



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation,  
investigation and recording during the construction  
of a new equestrian exercise area at  
D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth  
Northamptonshire  
October 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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David J Leigh

Report 13/48

March 2013



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		Oasis No: 145444
Project name	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording during the construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire. Relatively undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording: Planning Ref: S/2012/0866/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Private garden	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	600m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 54085 47045	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
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	Stephen Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mrs S Heseltine	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	October 2012	
End date	October 2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession No)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (10) black and white contact prints (10) Digital photographs (34)
Digital		Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording during the construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire October 2012	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/48	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	March 2013	

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**A PROGRAMME OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING  
DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW EQUESTRIAN EXERCISE AREA  
AT THE REAR OF D'ANVERS HOUSE, HIGH STREET, CULWORTH,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
OCTOBER 2012**

*Abstract*

*A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in October 2012 on behalf of Mrs S Heseltine during the construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire. Relatively undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken in October 2012 during the construction of a new equestrian exercise area at the rear of D'Anvers House, High Street, Culworth, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 54085 47045: Planning Ref: S/2012/0866/FUL Figs 1 and 2). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mrs S Heseltine following a request by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording. The work was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire archaeology (Leigh 2012) and adhering 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) and adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

Culworth lies approximately 27km to the south-west of Northampton and 11km north-east of Banbury in the county of Northamptonshire.

The new exercise area is located on ground gently sloping down towards the west, within the garden to the rear of D'Anvers House at an approximate height of 157m aOD.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Northampton Ironstone (BGS Geotitles <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geotitles/>).

## 2.2 Historical Background

The site is located within an area of archaeological interest and to the rear of D'Anvers House which fronts onto the High Street. Culworth High Street is believed to follow the line of a Roman road from Bletchley to Wormleighton.

D'Anvers House lies within the area of the medieval village of Culworth, the village being recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is referred to as *Culeorde*. Approximately 300m to the east of the site lie the earthwork remains of The Castle ringwork (National Monuments Record No: 13664; Fig 2), which comprises an enclosure bank and ditch 70m across at its widest point. Adjacent to, and south of the ringwork is the parish church of St Mary the Virgin (Fig 2), a Grade II Listed Building, the earliest parts of which date from the 14th century with later additions, together with restoration in 1880.

D'Anvers House itself is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the early 18th century. No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site which up to the present application has occupied an area of the private garden to the rear of D'Anvers House.

