



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief on land
at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill
Leicestershire
March 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/61

April 2012

X.A46.2012



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS NO: 143402	
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire		
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks associated with redevelopment work at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.		
Project type	Watching brief: Planning Consent No: 11/01763/FUL		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Archaeological assessment (Dawson 2011)		
Current Land use	Private garden		
Future work	Unknown		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire		
Study area (sq.m)	200m		
OS Grid Ref	SP 705 991		
Height OD			
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator	The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	Michael Dawson CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Michael Dawson CgMs Consulting; Steve Parry NA		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting acting for Mr and Mrs Cooper		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	March 2012		
End date	March 2012		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical			
Paper	Leicestershire Museums Accession No: X.A46.2012	Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (25) Black and white contact prints (25) Digital photographs (23)	
Digital	Ditto	Report text and figures	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, forthcoming, unpublished			
Title	An archaeological watching brief at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire		
Authors	David J Leigh		
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report, 12/61		
Date	April 2012		

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE
MANOR HOUSE, ILLSTON ON THE HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE
MARCH 2012**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting acting for their clients Mr and Mrs Cooper in March 2012 during groundworks associated with redevelopment work at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Consent for redevelopment work at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 705 991; Figs 1, 2 and 3) was granted by Harborough District. As a condition the implementation of a programme of archaeological work was required. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Michael Dawson, CgMs Consulting in March 2012 (Dawson 2012) and approved by The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March 2012, following the notification of commencement of works to The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. The work was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Cooper

2 BACKGROUND

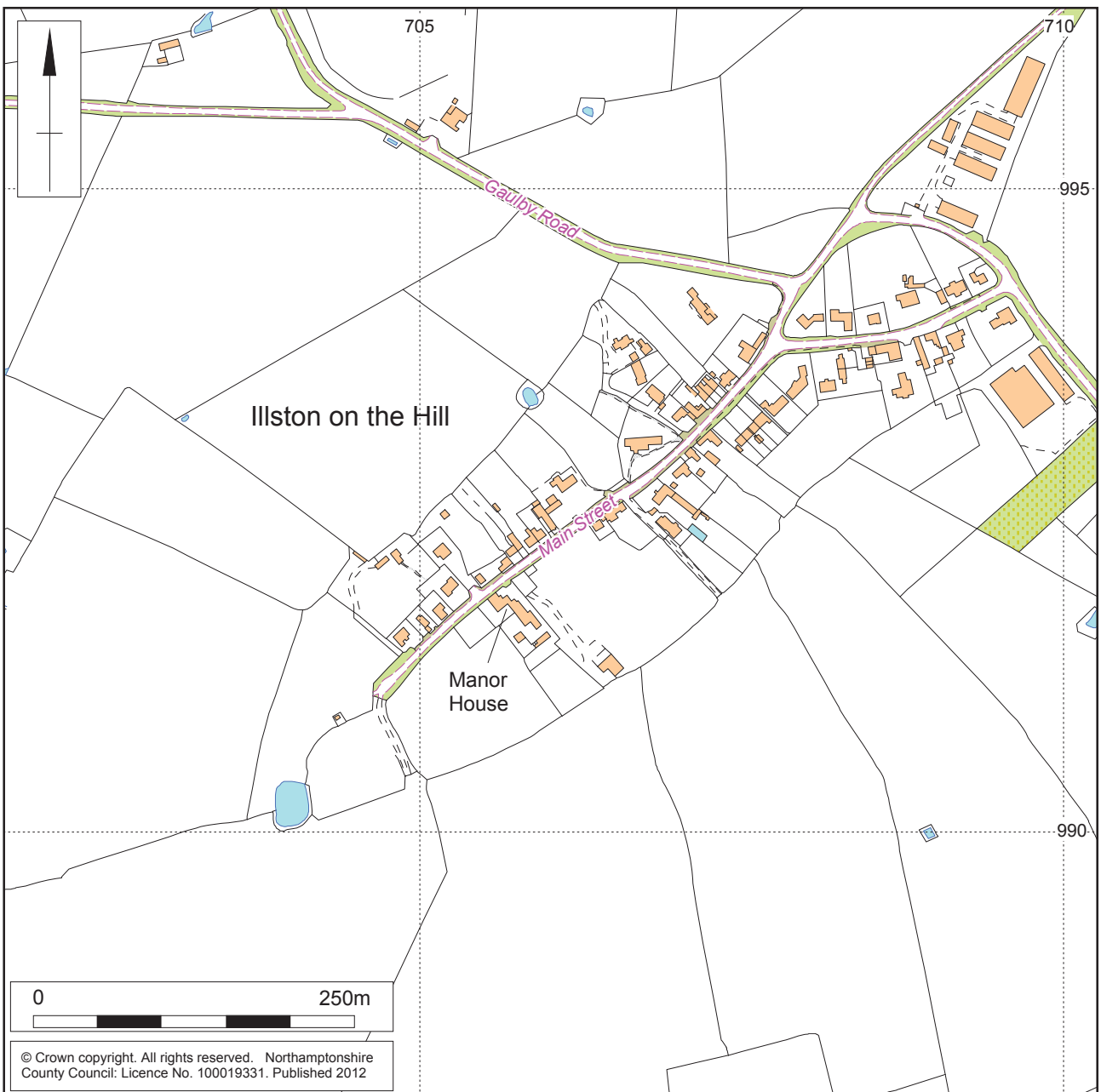
2.1 Historical background

The Manor House lies in the southern part of the village of Illston on the Hill, approximately 12km to the south-east of Leicester.

The site lies within an area of particular archaeological interest and just beyond the core of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Elve/Nelvestone*.

An archaeological assessment undertaken as part of the current application (Dawson 2011) found evidence to suggest that the site may contain remnants of the former manor and associated buildings. Immediately to the south lies the site of Illston Shrunkn Medieval Village. Approximately 150m to the north-east stands the parish church of St Michael and All Saints, a Grade II Listed Building, the earliest parts of which date from the 13th and 14th centuries. The church was subsequently subject to major restoration in the mid 19th century.

The Manor House is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the late 17th century, a datestone set into the fabric of the south facing elevation of the building reads 1794 (Fig 3).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

2.2 Topography and geology

Topographically the site lies at a height of approximately 98m aOD on relatively level ground. Up to the present application the site has been in use as a private garden with outbuildings.

The underlying geology of the site has been mapped by The Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Lias Group, Mudstone, Siltstone, Limestone and Sandstone (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2.3 Objectives

The principle objective of the watching brief was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeological evidence and subsequently to put the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The specific aims of the project have been to:

- Determine whether any significant archaeology survived within the area of development;
- Determine the date and character of any evidence at the site;
- Having obtained a chronological sequence for human activity on the site to place it within its regional context(s);
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis.

The national framework for research is set out by English Heritage (1997). The Research Aims set out in these documents provided the context for the analysis of results from the watching brief.

