



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
on land adjacent to Glenaber, 59 Church Street,
Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
June - October 2005



David J. Leigh

November 2005

Report 05/132

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

t. 01604 700493/4

f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk



STAFF

Project Manager Andy Mudd BA

Text David J. Leigh BA (Hons)

Fieldwork David J. Leigh

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Anthony Maull		
Verified by	Andy Mudd		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. A truncated substrata was noted across most of the groundworks area, however undisturbed soils were noted in the eastern foundation trench and these may be typical of the remainder of the area at the rear of the plot. 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)	Desk-based assessment	
Current Land use	Domestic garden	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address (including postcode)	Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	4470 2982	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire Museums	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Andy Mudd	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr & Mrs Whitmore	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2005	
End date	October 2005	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service Accession No: X.A130.2005	Watching brief forms (7) Colour slides (15) black and white contact prints (15) Digital photographs (29)
Digital	Ditto	Report text and figures

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
5	THE SITE ARCHIVE
6	CONCLUSIONS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Figures

Fig 1: Location of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire

Fig 2: Location of groundworks within the development area

Plates

Plate 1: Development area during groundworks, viewed from Church Street

Plate 2: The new dwelling, viewed from the rear of the development area

Plate 3: The drainage trench along the frontage of the development area

Plate 4: The drainage trench running between Glenaber and the new dwelling

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND
ADJACENT TO GLENABER, EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE
JUNE - OCTOBER 2005**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton Leicestershire. Across most of the area observed there was a truncated substratum. This coincides with a row of terrace houses of 19th century date. However in the north-south foundation trench on the eastern side of the new dwelling undisturbed soils were observed. These may be typical of the remainder of the area, which has not been subject to previous building, so other parts of the site may contain undisturbed deposits. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between June and October 2005 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (NGR SP 470 982: Fig 1; Plates 1 & 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Whitmore in order to fulfil the requirements of a brief for an archaeological watching brief issued by The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, Environment and Heritage Services on the 12th May 2005.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the village of Earl Shilton and fronts directly onto Church Street. The site lies on ground sloping down towards the north. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as Glaciofluvial or River Terrace Drift and was shown to comprise reddish sand with clay pockets.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area is located within the historic medieval and later medieval core of the village of Earl Shilton, (Sites and Monuments Record No: LE9535). Directly opposite the site lies the motte and bailey castle of Earl Shilton (LE2849, SAM 17035), the remains of the castle motte are a scheduled ancient monument. Adjacent to the castle on the east is located the Church of St Simon and St Jude (LE2859; Fig 2). The church is a grade II Listed Building, the west tower of which is of late medieval date with the remainder of the church dating from the 19th century. A line of 19th century terrace dwellings with associated yards and outbuildings

once stood along the frontage of the site, these were subsequently demolished and the site functioned as a private garden up to the present development. Previous archaeological work within the development area has comprised an archaeological desk-based assessment (George, 2004), this collated the archaeological information concerning the development area and its environs. Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record list a number of sites of archaeological interest in the area, these include a possible medieval pound (Sites and Monuments Record No: LE2862), which has been identified through documentary evidence.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new dwelling and associated groundworks, 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 six visits to the site during groundworks associated with the excavation of foundation trenches and drainage works. The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mini digger with a toothless grading bucket. 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 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

Four foundation trenches, the longest with a maximum length of 20.0m, for the new dwelling were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.40m by 0.80m wide following the removal of turf. The natural substrata was encountered 0.62m below present ground level and comprised red/orange sand with clay pockets. Sealing this in the central and western half of the plot lay mixed subsoil/overburden. This comprised a matrix of grey/brown silt loam up to 0.55m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and corroded iron roof gutter fragments.

Undisturbed soils were revealed only in the northern three quarters of the eastern north-south foundation trench. These comprised clean natural orange/red sand, encountered at a depth of 0.55m below present ground surface. This was overlain by grey/brown silt loam subsoil, up to

0.29m thick, containing occasional; rounded stones. Sealing this was grey/black topsoil, up to 0.26m thick.

