

PROPOSED MARINA, STATION ROAD, EARLS BARTON

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

SCOPE OF WORKS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

SITE NAME:	Land at Station Road, Earls Barton, Northamptonshire
NATIONAL GRID REF:	SP 8566 6210
CLIENT:	GJP Marina Developments Ltd
DATE:	20th June 2013
CONTRACTOR:	Northamptonshire Archaeology 2 Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton, NN4 8BE

This document outlines the scope of works for cultural heritage anticipated for assessment that will be covered during the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The site comprises 3.4ha on land to the south of the village of Earls Barton, which is situated c 3.2km from the eastern suburbs of Northampton (Fig 1). The proposed development area currently comprises pasture, at an elevation of c 47.5m above Ordnance Datum. The southern boundary of the site is formed by the River Nene; a lock is also present. To the east the site is bounded by Station Road and a sports ground beyond and to the west there is further pasture. To the north is a depot. The local bedrock geology comprises the Whitby Mudstone Formation, with superficial deposits of alluvium across much of the site, and First Terrace River Deposits in a small area at the north (BGS: mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home).

The surrounding landscape of the Nene Valley is known to contain significant remains of all periods, in particular the prehistoric and Roman periods, and large cropmark sites have been recorded in the vicinity by aerial photography. Archaeological investigation of parts of the landscape has been undertaken prior to the construction of the A45, development associated with the eastern expansion of Northampton and quarrying. To the west of the proposed development are two large complexes dating from the prehistoric to early middle Saxon periods (Historic Environment Record (HER) no 2058 and 2148; Fig 2). Part of one of these sites was excavated in advance of the construction of the A45 at Clay Lane. Settlement dated to the late Iron Age and Belgic periods and to the south Romano-British occupation dated to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD and continued to the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD. Further cropmarks to the north-west of the current site may be associated with the Iron Age activity at Clay Lane (HER no 3563). A possible Roman building has been recorded c 500m to the north-east of the

site (HER no 3567/0/0). Just over 1km to the north-east is the deserted medieval hamlet of Thorpe, which was completely deserted by 1772 except for the existing mill (HER no 2682).

Although no cropmark sites are known within the current proposed development, they may have been masked by the alluvial deposits which overlie much of the site.

There are no nationally designated heritage assets within the proposed development. The closest designated assets lie 840m to the south of the proposed development and comprise the grade I designated Registered Park of Castle Ashby and associated listed buildings.

The key heritage issues for consideration are the potential for impacts to occur to below-ground archaeological remains during the construction phase and impacts to the setting of heritage assets (whether designated or not) during the operational phase of the proposed development. The exact scope of works will be finalised with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) to Northamptonshire County Council and other consultees as necessary.

Baseline conditions

A desk-based assessment will be undertaken to establish the baseline conditions both within and in the vicinity of the site. This will consider information from Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Northamptonshire Record Office and online resources. This will be augmented by a site walkover.

Archaeological field evaluation

Initial consultation with the AAA has established that archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of below-ground archaeological remains. The evaluation will comprise an initial geophysical survey to be followed by trial trench evaluation. The scale of the trial trench evaluation will be determined by the results of the geophysical survey but is usually based on a 2-5% sample of the area of the proposed development. The detailed methodologies to be employed during the course of both the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation would be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation, which would be approved by the AAA prior to any fieldwork being undertaken. Work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006).

Sensitivity, Magnitude and Significance

The sensitivity, magnitude and, therefore, significance of heritage assets identified in the desktop and on-site surveys will be assessed.

The scope of works will include the following:

- Assessment of potential heritage asset impacts identified during the baseline studies, as well as their magnitude and significance;

- Identification of mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset identified potential impacts;
- Assessment of residual effects once mitigation is taken into account.