3 THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

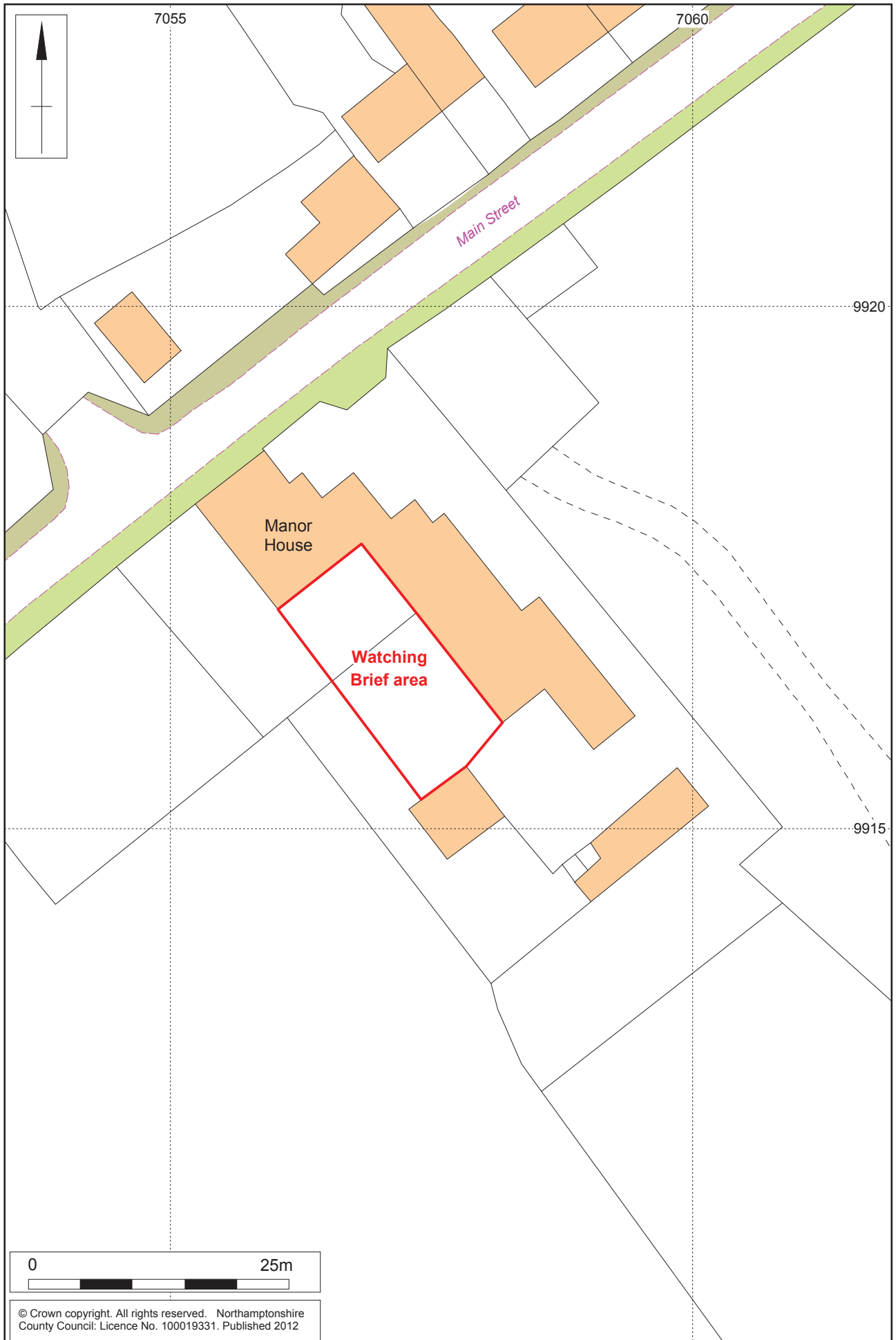
3.1 Methodology

The watching brief comprised the excavation under archaeological observation, of groundworks associated with the redevelopment (Fig 5). The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° tracked mini excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets. A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, along with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma record sheets (NA 2011).

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the IfA Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2008) and the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (2010).

Up to the present application the area of redevelopment has comprised a private garden with outbuildings.

The watching brief recorded modern disturbance throughout the investigation area.

