



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation and Recording on land at The Old Rectory  
Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire  
October – November 2011



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/223

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No:</b> 164224
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October and November 2011 on behalf of Mr and Mrs Free, during groundworks for the construction of a new triple garage, swimming pool and single storey extension on land at The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire. Modern made up ground was recorded throughout the investigation area overlying the natural bedrock. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording.	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Domestic garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire	
Study area (sq metres)	400m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 50968 95957	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Free	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	October 2011	
End date	November 2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location:</b> Leicestershire <b>Museums:</b> Accession No: X.A182.2013	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (8) black and white contact prints (8) Digital photographs (27)
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	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	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 on land at The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/223	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	November 2013	

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING  
ON LAND AT THE OLD RECTORY, HUNCOTE ROAD  
CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE  
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2011**

*Abstract*

*A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Free between October and November 2011 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new triple garage, swimming pool and single storey extension on land at The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Leicestershire. Modern made up ground was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

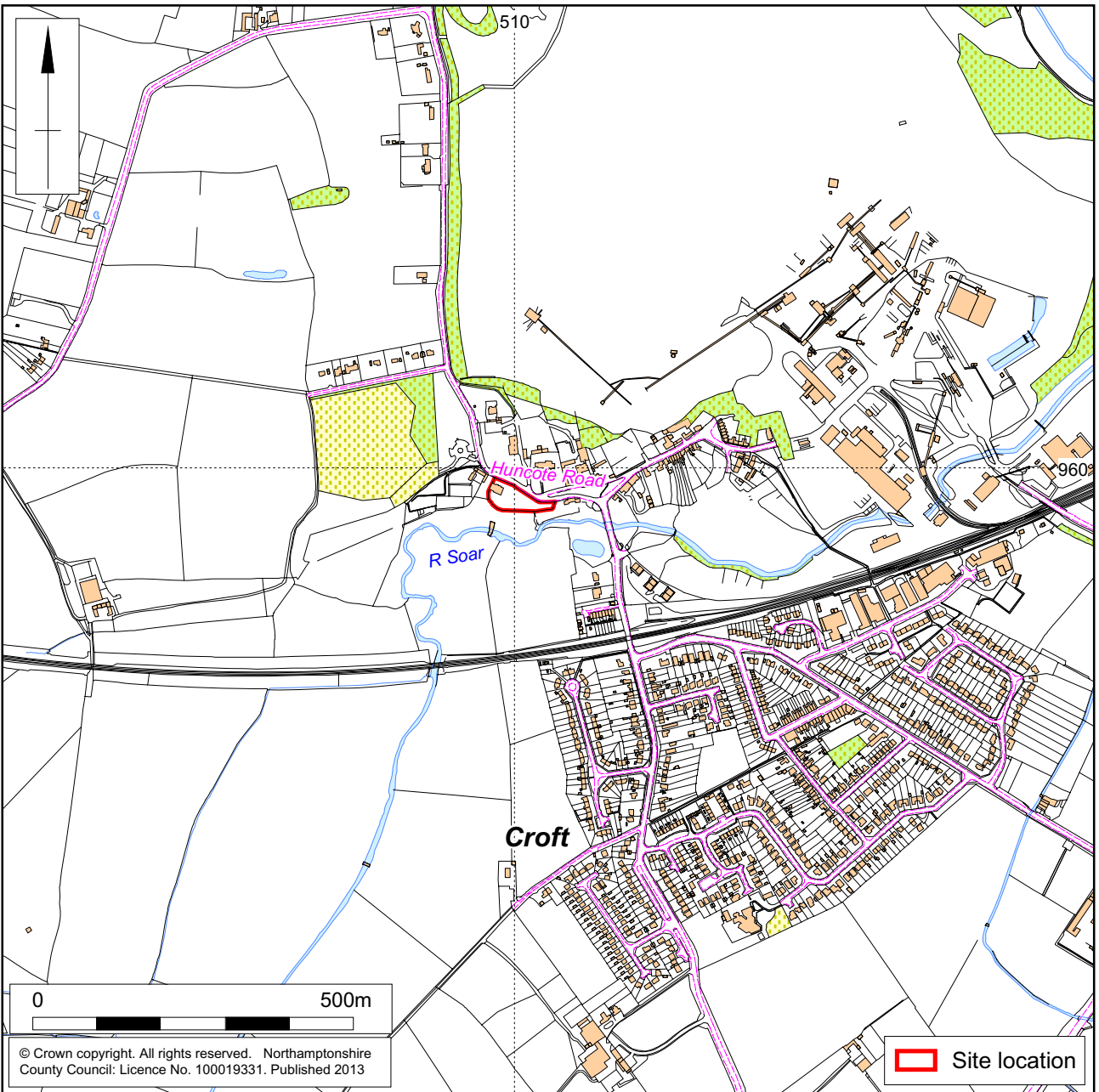
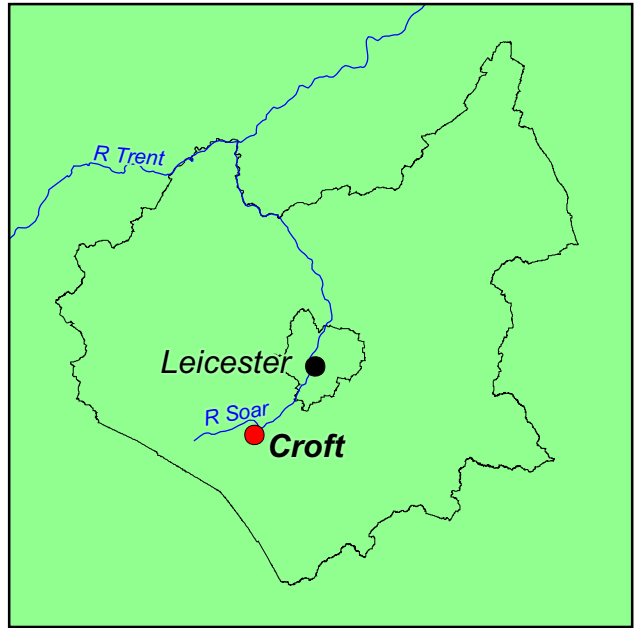
A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken between October and November 2011 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new triple garage, swimming pool and single storey extension on land at The Old Rectory, Huncote Road, Croft, Leicestershire (NGR SP 50968 95957; Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Free following a request for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording by the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council in a brief for archaeological work issued on the 2 November 2010 (LCC 2010).

