



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation
and recording on land at
5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire
February 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/266

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 168441	
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire		
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Spencer Courtney Homes in February 2012 during groundworks for the construction of a new residential development on land at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham. Significant modern disturbance was recorded along the frontage of the investigation area, where previous clearance of Japanese Knotweed had taken place, with undisturbed soils present throughout the remainder. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.		
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Planning Application No:S/2011/1486/FUL		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Undeveloped village plot		
Future work	No		
Monument type/ period			
Significant finds			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq metres)	625m		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 462975 241625		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull supported by David J Leigh		
Sponsor or funding body	Spencer Courtney Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	February 2012		
End date	February 2012		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical			
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (8) black and white contact prints (8) Digital photographs (34)	
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		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 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/266		
Author	David J Leigh		
Date	December 2013		

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING
ON LAND AT 5-7 BROAD STREET, SYRESHAM
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
FEBRUARY 2012**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Spencer Courtney Homes in February 2012 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new residential development on land at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire. Significant modern disturbance was recorded along the frontage of the investigation area, where previous clearance of Japanese Knotweed had taken place, with undisturbed soils present throughout the remainder. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in February 2012 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new residential development on land at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 462975 241625; Planning Application No: S/2011/1486/FUL, Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work was undertaken on behalf of Spencer Courtney Homes and was carried out following a request for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in a brief for archaeological work issued 19 January 2012 (Mordue 2012).

It adhered to Planning Policy Statement 5, subsequently superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2012) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with 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 Syresham lies approximately 13km south-west of Towcester. The development area is located on the west side of Broad Street on relatively level ground at an approximate height of 133m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Glacial Sand and Gravel (BGS Geindex: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

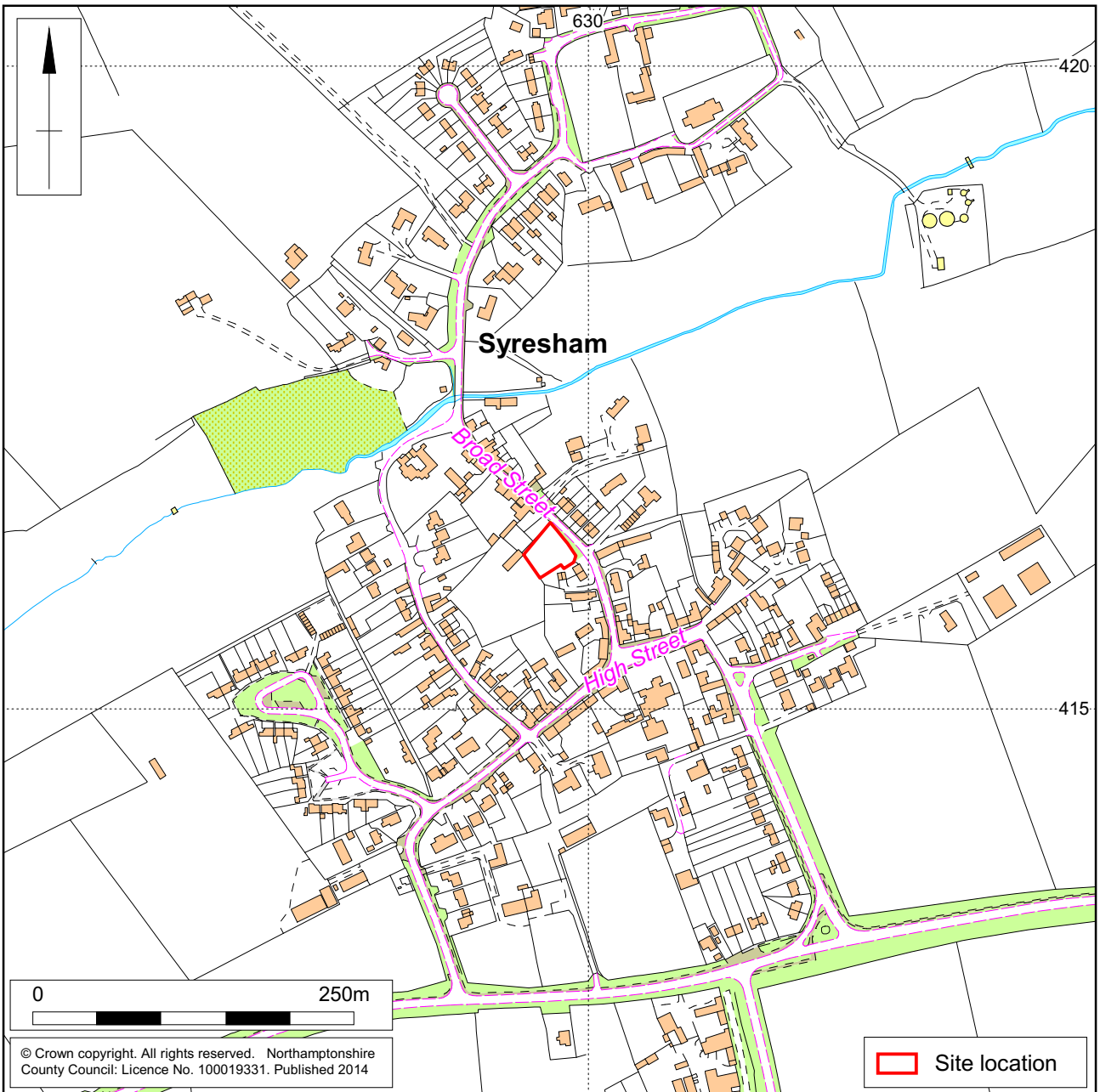
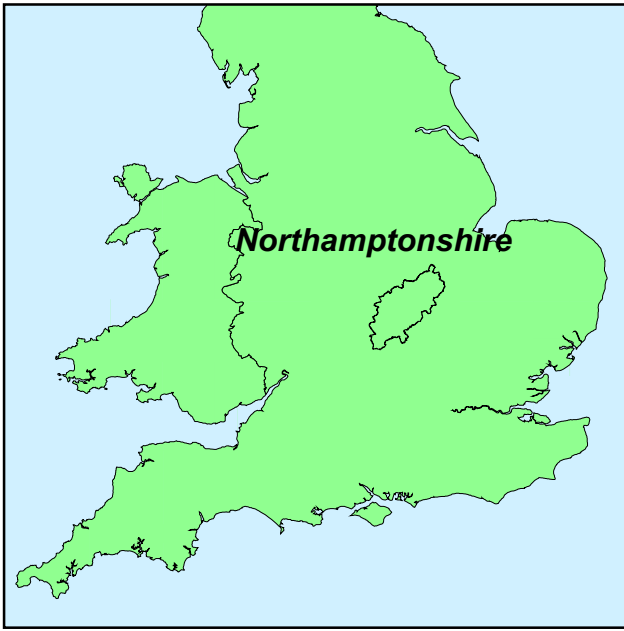
2.2 Historical background

