



Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

**An archaeological watching brief at  
Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire**

**March 2009**

**NGR TL 074 993**

**SITE CODE: WCS 09**



Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

November 2009

Report 09/187

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Verified by	Pat Chapman		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

CHURCH STREET, WANSFORD

**OASIS REPORT FORM      OASIS ID, 65060**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on 16th March 2009 during the construction of a foundation trench at Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (sq.m / ha)	1968 sq m	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	TL 074 993	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Ben Robinson (verbal) Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Project Manager	Joe Prentice	
Sponsor or funding body	A P Jobson	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	16 March 2009	
End date	16 March 2009	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (6) black and white contact prints (6) Digital photographs (10)
Digital		Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological watching brief at Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire	
Serial title & volume	09/187	
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Page numbers		

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
CHURCH STREET  
WANSFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
MARCH 2009**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on 16th March 2009 during the construction of a foundation trench at Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on 16 March 2009 during the construction of a foundation trench at Church Street, Wansford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 074 993: Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Ross Thain and Co Ltd. on behalf of A P Jobson. Listed Building Consent had been granted by Listed Building Approval 04/00439/LBC (Peterborough City Council, Environmental Services). No written brief was issued, however, a verbal agreement was obtained from Ben Robinson, Peterborough City Archaeologist. The watching brief complied with the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and topography**

The foundation trench was located in a garden laid to grass and flowerbeds. The trench was positioned at the northern end of the site parallel with the road (Fig 2). The site sloped down south-easterly towards the River Nene approximately 110m away from the trench. The underlying geology belongs to the Inferior Oolite group (BGS 2009).

**2.2 Historical background**

The Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted so that the archaeological potential of the development area and its environs could be identified (Fig 3). No entries are marked on the plot, however, there are several entries within 500m. The earliest archaeological evidence is noted by Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint (HER 7940 and HER 130), Roman pottery (HER 2039), a possible Roman spearhead (HER

2015), and a cist burial (HER 121). The church has a Saxon window (HER 127) and there are houses from the 17th and 18th centuries within the village. There is also a World War II aircraft crash site noted in the vicinity (HER 50594 and HER 50595). Details are noted in the Table 1 below (see Fig 3 for locations).

Table 1: Historic Environmental Record data

REC. NO	GRID REF	Description
124	TL/0732/9947	Old North Road, No 19 (Hillside) and former workshop to S. Dated 1850. Estate cottage in Tudor style built for cooper George Eyres - stone barrel with initials G E in panel on front. Coursed stone with free stone dressings. Gabled, steeply pitched.
127	TL/0734/9925	The church is N, the village S of the Nene. In the W wall a Saxon window which now looks into the 13th-century tower.
128	TL/0757/9907	Said to have been built as a posting house, probably in 1632. Converted into a private residence in the mid 19th century and reconverted into a hotel in recent years. Two storeys with attics, built of local stone and Collyweston slates.
129	TL/0755/9929	Anglo Saxon spearhead found by I Drayton of the Haycock Hotel.
130	TL/075-/995-	Mesolithic flints found at Wansford, comprising two cores, eight blades or flakes and four scrapers.
131	TL/0797/9967	Site of Roman building
7856	TL/075-/993-	Fishing net weight "dredged from the River Nene". Bronze bracelet, found with broken pot and bones.
7857	TL/07--/99--	13th-century iron key with circular bow, solid shank, 1,7in long.
11837	TL/074-/991-	Possible Anglo Saxon hundred or wapentake meeting place.
50532	TL/0756/9910	An archaeological watching brief was carried out while an extension was being built to the hotel.
50594	TL/0693/9942	Aircraft crash site. An Avro Lancaster Mark III, serial No DV197 code VNT. 59 Sqn RAF Skellingthorpe crashed on return due to flak damage over Berlin 31/07/43.
50595	TL/0780/9900	Aircraft crash site. Avro Lancaster, c 1943/44 nose dived into ground. Probably much still buried.
50867	TL/0734/9932	17th-century ashlar house. Datestone on front "1657TT". Collyweston stone roof with gabled ends.
50872	TL/0739/9922	Early 18th-century house. Coursed stone with dressed quoins. Steeply pitched Collyweston stone roof with stone coping to end gables. Two storeys and attic.
50873	TL/0740/9923	Long range of 18th-century stone farm buildings with steeply pitched Collyweston stone roofs with gabled ends.
50874	TL/0737/9929	Includes No.17 Peterborough Road.
50875	TL/0738/9927	Early 18th-century house. Coursed stone with a steeply pitched Collyweston stone roof with stone coping to gabled ends. Modillion eaves. Two storeys and attic.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on an extension of an hotel to the south of the river; no archaeological evidence was recorded (HER 50532).