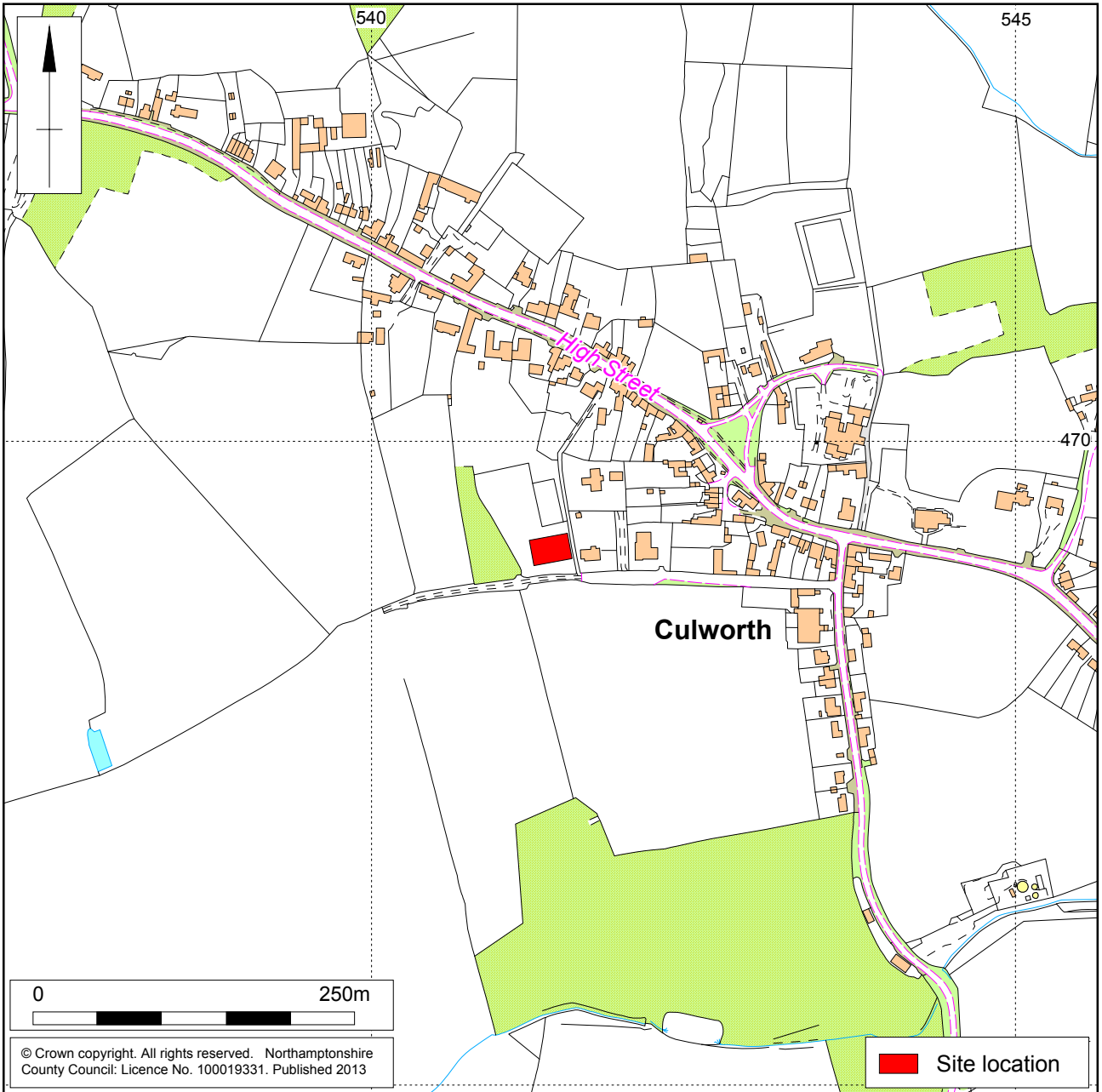
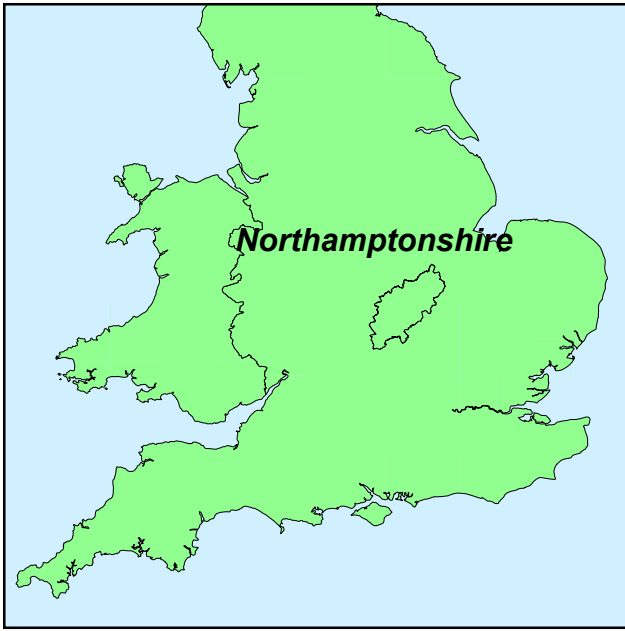
## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new equestrian training area 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 was undertaken in October 2012 during construction of the new equestrian exercise area. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket (Figs 3 and 4) and comprised the removal of topsoil and partial removal of subsoil. In order to level up the ground a deeper cut was undertaken in the eastern half of the new training area, whilst only partial subsoil removal was carried out across the remainder. A modern mound of spoil approximately 15m long and 1.9m high shielding the tennis court was also removed (Fig 5).

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).



