



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A Programme of Archaeological Observation,
Investigation and Recording on land at 12 School
Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire
December 2010 – June 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/77

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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Approved by	Stephen Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new residential development on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. Undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording: Planning Ref: S/2010/0941/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Domestic	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	450m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 7318 5561	
PROJECT CREATORS		
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	Mr and Mrs Holton	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	December 2010	
End date	June 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession No)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (9) Colour slides (16) black and white contact prints (16) Digital photographs (52)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire December 2010 – June 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/77	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	April 2012	

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**A PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING
ON LAND AT
12 SCHOOL LANE, GREENS NORTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
DECEMBER 2010 – JUNE 2011**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a new residential development on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire. 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 between December 2010 and June 2011 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new residential development on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7318 5561: Planning Ref: S/2010/0941/FUL; Figs 1 and 2). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Holton following a requirement for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording in a brief for archaeological work (NCC 2010) issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council on the 19 October 2010. The work was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire archaeology (Leigh 2010) 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 Statement (PPS 5) *Planning for the Historic Environment* (HE12.3).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Greens Norton lies approximately 3km to the west of Towcester. The investigation area lies on land to the rear of number 12 School Lane within which are a number of trees and a hedge along with two garage buildings.

The area of investigation was situated on ground sloping gently down to the south and lies at a height of between 100m and 98.4m above Ordnance Datum (Fig 3). The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Oolitic Limestone, with Northampton Sand and Ironstone in the north-eastern part of the site (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

2.2 Historical Background

The village of Greens Norton lies just to the west of Towcester the former Roman town of *Lactodorum* and is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as Nortone.

The investigation area lies in an area of archaeological interest. South-east of the village crop-marks and pottery evidence suggest probable prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Information held by the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) states that 40m south of the site a polished Neolithic axe was found, whilst a quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, and a smaller amount of Romano-British pottery was found 25m to the east of the site during the 1970's.

A quantity of medieval pottery wasters was also found within the village during the 1960's which would indicate pottery production in the near vicinity. Close by to the north of the investigation area is the Church of St Bartholomew (Fig 4). This is a former Saxon Minster and incorporates later additions, with substantial restoration in 1891 and the spire rebuilt in 1957.

Up to the present application the development area has been unused ground containing a number of trees with a hedge and garage buildings. No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out in the development area.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new residential development 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.

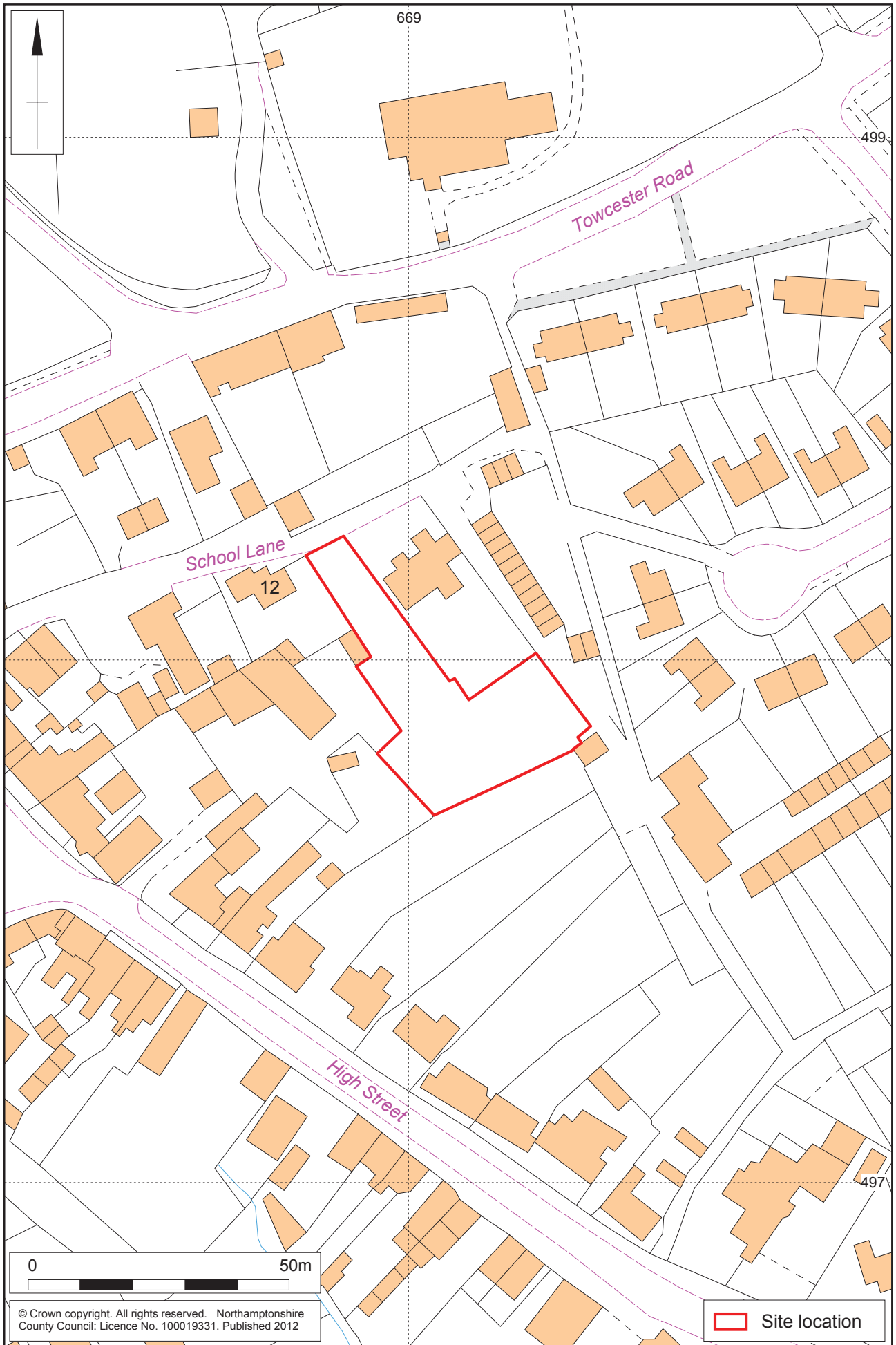
The fieldwork was undertaken between December 2010 and June 2011 during groundworks for the new residential development. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and comprised the removal of topsoil (Fig 5) and partial removal of subsoil followed by the excavation of a new access road (Fig 6) and foundation trenches (Fig 7).

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 1:1000 (A4)

The investigation area Fig 2



The investigation area prior to the start of groundworks, looking north-west Fig 3



The Church of St Bartholomew to the north of the investigation area Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A consistent stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area. The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.60m below present ground level and comprised yellow-orange sandy clay (Figs 5 -7). This was overlain by mid-pale brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.40m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. Sealing this was grey-black silt loam topsoil, up to 0.20m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and fragments of modern ceramic building material and small plastic fragments.

Modern disturbance was noted within the subsoil in the south-eastern corner of the site, corresponding with the position of a relatively modern outbuilding demolished prior to the current application.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The investigation area during the topsoil strip, looking south-west Fig 5



The access road during groundworks, looking north Fig 6



The stratigraphic sequence in the foundation trenches Fig 7

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	9
Colour slides	16
Black and white contacts and negatives	16
Digital photographs	52

The project archive will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the investigation area. Limited modern disturbance was noted in the south-eastern corner of the area. The lack of 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
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- Leigh, D J, 2010 *Specification for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication during groundworks on land at 12 School Lane, Greens Norton, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology



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