



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief on land at
The Maples, Main Street
Oxhill, Warwickshire
November 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/253

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		12/12/13
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Approved by	Andy Chapman		12/12/13

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 166615	
Project title	An archaeological watching brief on land at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire		
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2013 during ground works associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire. A single, undated furrow of a former field system, was identified during the excavation of the footings. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.			
Project type	Watching Brief		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Residential		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill		
Post code	CV35 0QT		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 3155 4589		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.07ha		
Height aOD	100m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Attendant Archaeologist	Tim Sharman		
Project Manager	Ed Taylor		
Sponsor or funding body	Chance and Wildish Architecture		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	7/11/13		
End date	11/11/13		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	Applied For	None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF; digital images	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological watching brief on land at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill. Warwickshire		
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT THE MAPLES, MAIN STREET
OXHILL, WARWICKSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2013 during ground works associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire. A single, undated furrow of a former field system was identified during the excavation of the footings. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2013 during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of a replacement at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire.

The work was commissioned by Chance and Wildish Architecture on behalf of their clients in response to a brief for archaeological investigation issued by Warwickshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist (Stocks 2013). It followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Taylor 2013) 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

The village of Oxhill lies approximately 14km to the south-east of Stratford upon Avon in the county of Warwickshire. The site on the south-western side of Main Street and lies on relatively level ground at an approximate height of 100m aOD.

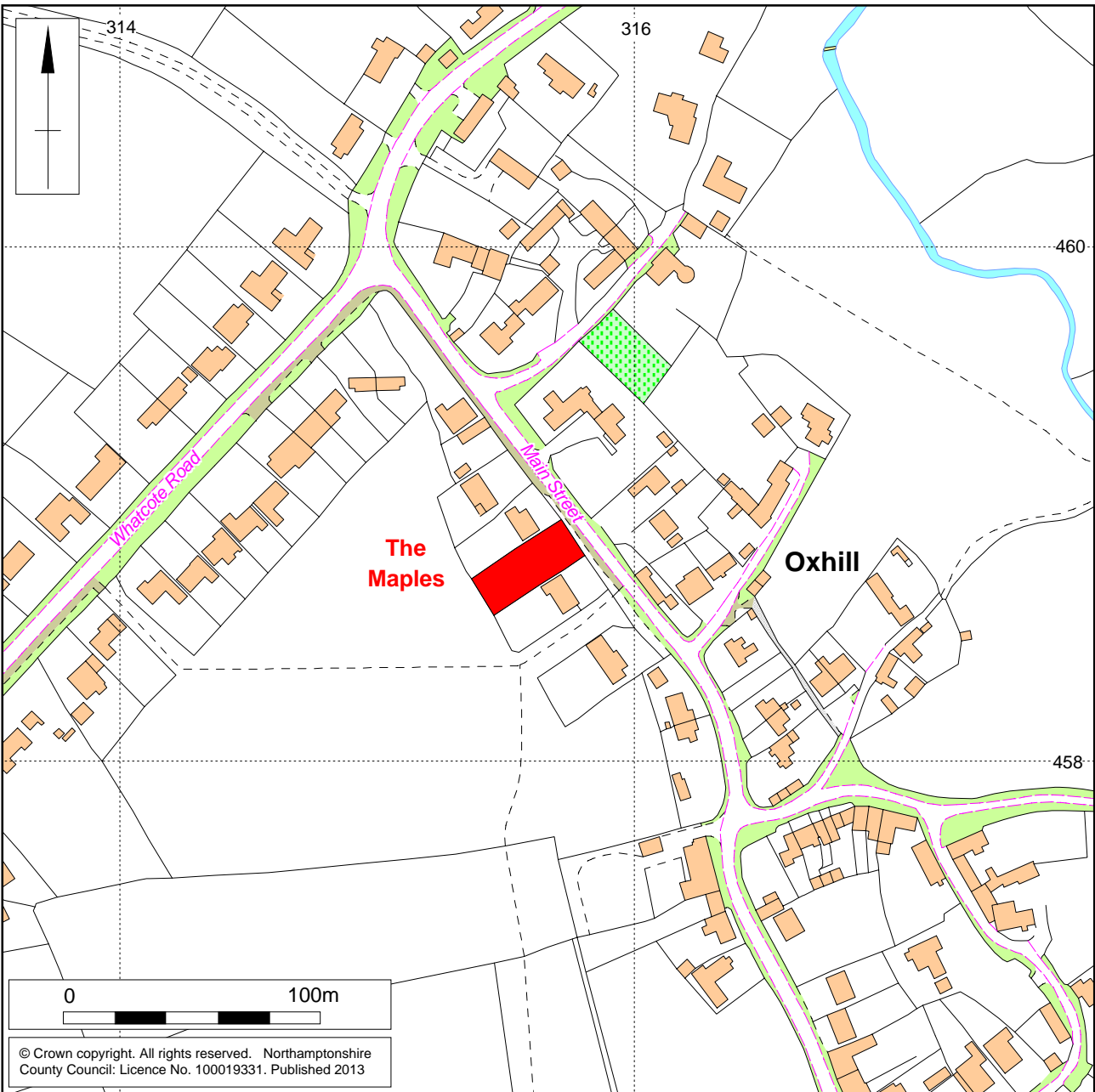
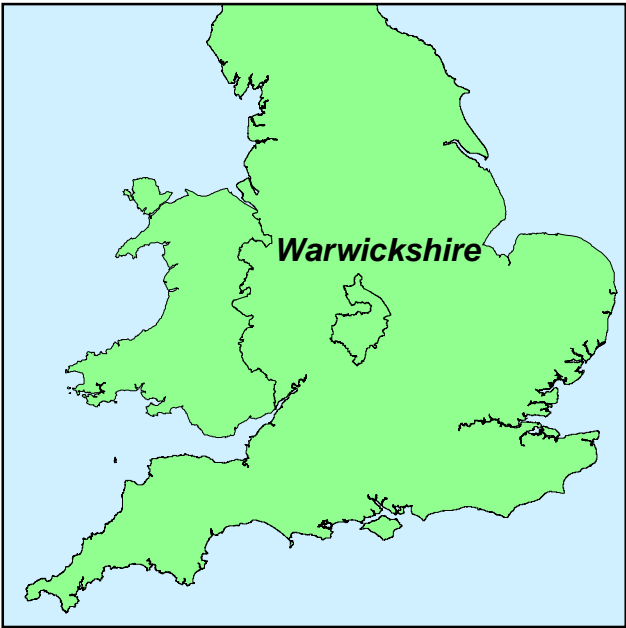
The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2013)