It adhered to Planning policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) subsequently replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2010) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The development area is located on the western boundary of the village of Croft approximately 13km to the south-west of Leicester in the Blaby District with the River Soar flowing through the village. It encompasses the area of the garden to the rear of The Old Rectory, on ground set on a higher level than the surrounding landscape. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Boulder Clay (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



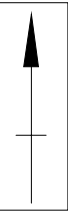
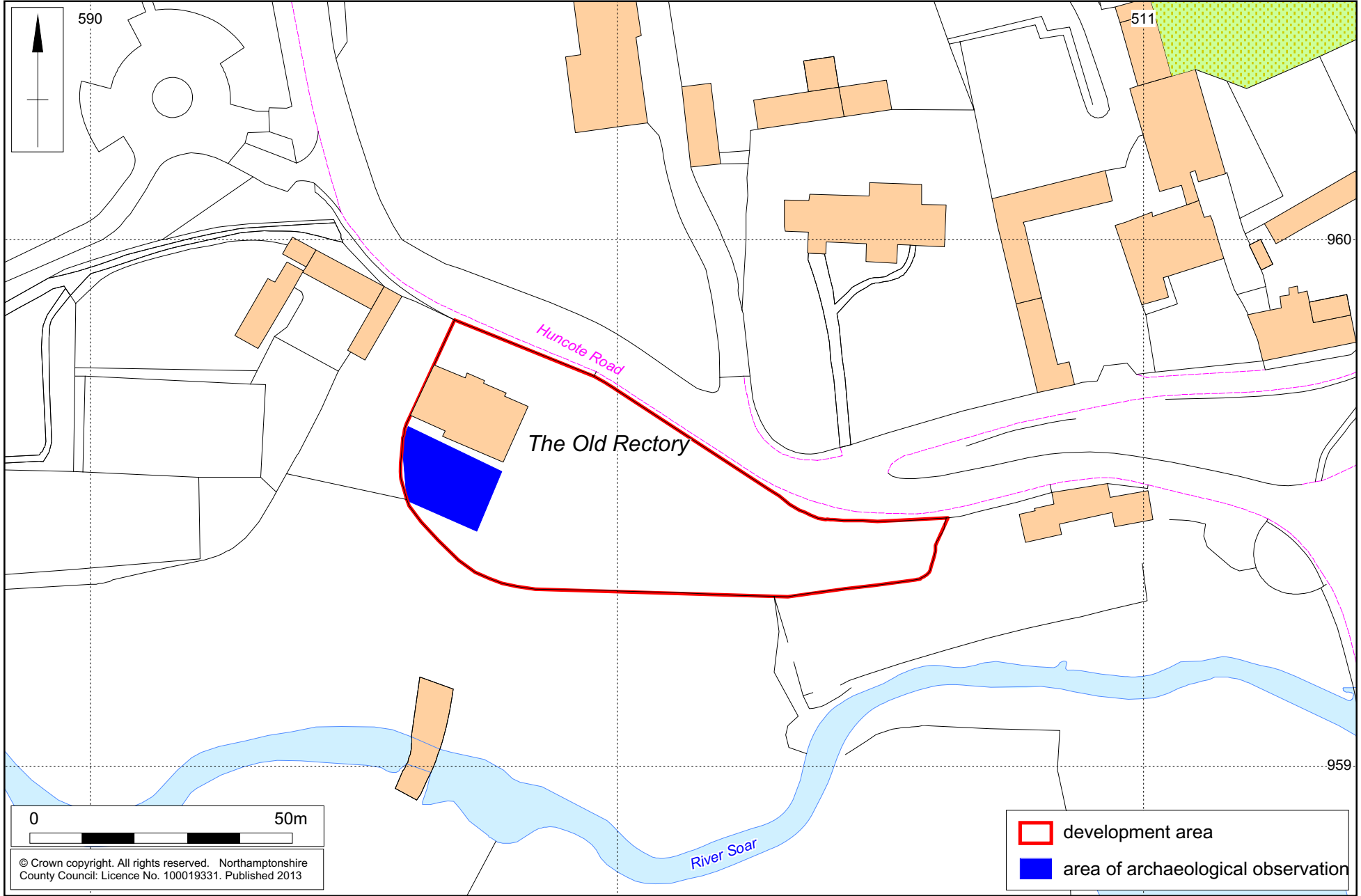
Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