A drainage trench was excavated from the frontage of the site for c15m on a line between the new dwelling and Glenaber (fig 2; Plates 3 & 4). This was dug to a maximum depth of 0.50m by 0.40m wide. A gap was left in the area of the tarmac drive in order to allow continuous vehicle access. Along the frontage examination revealed clean orange/red sand at a depth of 0.15m below present ground surface, this was directly overlain by 0.15m of grey/black garden soil, containing occasional rounded stones. An examination of the stratigraphy of the trench where it continued to the rear of the tarmac drive revealed grey/brown silt loam containing pockets of re-deposited natural sand and clay along with numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material extending the full depth of the trench.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	7
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	15
Digital photographs	29

6 CONCLUSIONS

Across most of the area observed there was a truncated substratum. The deposits above this were disturbed and contained ceramic building material of relatively modern date. From the desk-based assessment, it can be seen that this specific area coincides with a row of terraced houses and their associated yards and outbuildings of 19th century date. It is therefore possible that earlier deposits may have been removed in this area, although no stray finds of earlier date were recovered.

In the north-south foundation trench on the eastern side of the new dwelling, undisturbed soils were observed towards the rear of the plot. These may be typical of the remainder of the area, which has not been subject to previous building, so other parts of the site may contain undisturbed deposits.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

George, S, 2004 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for a Residential Development at Glenaber, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 470 982)*, University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report 2004/081

