



**Northamptonshire  
County Council**

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## Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief

At Rose Cottage, Upper Dean

Bedfordshire

January 2005



David J. Leigh

September 2005

Report 05/122

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**Northamptonshire Archaeology**

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Rose Cottage, Upper Dean, Bedfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a single storey extension and the re-construction of an existing barn and associated service trench at Rose Cottage, Upper Dean, Bedfordshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was noted within the groundworks. 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	Domestic dwelling and garden	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Rose Cottage, Upper Dean, Bedfordshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	50485 26799	
Height OD	50.6m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr John Evens	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	January 2005	
End date	January 2005	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Bedford Museum	Watching brief forms (4) Colour slides (29) black and white contact prints (31) Digital photographs (2)
Digital	Bedford Museum	Report text and figures

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Fig 1: Location of upper Dean, Bedfordshire

Fig 2 Location of groundworks

## **Plates**

Plate 1: View of Rose Cottage

Plate 2: General view of groundworks

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ROSE COTTAGE,  
UPPER DEAN, BEDFORDSHIRE  
JANUARY 2005**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a single storey extension and the re-construction of an existing barn and associated service trench. A disturbed stratigraphy was revealed within the groundworks. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in January 2005 during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension and the re-construction of an existing barn along with an associated service trench (Planning Application No: 04/2067/FUL) at Rose Cottage, Upper Dean, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0485 6799: Fig 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr John Evens in order to fulfil the requirements of a brief for an archaeological watching brief issued by The County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and Topography**

The development area is located within the village of upper Dean and lies at a height of 50.6m OD, adjacent to a tributary of the River Till. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as Oxford Clay.

**2.2 Historical Background**

The development area is located within the historic medieval core of the village of Upper Dean. To the south of the development area lies the 14<sup>th</sup> century Church of All Saints. No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area. Up to the present application the area of groundworks has been occupied by a two storey extension and a brick built barn.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new extension and barn re-build, 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.

The fieldwork comprised three visits to the site during the excavation of foundation trenches and a service trench (Plate 1). The groundworks were carried out using a tracked 360° mini digger. A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept and the written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 1999).

### **4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE**

The foundation trenches for the new extension were excavated adjacent to the west gable of Rose Cottage and encompassed the footprint of a former two-storey extension to the dwelling. The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.30m and revealed a heavily truncated substratum. This comprised orange/brown sand and gravel with occasional clay pockets. This was overlain by overburden, up to 1.05m thick comprising numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material within a matrix of grey/black silt loam. A similar stratigraphy was noted in a service trench which was excavated running east-west adjacent to and parallel with Rose Cottage and the new extension.

The foundation trenches for the re-construction of a barn, demolished prior to the watching brief were located to the west of the dwelling at the rear of the development area. These were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.48m. The natural substratum was consistent with that revealed in the extension and was overlain by overburden up to 0.38m thick comprising occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material within a matrix of grey/black silt loam.

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	4
Colour slides	29
Black and white contacts and negatives	31
Digital photographs	2

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered. The negative results of the watching brief may to a large part be due to the fact that groundworks were undertaken mostly within the footprints of both the former extension and the barn re-constructed as part of this application. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 1999 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists