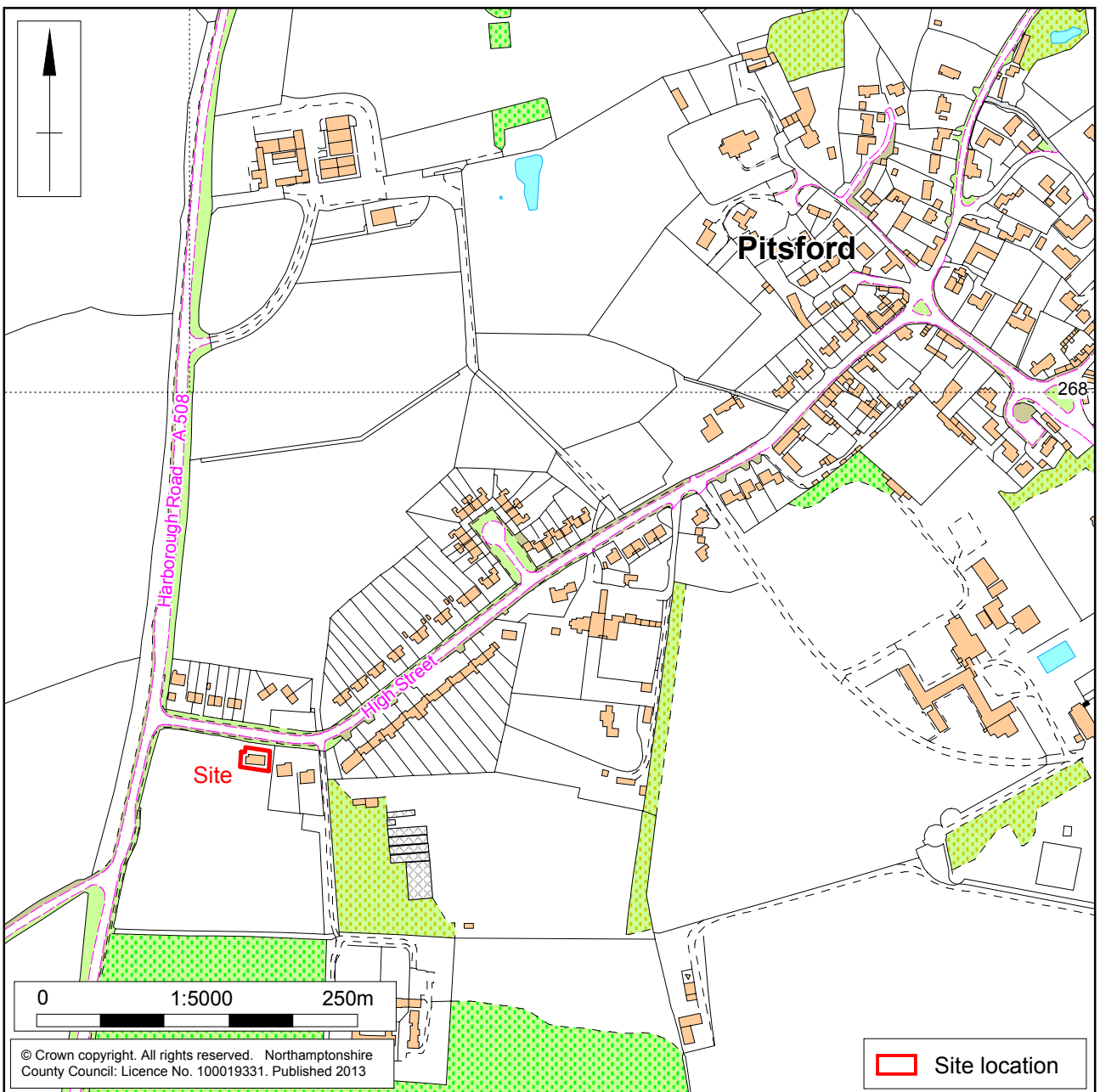
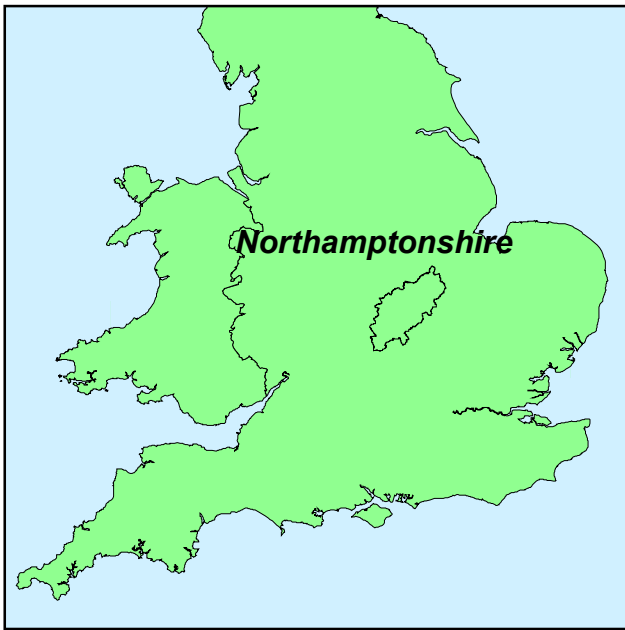
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Pitsford lies approximately 9km to the north of Northampton. The development area lies on level ground within the village at an approximate height of 110m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Northampton Sand and Ironstone.