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Oxhill is recorded in Domesday as *Octese/ve* at which time it was held by Hugh de Grantemaisnil.

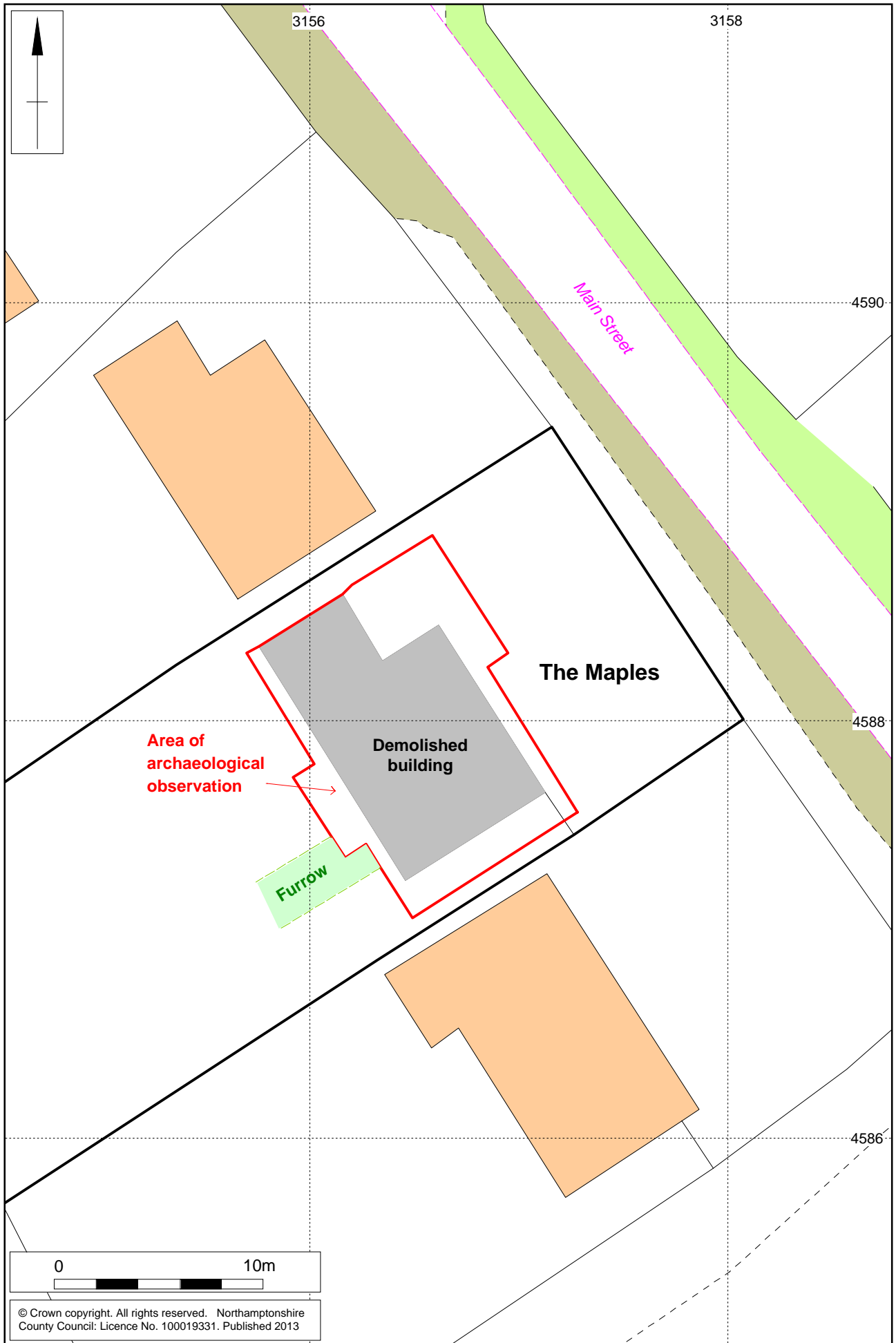
The site lies within an area of archaeological significance within the medieval extent of the village (MWA 8953).