Scale 1:1,000 (A4)

Area of archaeological observation

Fig 2



590


511


960

959



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 development area

 area of archaeological observation

## 2.2 Historical background

The development area lies within an area of archaeological interest inside the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Croft (Historic Environment No:MLE 9335) which is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as *Crec* or *Crebre*.

No prehistoric or Roman sites have been identified within the surrounding area, however, the village lies close to the Fosse Way Roman Road. Croft is reputed to have been the site where the Mercian King Wiglat held his council in 836AD and the possible location of a Saxon minster.

The Parish church of St Michael and All Saints (MLE 11910), which lies close-by to the north-east, is a Grade II Listed Building which dates from the medieval period, the tower being a 14th-century construction whilst the remainder of the church having been rebuilt and restored during the late 1800s.

The Old Rectory was constructed during 1874/5 and was built to replace an earlier rectory demolished at the time. No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out in the development area. Up to the present application the development area has functioned as part of the rear garden of The Old Rectory. To the rear of the property lies open grassland along with a stone built bridge crossing the River Soar (Fig 4).

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the new triple garage, swimming pool and single storey extension 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.

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 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken between October and November 2011 during groundworks for the new development. The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets (Fig 5) and comprised the excavation of up to 1.90m of soil to formation level for the new development.





The Old Rectory, looking north Fig 3



The bridge crossing the River Soar, looking south Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 1.10m below present ground level. This comprised pale grey hard fragmented stone of the South Leicestershire Diorite Complex (EH 2012), the angular appearance of the stone suggestive of crazy-paving surfacing (Fig 6).

Sealing this was modern overburden, comprising pale-mid grey-brown sandy loam, up to 1.0m thick at the eastern boundary of the site, increasing to a maximum depth of 1.90m on the western boundary. This was made up of dumps of modern ceramic building material and large rounded stones (Fig 7), along with occasional small fragments of modern metal building fixtures.

This in turn was sealed by grey-brown sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.10m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and very occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The groundworks in progress, looking north Fig 5



The natural substratum, looking north Fig 6



The stratigraphic sequence in the western half of the site, looking north Fig 7

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	8
Black and white contacts and negatives	8
Digital photographs	27

The archive will be consolidated and prepared, and arrangements made for final deposition with Leicestershire Museums under the accession No: X.A182.2013.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The nature of the stratigraphic sequence within the investigation area clearly indicates that the site has been subject to considerable modern disturbance which resulted in the removal of the natural soil horizon. This is most probably the result of landscaping activity and the building up of the rectory garden.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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