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of a foundation trench, 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 visit to the site during the excavation of the foundation trench (Fig 2). The groundworks were carried out using mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench running parallel with the road measured 8m long by 0.5m wide with on either end 1m spurs at right angles (Fig 2). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.80m.

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.

### **4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE**

The natural at the bottom of the trench was light greyish-blue sandy clay overlain by mid orangey-yellow sand, with angular, decaying sandstone fragments, approximately 0.80m deep (Figs 4 & 5). Above this was a layer of mid greyish brown sandstone gravel of small to medium sized stones up to 0.70m thick. The topsoil was 0.10m deep. The soil was much waterlogged and the trench walls suffered from collapse during the excavations. No archaeological deposits or finds were uncovered.

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	6
Black and white contacts and negatives	6
Digital photographs	10

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

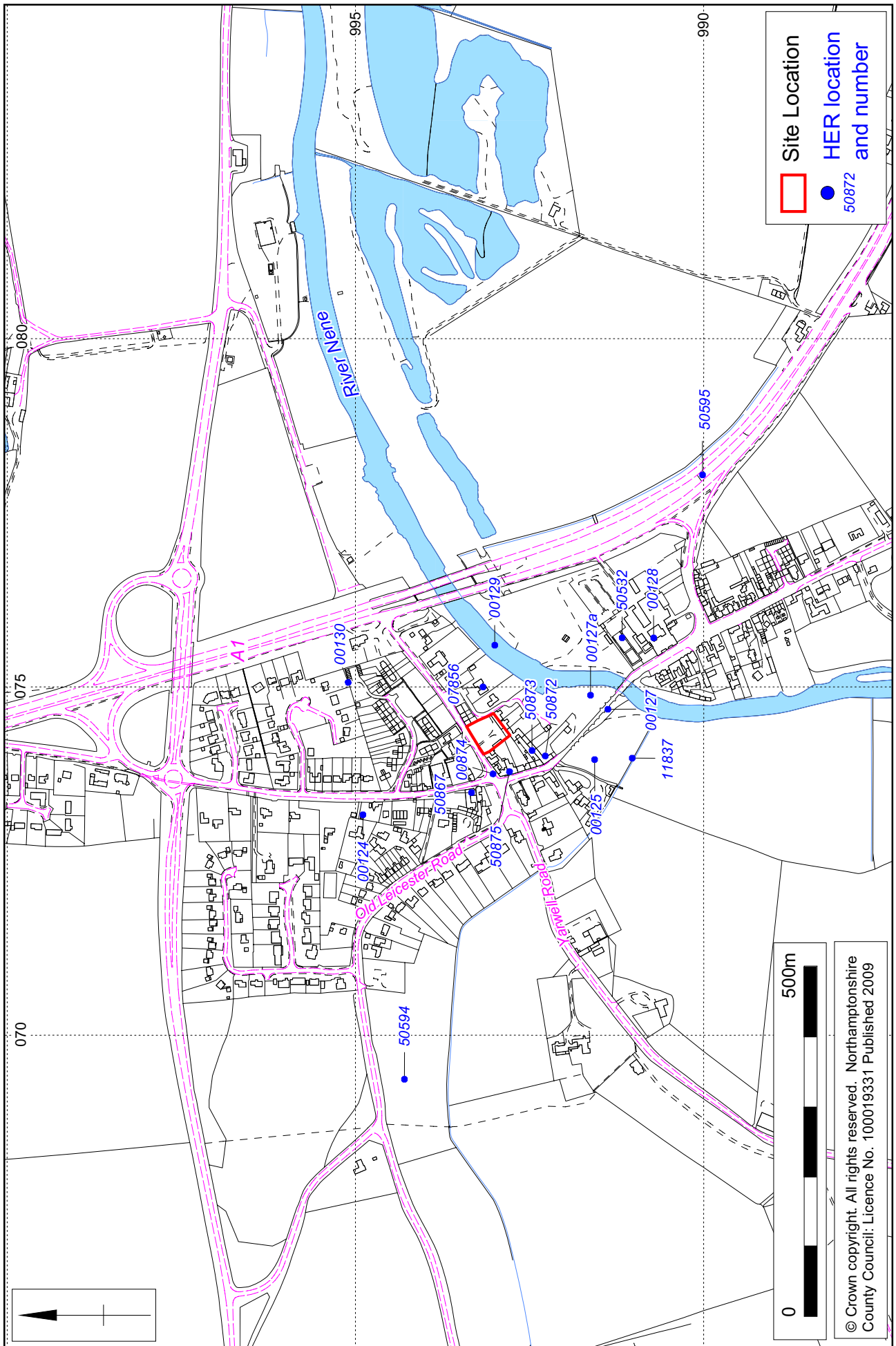
The results of the watching brief showed an undisturbed stratigraphy, which was much waterlogged. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the watching brief area.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists