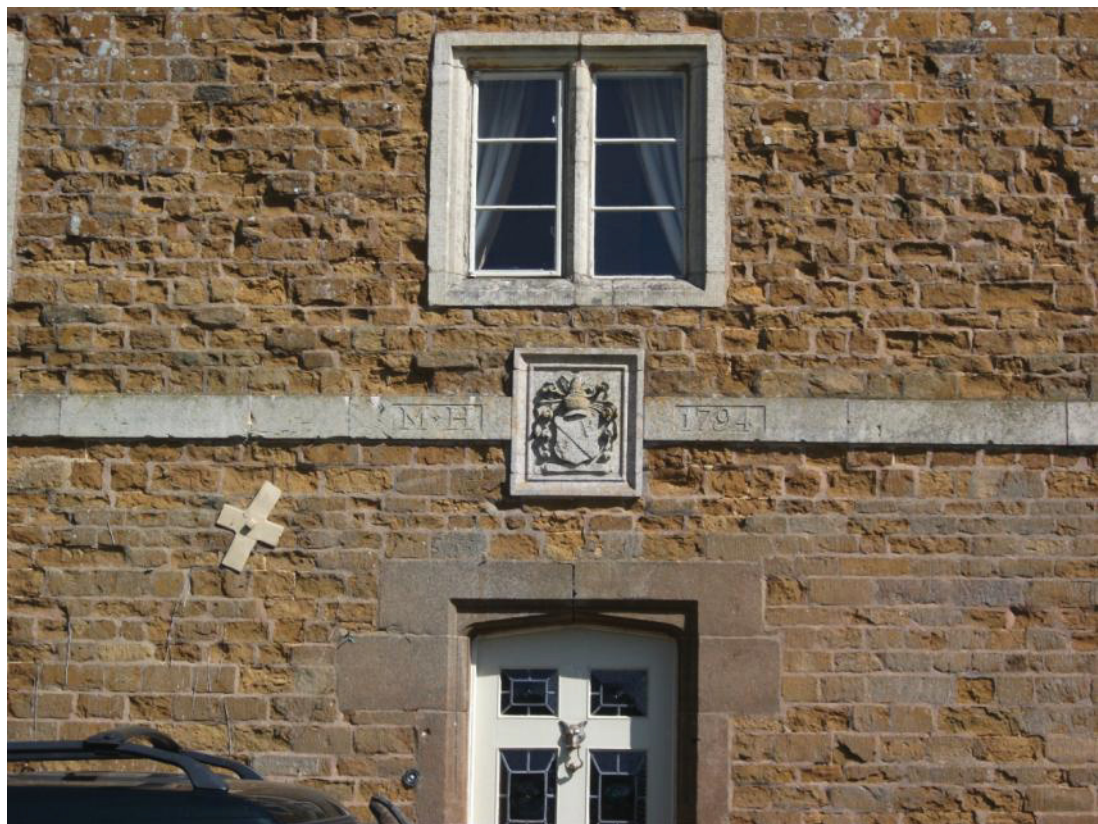


Scale 1:500

Fig 2



General view of the investigation area, looking north-west Fig 3



Datestone on The Manor House Fig 4

3.2 The groundworks

A consistent stratigraphy was present throughout the investigation area (Fig 6). The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.40m below present ground surface and comprised compact grey-blue clay with occasional pockets of modern material cut into it. Overlying this was a layer of overburden comprising reddish-brown silt loam, with a maximum thickness of up to 0.35m, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material. Sealing this was hard-standing material, up to 0.05m thick, comprising small stone chippings and gravels. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



General view of the groundworks in progress, looking west Fig 5



The stratigraphic sequence Fig 6

4 CONCLUSION

The watching brief undertaken at The Manor House, Illston on the Hill revealed no archaeological deposits or artefactual evidence. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area.

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

5 THE ARCHIVE

The watching brief has generated a small archive of photographs and paperwork, which will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums under the accession number X.A46.2012. There are no artefacts from the site.

Record	Number
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	25
Black and white contacts and negatives	25
Digital photographs	23

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dawson, M, 2011, *Archaeological Assessment to AD1820, The Manor House, Illston on the Hill*, CgMs Consulting

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NA 2011 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology
a service of Northamptonshire County Council

4 April 2012
(revised 11 February 2013)



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