The above assessment will be undertaken in accordance with good practice. Guidance and policy documents will be followed, as necessary, during the course of the assessment will be:

- *The setting of Heritage assets*, English Heritage 2011
- *The Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, English Heritage 2010
- *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*, English Heritage April 2008
- *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice and Procedures*, DCLG June 2006
- *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists 2008
- *Standard And Guidance for Archaeological Desk based Assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists 2010, revised 2011
- *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume II: Environmental Assessment, Section 3: Environmental Topics, Part 2: Cultural Heritage*, Highways Agency 2007

Works will be undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). Of particular relevance is Paragraph 128 which states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

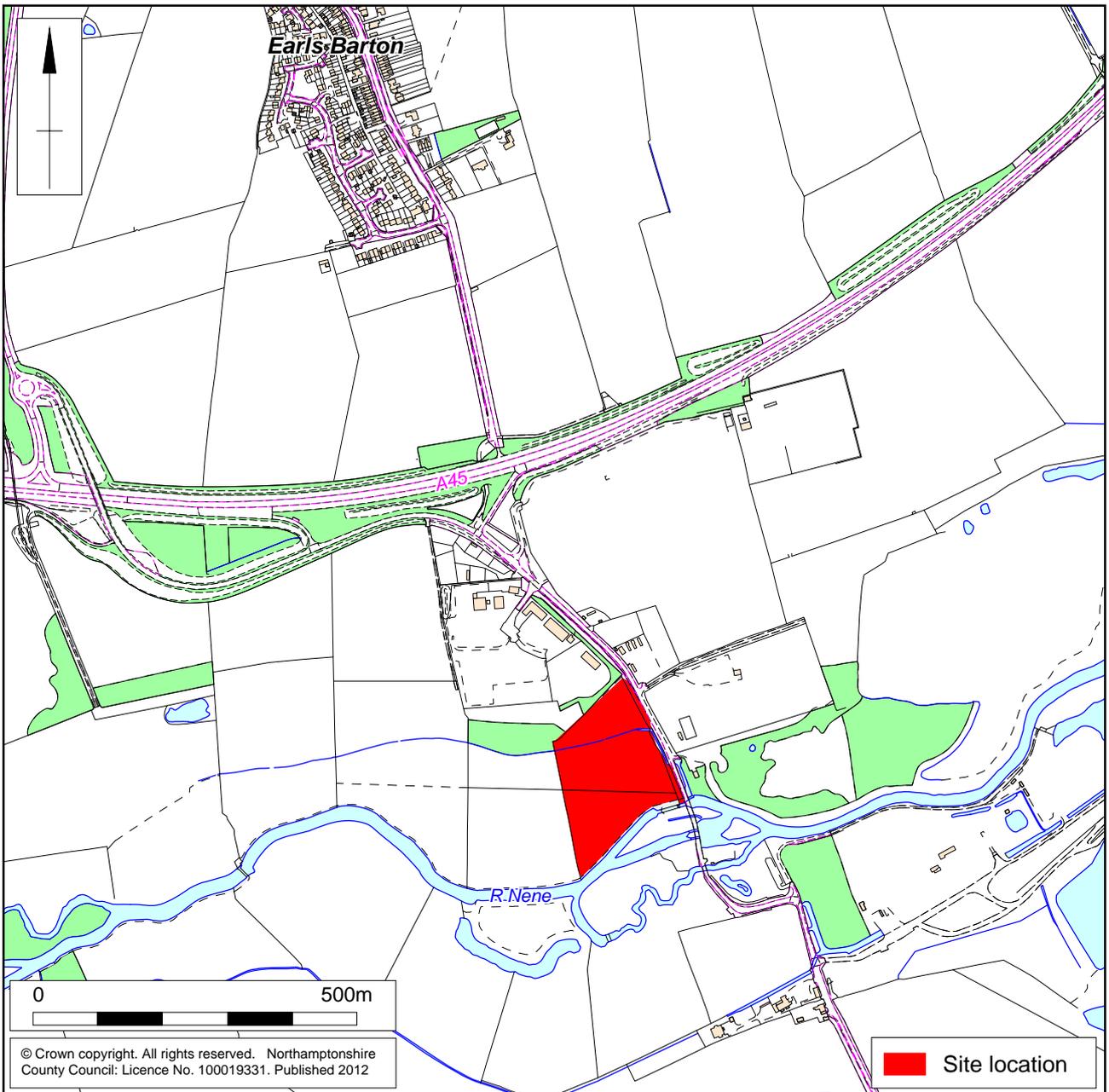
Chapter 129- Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Chapter 132 -When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost

through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

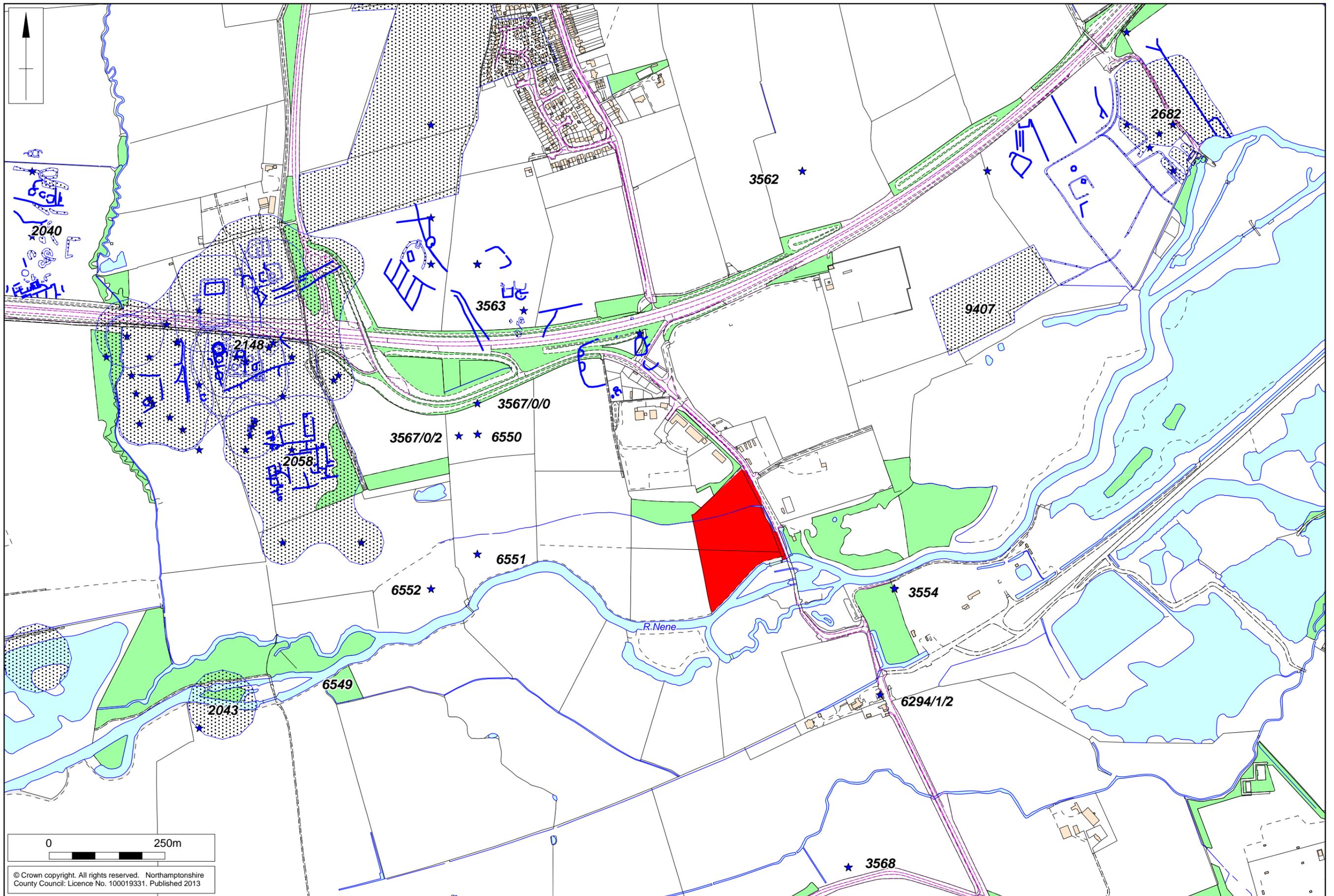
Chapter 135 - The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Chapter 141 - Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:7,500 (A3)

Relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 2