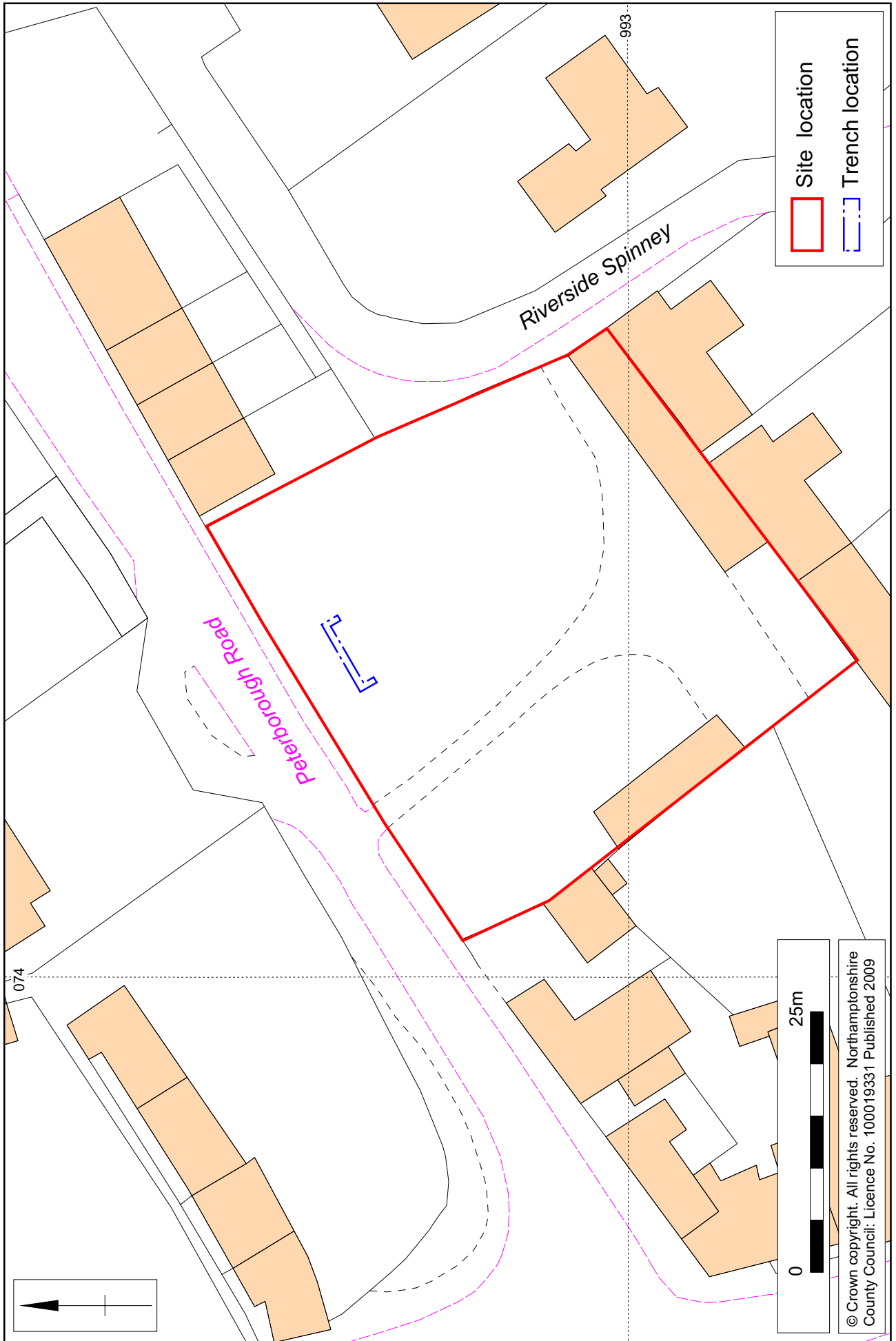


Site Location  
● HER location  
50872 and number

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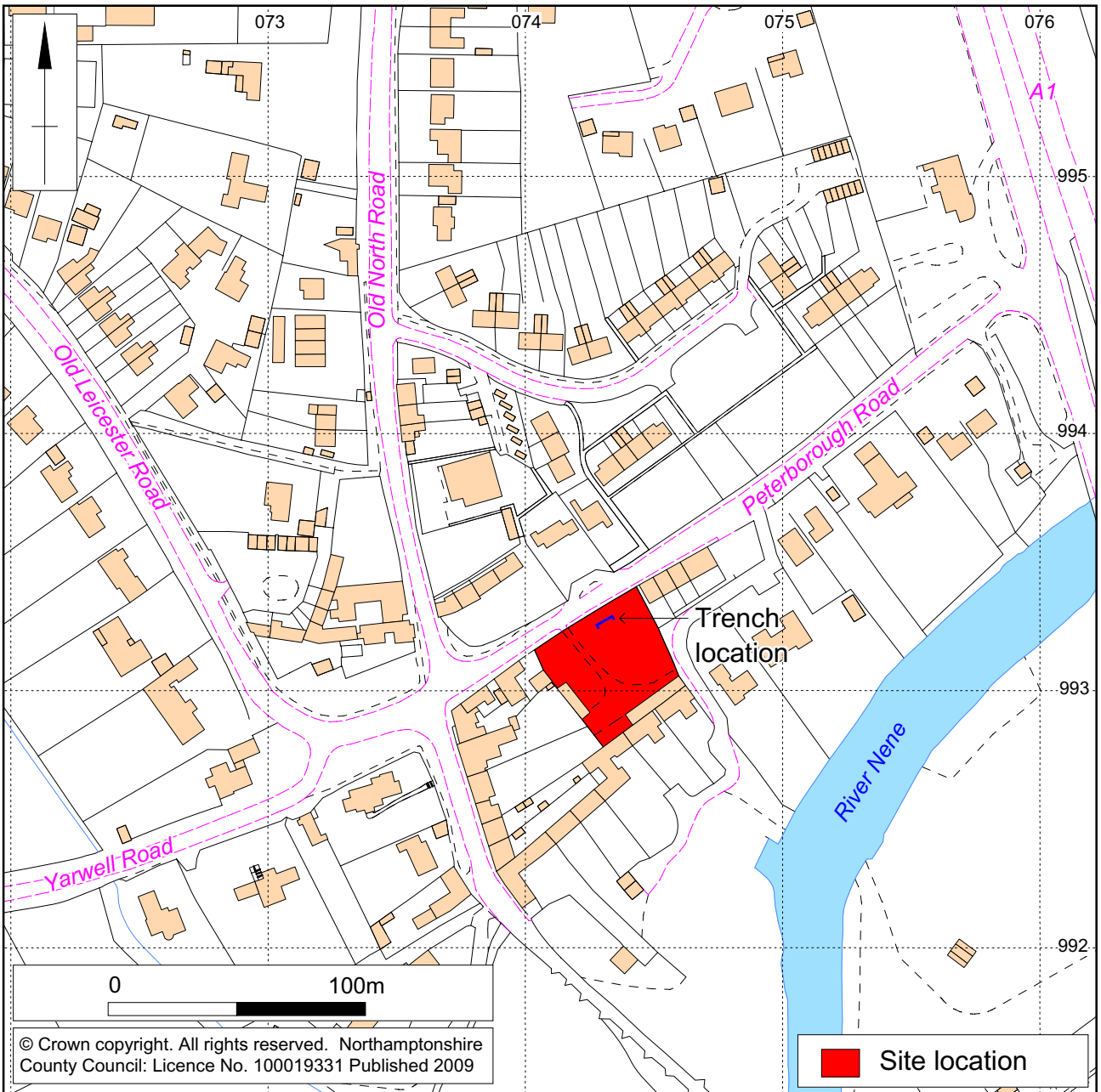
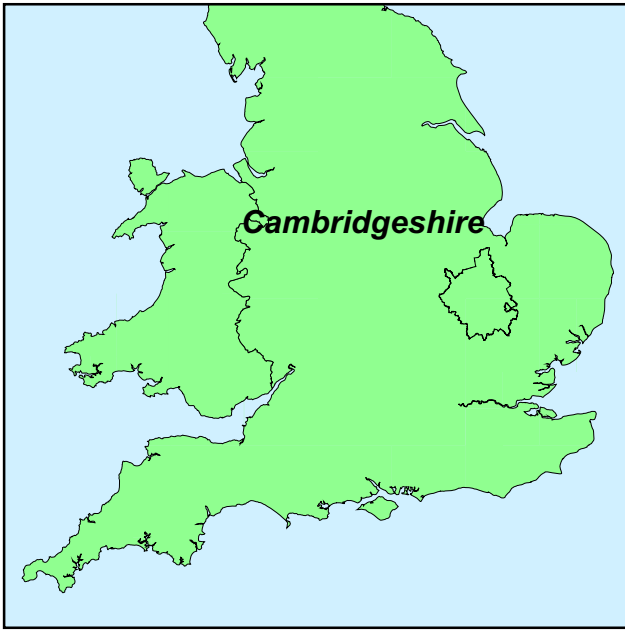
Scale 1:7500

Historic Environment Record (HER) locations Fig 3



Scale 1:500

Trench location Fig 2



Scale 1:2500

Site location Fig 1



View of foundation trench looking south-west

Fig 4



View of foundation trench looking west

Fig 5



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