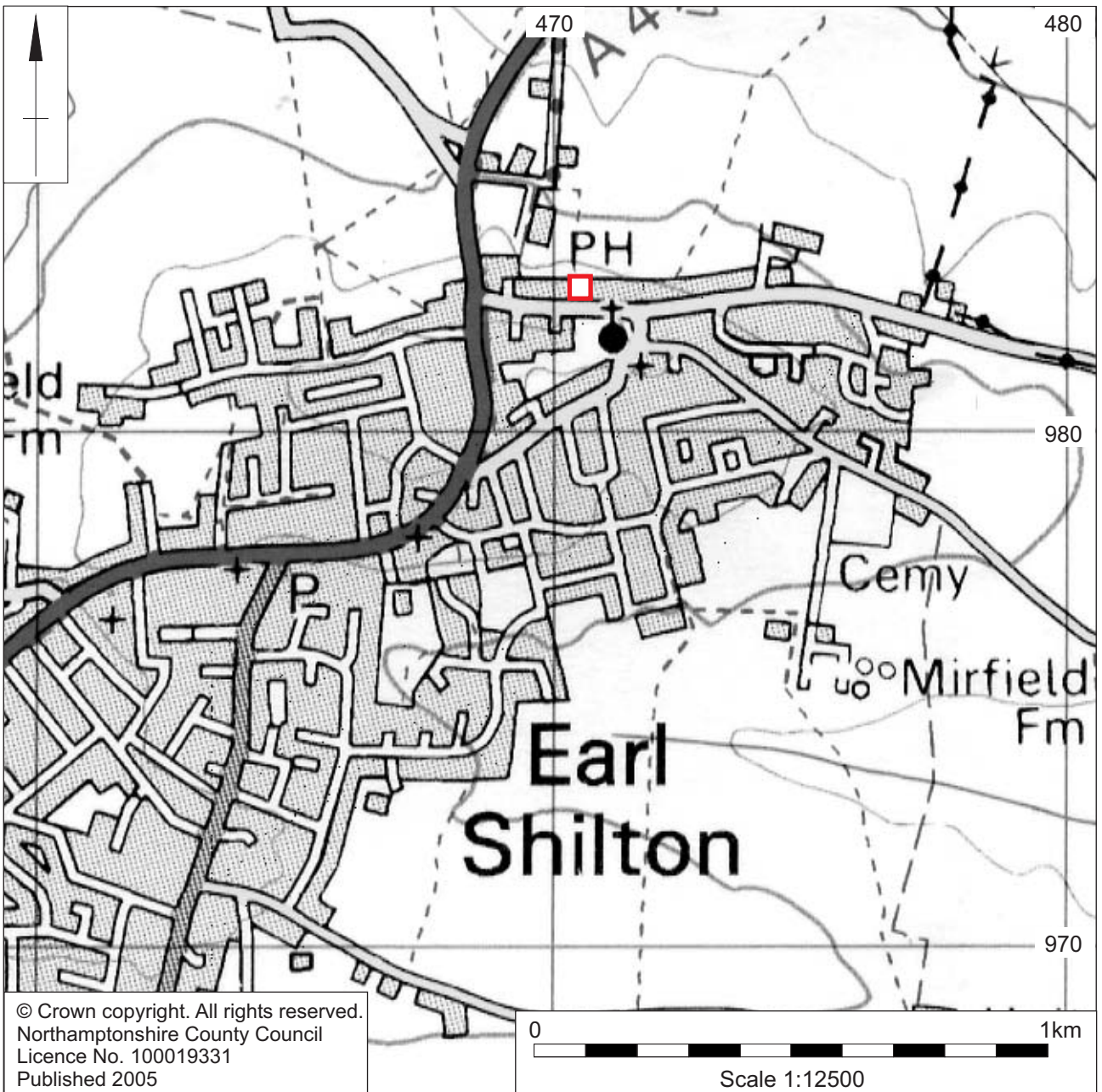
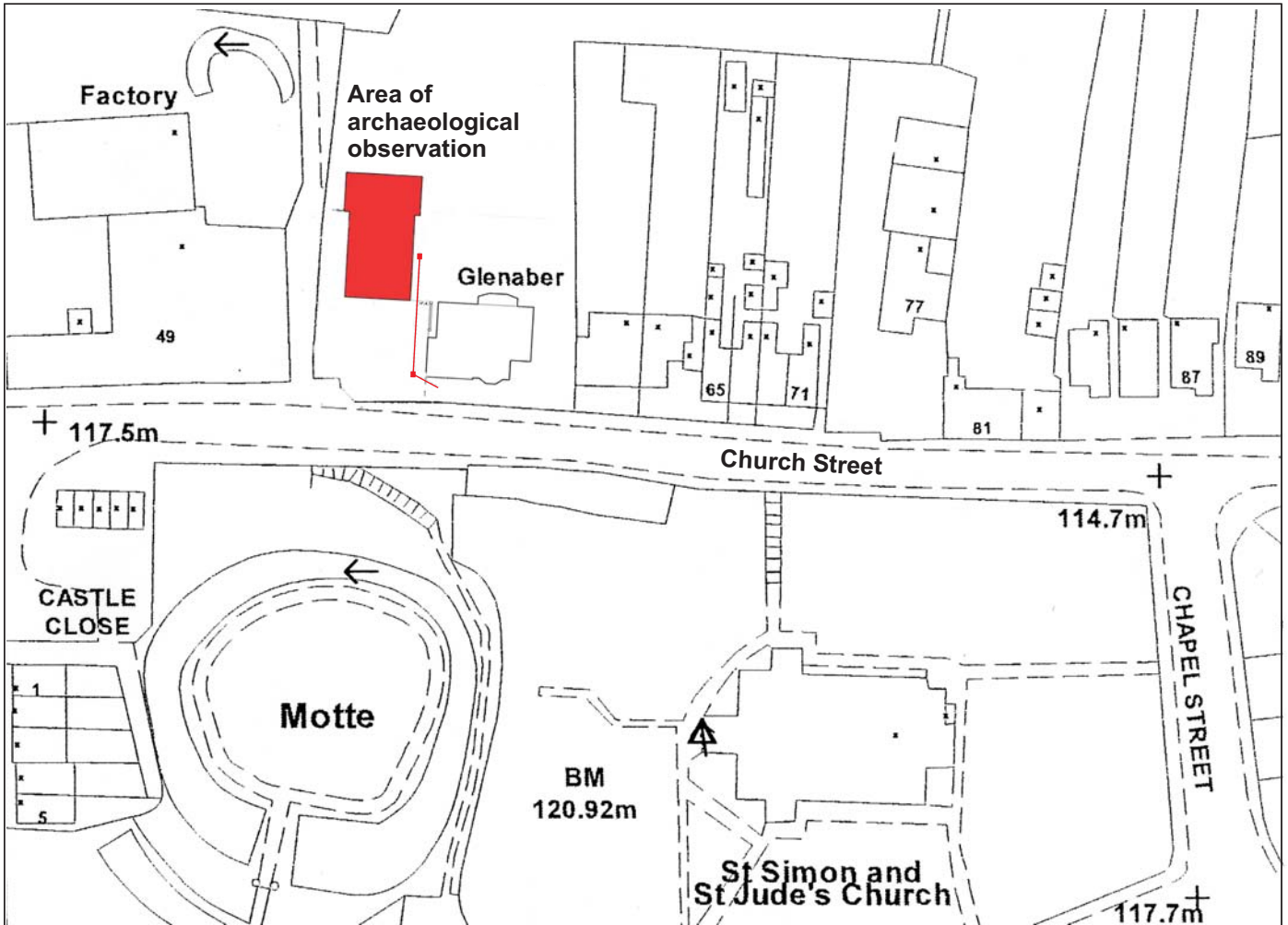


Fig. 1



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
 Northamptonshire County Council Licence No. 100019331
 Published 2005





Plate 1: Development area during groundworks, viewed from Church Street



Plate 2: The new dwelling, viewed from the rear of the development area



Plate 3: The drainage trench along the frontage of the development area



Plate 4: The drainage trench running between Glenaber and the new dwelling