



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis,
and publication of works at the
Irthlingborough Growth Scheme
The Slips, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire



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Northamptonshire
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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	IRTHLINGBOROUGH GROWTH SCHEME
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during ground works associated with the replacement of a water pipeline to the south of The Slips, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered
Project type	Watching Brief
Site status	None
Previous work	None
Current land use	Arable
Future work	None
Monument type/ period	None
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Northamptonshire
Site address	Home Farm, The Slips, Wellingborough, Northants
OS Easting & Northing	489272/270772
Area	450m ²
Height aOD	50m-80m
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Ed Taylor
Project Manager	Jim Brown
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	16/7/12
End date	16/7/12
ARCHIVES	
Archive location	
Archive contents	Watching brief forms (1), Col slide (5) B+W contact sheet (1), digital photos (1 cd)
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at the Irthlingborough Growth Scheme, The Slips, Wellingborough
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION,
RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF WORKS AT
THE IRTHLINGBOROUGH GROWTH SCHEME
THE SLIPS, WELLINGBOROUGH
JULY 2012**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during ground works associated with the replacement of a water pipeline to the south of The Slips, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in July 2012 during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water pipeline on the northern edge of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (NGR SP89272 70772), Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Anglian Water in response to a brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor Planning Services (Mather 2012)

The work followed an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012) 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

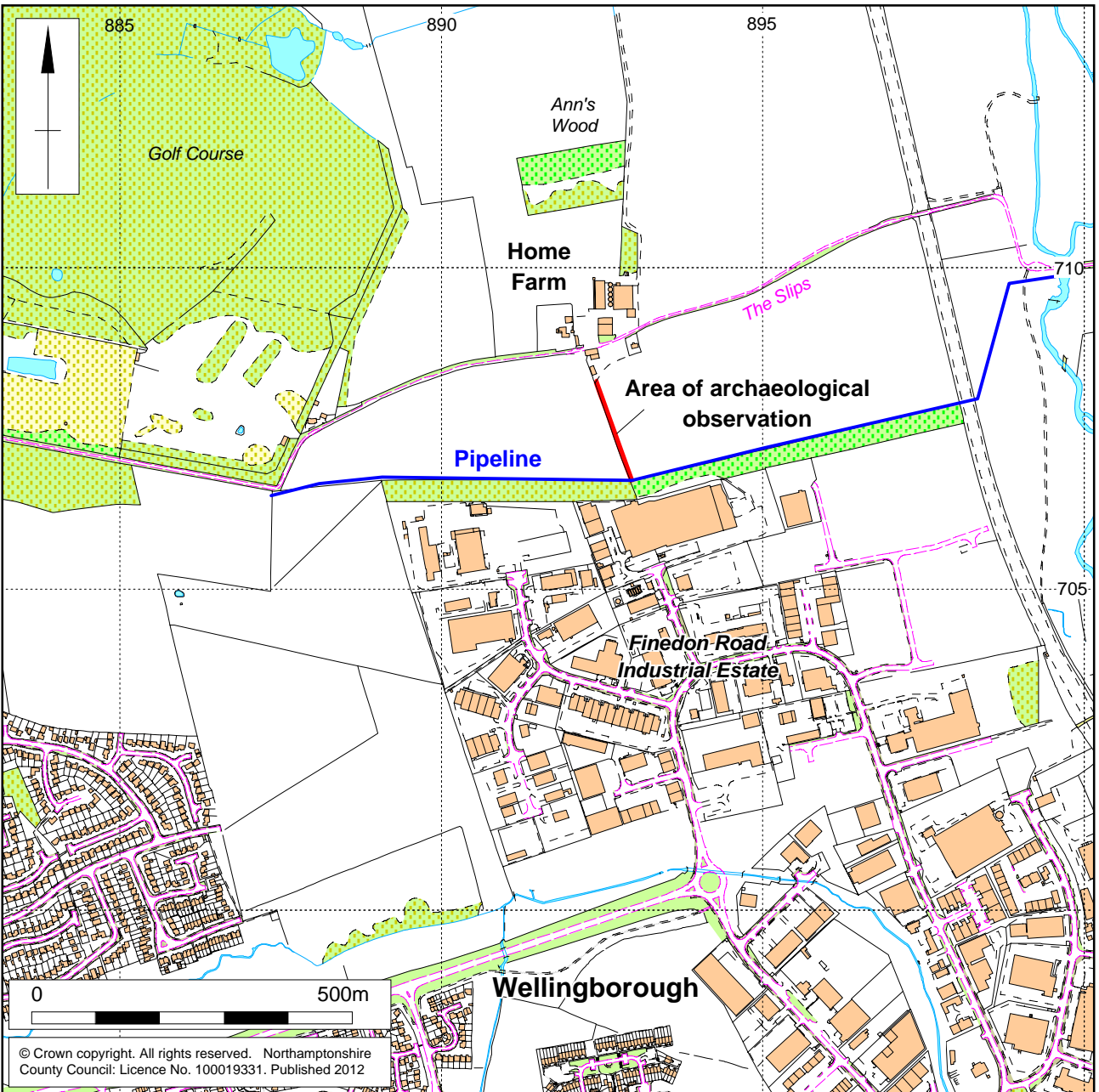
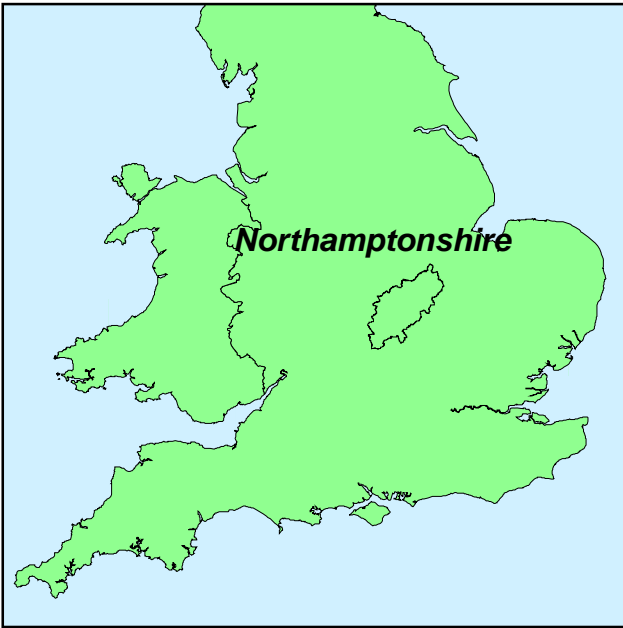
The pipeline was 1650m in length, aligned mostly east to west and followed the northern boundary of an industrial estate on the northern edge of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (Fig 1). The area of archaeological observation (henceforth referred to as 'the site') comprised a north-west to south-east aligned temporary access road from Home Farm in the north to the edge of the pipeline to the south (Figs 1 and 2).

The site is bounded by fields and lies between 50m and 80m aOD. The underlying geology varies from Northamptonshire sand and ironstone with Upper Lias clays (BGS 2012).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

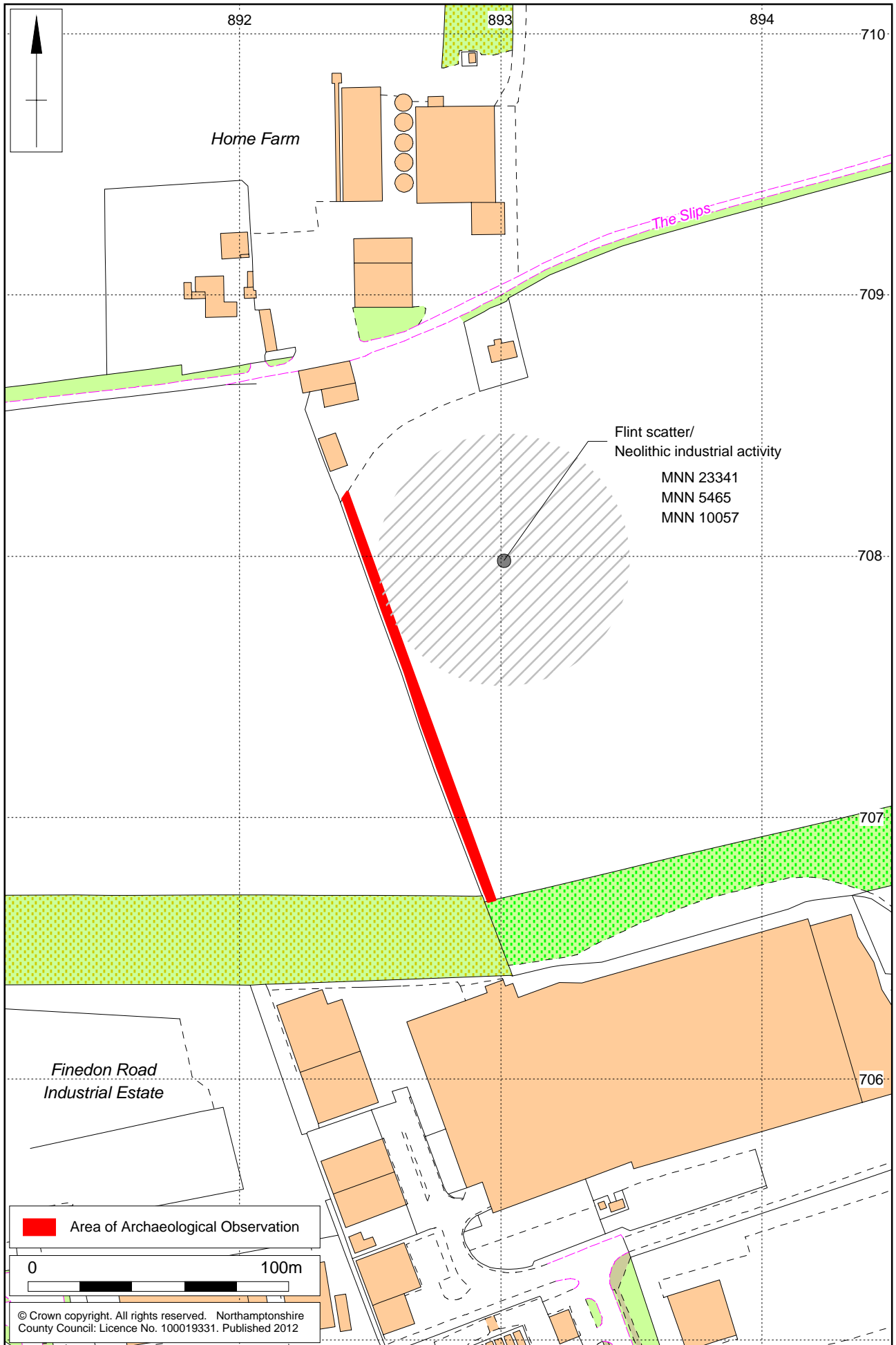
The study area lies within an area of archaeological interest, 6km from the Roman town of Irchester.

The Historic Environment Record indicates that a scatter of Neolithic flint was found during fieldwalking to the immediate east of the site (HER MNN 23341, 5465, 10057, Fig 2).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2000 (A4)

The area of archaeological observation Fig 2

Approximately 400m to the east of the pipeline there are a group of cropmarks which have been interpreted as a possible Roman ritual/religious site and a Saxon or medieval road (SMR 3635, 3607).

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology in 2011 in advance of the Kettering East Trunk sewer. This recorded negative results for the area to the east of the proposed pipeline however this may have been due to truncation by the existing pipeline.

No previous archaeological works have been carried out within the footprint of the proposed pipeline.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new access road;
- ◆ determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- ◆ create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis;
- ◆ determine if there are any archaeological remains or artefacts associated with the flint scatter found to the east of the access road.

The fieldwork was undertaken over a single day and involved the observation of the excavation of a road corridor approximately 150m long by 3m wide (Fig 2).

Topsoil and subsoil were removed using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with 2m wide 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 (NA 2011).

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008) and within the parameters set by the East Midlands Regional Research Framework, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006) now replaced by Knight, Vyner and Allen (2012).



The site, looking south-east from Home Farm

Fig 3



The typical stratigraphic sequence

Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate comprised loose fragments of ironstone and orange-brown sandy clay. This was overlain by a mid-orange-brown sandy loam subsoil which was 0.15m to 0.20m thick. The overlying topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy loam which was 0.25m-0.30m thick.

No archaeological features were exposed by the excavations and no artefacts were present in the subsoil or topsoil.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Although the site lay to the immediate east of a Neolithic flint scatter, no archaeological features or flint artefacts were encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

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UVDB

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