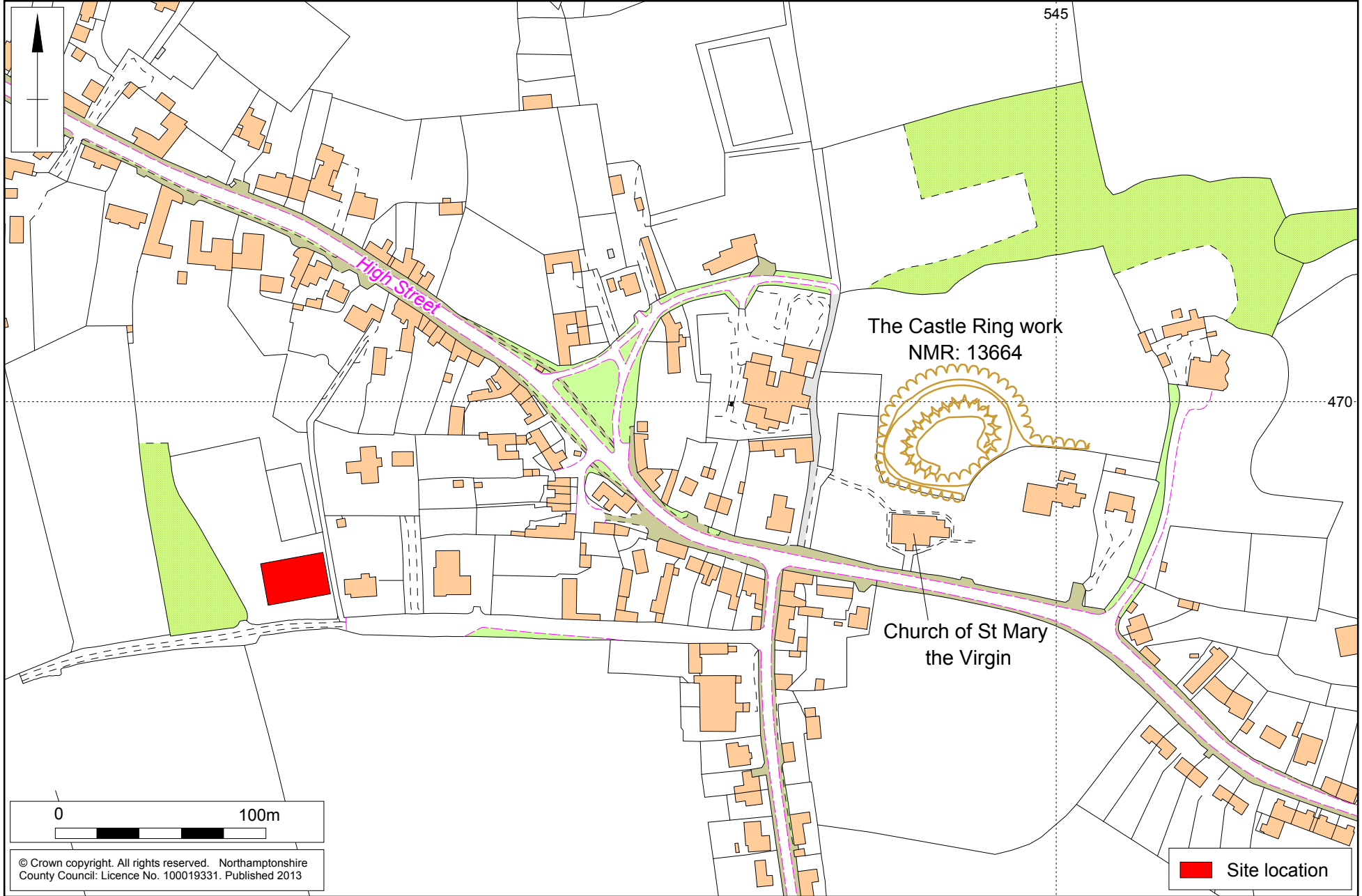
Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2,500 (A4)

Area of archaeological investigation

Fig 2



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General view of the groundworks, looking south Fig 3



General view of the groundworks, looking west Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the investigation area (Fig 6). The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.72m below present ground level in the eastern half of the area and comprised orange-brown sand and ironstone. This was overlain by mid-pale brown sandy loam subsoil, up to 0.52m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and fragments of modern ceramic building material within the upper surface at the interface between the topsoil. More frequent fragments of modern ceramic building material were noted towards the centre of the area, in line with the access into the garden.

Running along the eastern edge of the area and cut into the subsoil was a modern concrete pathway, approximately 0.90m wide (Fig 6). Sealing this was dark brown sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.20m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and small fragments of modern ceramic building material.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The modern mound, looking north Fig 5



The stratigraphic sequence in the north-facing section Fig 6



The modern pathway, looking south Fig 7

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	10
Black and white contacts and negatives	10
Digital photographs	34

Currently there is no facility for archival storage in the region, until such time as one is appointed, the archive, which will be consolidated and prepared for deposition, will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Relatively undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the investigation area. A concentration of fragments of modern ceramic building material was noted in line with the present rear access into the garden which may be associated with an attempt to firm up soft ground in this area of the garden. A modern garden pathway was recorded on the eastern edge of the area.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present, the lack any artefactual evidence would suggest 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
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists
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