



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief at
5 High Street, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire
December 2010



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 11/05

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5 High Street, Bugbrooke Northamptonshire December 2010	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2010 to observe the groundworks for the construction of four houses, associated garages and infrastructure, at 5 High Street, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Overgrown empty plot	
Future work	Unknown	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	5 High Street, Bugbrooke	
Study area ha	0.13ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 6773 5759	
Height aOD	83m aOD to 86m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Liz Mordue NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor	BleuStar Land and Development Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	December 2010	
End date	December 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location	Paper
Paper	NA office	3 watching brief forms and 10 black and white negatives and contact sheet.
Digital	1 Disc containing digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5 High Street, Bugbrooke Northamptonshire December 2010	
Serial title & volume	11/05	
Author(s)	Tim Upson-Smith	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
5 HIGH STREET, BUGBROOKE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
DECEMBER 2010**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2010 to observe the groundworks for the construction of four houses, associated garages and infrastructure, at 5 High Street, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in December 2010 to observe the groundworks for the construction of four houses, associated garages and infrastructure, at 5 High Street, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 6773 5759: Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by BleuStar Land and Development Ltd.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The site is located at the north end of the High Street in Bugbrooke, opposite the site of the manor. The site gently slopes down to the High Street from c 86m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to c 83m aOD in the west.

The underlying superficial deposits consist of sand and gravel, which overlie the Lias group, Mudstone, Siltstone, Limestone and Sandstone bedrock geology (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeolIndex/default.aspx>)

2.2 Historical background

The site lies towards the north-east end of the settlement of Bugbrooke. The medieval settlement appears to have comprised two units, one on either side of the north-south stream running through the village-the development site lies at the northern end of the eastern unit, which is characterised by its north-south street (now the High Street) with tenements on either side.

An Historic Environment Record (HER) search of the immediate area around the site highlighted several 17th-century and later Grade II listed buildings. This includes Manor Farm (SMR 830/0/5), a 19th-century re-modelling of a 17th-century building located to the north of the site on the opposite side of the High Street.

The remains of a building thought to be the medieval manor house were found on the opposite side of the High Street from the development site in 1972. Cropmarks in the vicinity are thought to represent fishponds, banks and terraces, probably associated with the manor (SMR 830/1/0).

A probable mace head made from a quartzite pebble was found near to the remains of the manor, and may represent prehistoric activity in the area (SMR 831/0/0).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region
- Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

The fieldwork comprised day visits to the site during the groundworks for the construction of the four houses and associated infrastructure (Fig 2). A photographic record in both black and white negative and digital format was kept. 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 2008), the brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2010) and the written scheme of investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2010).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The topsoil and vegetation was removed from most of the site but retained in the eastern part where the development did not call for the ground level to be reduced. The footings for the garages and the two detached houses in the eastern part of the site were excavated through clean sand. The footings for the semi-detached houses fronting the High Street were excavated through a more mixed sandy clay natural. The natural was overlain by c 0.3m of mid grey-brown sandy clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a variable depth up to 0.65m of dark grey sandy loam topsoil. The depth of topsoil was greater in the eastern part of the site due to the vegetation in this area. No archaeological features were observed.

5 CONCLUSION

No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

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

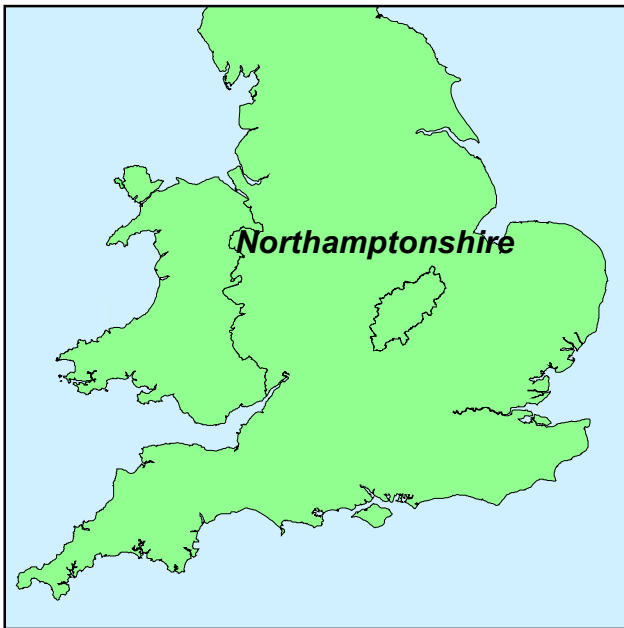
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NA 2006 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