The investigation area lies within an area of archaeological interest and within the village of Syresham, the village being recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as *Sigre(s)ham*.

An earthwork survey carried out of the village identified a number of features dating from the medieval period which included water management features lying to the north of the site. Close by on the opposite side of Broad Street an enclosure or close is recorded bounded by a ditch or low bank. South of the High Street at the primary school a possible wall and yard surface associated with 19th century pottery were revealed during gardening work.

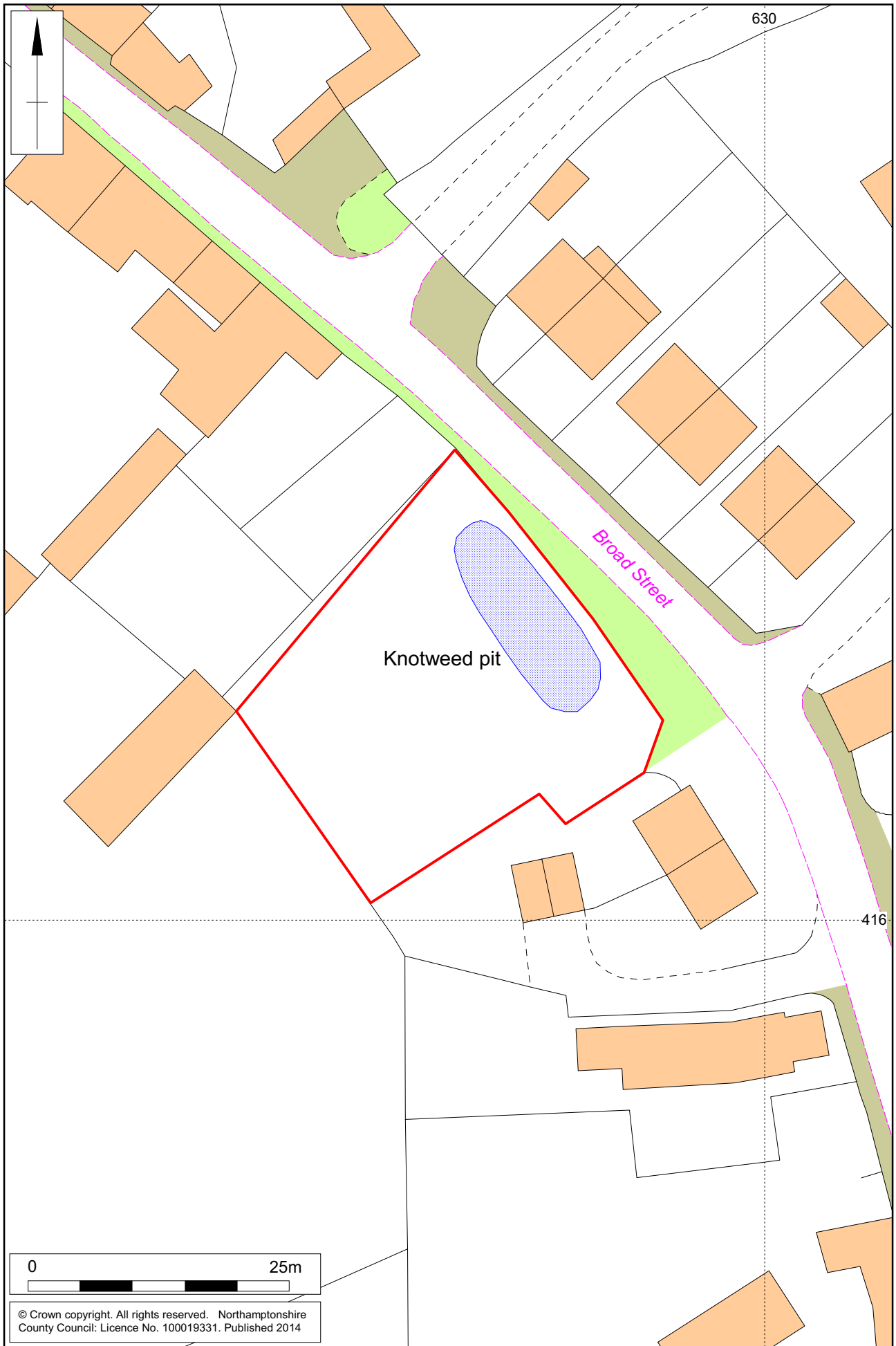
No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the investigation area. Up to the present application the area has comprised an area of vacant land.

Prior to the commencement of the archaeological investigation, clearance of Japanese Knotweed had resulted in the excavation of a relatively large pit, up to 1.20m deep by 11m long and 5m wide, which extended across the frontage of 5-7 Broad Street (Fig 4).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the new residential development 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 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 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2012 during groundworks for the new residential development. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket (Fig 5). The works comprised the removal of topsoil and subsoil across the investigation area (Fig 6).



The investigation area, looking west Fig 3



The Japanese Knotweed pit, looking south-east Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.47m below present ground level towards the front of the investigation area to the rear of the Japanese Knotweed pit. It comprised orange-red sand and gravel and was overlain by mid-pale grey-brown sandy loam subsoil, up to 0.12m thick, containing occasional irregular stones.

This was sealed by grey-black sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.35m thick towards the front of the investigation area reducing to 0.10m thick at the rear of the investigation area. It contained numerous irregular stones and numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and glass.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present.



The groundworks in progress, looking north-west Fig 5



Reduction of the area to formation level, looking north-west Fig 6

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	8
Black and white contacts and negatives	8
Digital photographs	34

The project archive which will be consolidated and prepared for deposition will be held by Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.



The stratigraphic sequence Fig 7

6 CONCLUSIONS

Significant modern disturbance was recorded along the frontage of the investigation area as a result of the extraction of Japanese Knotweed which had been identified. Throughout the remainder of the area undisturbed soils were recorded.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present. The absence of any artefactual evidence, would suggest, but not preclude, that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the investigation area.

The archaeological investigation 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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- Leigh, D J, 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Reporting of works on land at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- NCC 2011 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at 5-7 Broad Street, Syresham, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire County Council



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