A search of Warwickshire's Historic Environment reveals no listings within the bounds of the site but a number within a 1km radius.



Scale 1:2500

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:250

The area of archaeological observation Fig 2

Fieldwalking identified the site of a possible Romano-British villa through finds of pottery, mortaria, box flue tile and tessera approximately 780m to the north-west of the site (MWA 9191). The foundations of a stone building along with Roman pottery, tile and a coin (EWA7273) were found during construction work 250m to the south of the possible villa site (MWA9638).

To the north-west of the village an undated burial, thought to be Romano-British date, was discovered during drainage works in the 1960s (MWA2037)

The medieval manor house of Oxhill is thought to have stood approximately 160m to the north-east of the site on a plot of land now occupied by post-medieval buildings (MWA 2020). The church of St Lawrence (MWA 2018), within the village, is of medieval origin and has the remains of a medieval cross within its grounds (MWA 2019)

In fields to the north-east of the village finds of medieval pottery suggest the location of a deserted medieval village recorded in 1651 as Forsaken Hamme and again in 1760 as Forsaken Ham (MWA 2026). The deserted or shrunken medieval village of Old Strupp lies at the southern end of Oxhill (MWA2089).

In Domesday and records of 1241 a watermill is recorded at Oxhill but the location of this is now lost (MWA2024).



The foundation trenches, looking north

Fig 3

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 1m below present ground level and were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

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



The typical stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches

Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate was encountered between 0.40m and 0.60m below current ground level and comprised pale grey silty clay overlain by a layer of yellow-brown sandy clay and limestone fragments, 0.50m thick. The subsoil comprised dark grey loamy clay, 0.20m thick and was overlain by a dark grey-brown clay loam topsoil, 0.40m (fig 4).

There was a probable furrow, of a former field system, aligned north-east to south-west, visible in the foundation trench at the southern corner of the new dwelling (Fig 2). This cut the natural substrate and was approximately 2m wide by 0.40m deep with gradual sloping sides and a broad, slightly concave base. The mid grey-brown clay loam fill, which was similar to the overlying subsoil, produced no finds.

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

5 CONCLUSIONS

A single, undated furrow of a former field system was identified during the course of the investigation. Its alignment would suggest it is part of the ridge and furrow system which is visible in the field to the south and west of the development area.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Stocks, A, 2013 *Brief for archaeological work*, Warwickshire County Council

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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

Taylor, E, 2013 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Maples, Main Street, Oxhill, Warwickshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology



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