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within an area of particular archaeological interest. Directly across High Street lies Longmans Hill long barrow, a Scheduled Monument (Monument No: 13671) which is believed to be of Neolithic date. Several Saxon cremations were recorded in 1882 during antiquarian excavations believed to be on the site. Aerial photography has recorded a probable pit alignment within the recreation ground, whilst to the north of Longmans Hill barrow, another pit alignment has been recorded along with other crop-marks and finds dating from the Romano-British to post-medieval periods.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

In Pitsford Quarry to the south, Iron Age settlement and a pit alignment were excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2001 and 2002. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Pidesford* or *Pitesford*. To the north of the site lies the parish church of All Saints (Monument No: 343398, the earliest parts of which date from the 12th century, the church subsequently being extensively restored in 1882. No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site. Up to the present application the site has been occupied by a pavilion building now demolished.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the extension 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.

A photographic record in the digital format was kept. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The area outlined for development had been stripped of topsoil prior to arrival. Further work was carried out under continuous archaeological observation by a qualified and experienced archaeologist. The groundworks comprised foundation trenches forming a rectangle 14.5m east to west and 10m north to south, with internal trenches. The groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.7m bucket, a combination of toothless and toothed buckets was used. The foundation trenches were dug to a maximum depth of approximately 1.2m below present ground level.



The investigation area, looking east Fig 2

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

In the western and south-western corner of the foundation trench undisturbed ground revealed natural geology comprising orange-brown Northamptonshire Sand with ironstone. This was overlain by subsoil approximately 0.3m thick (Fig 3).



Undisturbed stratigraphy, looking west Fig 3

In the northern and eastern part of the site the ground was heavily disturbed by drains, services and wall footings. Above the natural geology was a layer of re-deposited material, the layer comprised gravel, bricks and other construction material, it covered the area to a depth of approximately 0.5m (Fig 4).



Redeposited material, looking west Fig 4

The wall footings of the previous Pavilion sat on top of the natural geology(the subsoil had been removed during construction). Topsoil was approximately 0.25m thick (Fig 5).



Wall foundations from the old Pavilion, looking north-west Fig 5

4 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared and consolidated for deposition. However, until such time a suitable depository has been appointed the project archive will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology.

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Digital photographs	42

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological evidence was encountered during the site observations. Most of the area had been heavily disturbed by the foundations and services of the old Pavilion apart from the south-west corner of the site.

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