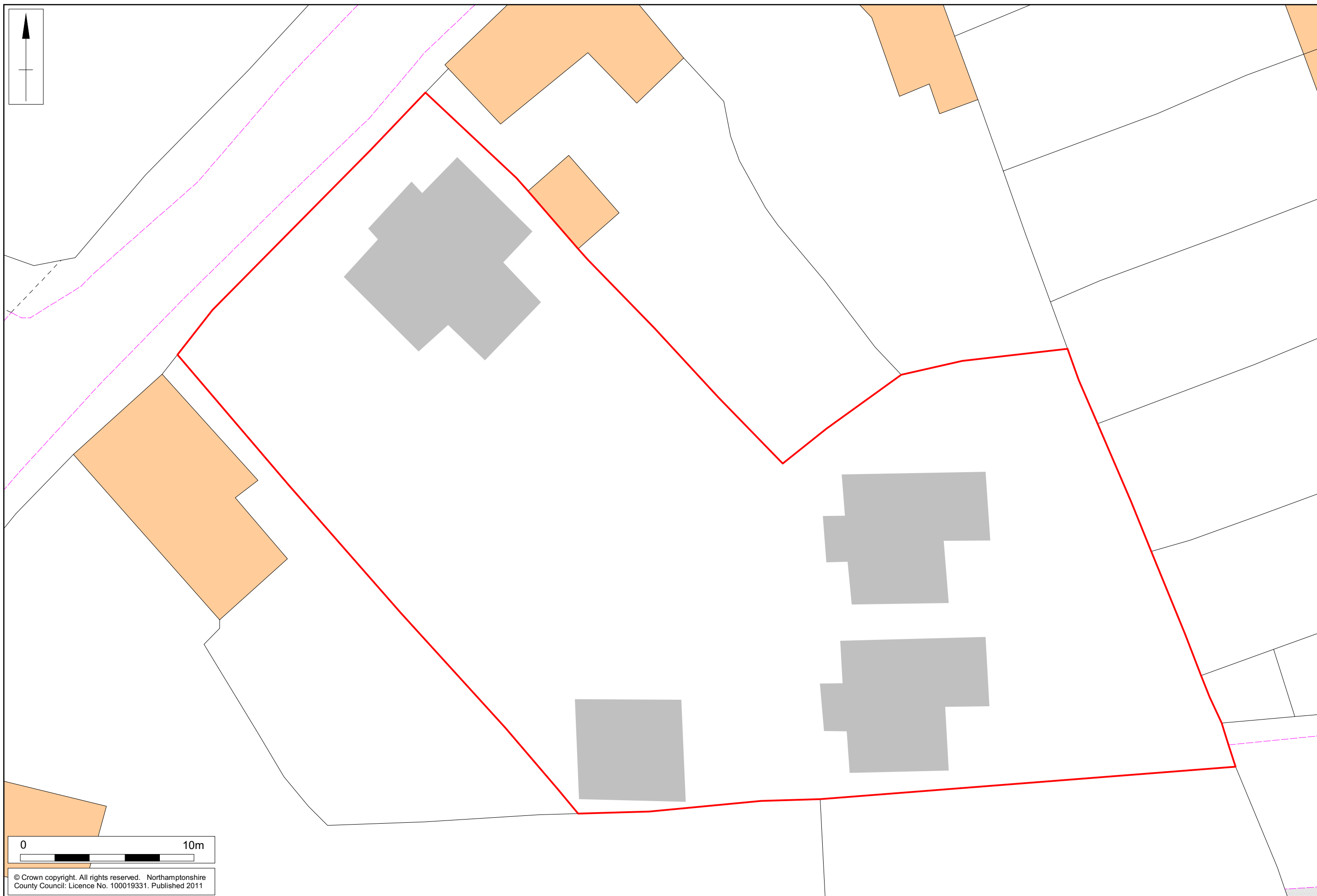
NA 2010 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological watching brief at 5 High Street Bugbrooke*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCC 2010 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation. Recording, analysis and publication of works on Land adjacent to 5 High Street, Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



0 10m

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Scale 1:200

Footings locations Fig 2