



Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

**An archaeological watching brief at Oasis**

**Dental Practice,**

**29 Market Place, Bolsover,**

**Derbyshire**

**November 2009**



David J. Leigh

January 2010

Report 10/02

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Charlotte Walker		
Verified by	Mark Holmes		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Oasis Dental Practice, 29 Market Place, Bolsover, Derbyshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new extension to Oasis Dental Care Ltd, 29 Market Place, Bolsover. A truncated natural substratum was recorded across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Business, dental practice	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Derbyshire	
Site address	29 Market Place, Bolsover, Derbyshire	
Study area (sq metres)	65sq m	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 4730 7043	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Development Control Archaeologist for Bolsover District Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Dr William A. Boismier	
Sponsor or funding body	Rapleys LLP, 61 – 67 King Street, Manchester	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	November 2009	
End date	November 2009	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (12) black and white contact prints (12) Digital photographs (33)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
OASIS DENTAL PRACTICE, 29 MARKET PLACE, BOLSOVER  
DERBYSHIRE  
NOVEMBER 2009**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2009 during the construction of a new extension at 29 Market Place, Bolsover, Derbyshire. A truncated natural substratum was noted throughout the area of archaeological observation. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in November 2009 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new extension to Oasis Dental Care Limited, 29 Market Place, Bolsover, Derbyshire (NGR SK 4730 7043; Figs 1 and 3). The work was carried out on behalf of Rapleys LLP acting for their clients Oasis Dental Care Limited. The work was carried out in accordance with an approved specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology adhering to the requirements of a brief for archaeological work produced by the Development Control Archaeologist for Bolsover District Council on the 6th February 2009 (Barker 2009).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and topography**

The development area is situated in the south-west corner of the Market Place within the town of Bolsover. It lies on ground sloping gently down to the north-east and encompasses an area approximately 65sq m. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological survey of Great Britain as comprising Dolomitised Limestone and Dolomite of the Zechstein Group (BGS website accessed 2009).

**2.2 Historical background**

Bolsover is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it is referred to as *Belesovre*.

Approximately 176m to the north-west of the development site is Bolsover Castle which originally comprised an 11th century motte and bailey castle. Later additions include the

12th century keep and a 17th century house. Close by to the south-east of the development area is the church of St Mary and St Lawrence. Whilst the tower and spire date from the 13th century the remainder was rebuilt after it burnt down in 1897 following which it was rebuilt with subsequent restorations in 1961.

The site is presently occupied by the dental practice for which the new extension is being constructed. The existing building is of modern construction and is set at a level lower than that of the surrounding dwellings on land which appears to have been subject to some reduction. Up to the present application the area on the east side of the premises, where the new extension is to be constructed, has been occupied by an area of hard-standing with a small rockery adjacent to the boundary wall. No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out in the application area which lies within an area that has been designated by the Bolsover District Local Plan as an Area of Archaeological Interest (AAI) and within the Bolsover Conservation Area.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new 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

The fieldwork comprised three visits to the site during groundworks for the new extension. The groundworks were carried out using a 1.5 ton 360° tracked mini-excavator fitted with a combination of both toothed and toothless buckets. The area of the new extension lies on the south-eastern side of the existing building (Figs 2 & 3). The work comprised the removal of the rockery that was set against the eastern boundary wall of the premises and the removal of the tarmac hard-standing that covered the remainder of the development area. This was followed by the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension.

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. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Following removal of the modern rockery, which was built up approximately 0.60m above present ground level, the development area was reduced down to formation level and the foundation trenches excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m below present ground level.

The natural substratum comprised pale yellow/brown fragmented limestone which was encountered 0.20m below present ground level and cut by a modern salt-glazed drain pipe. The natural was directly overlain by modern hard-standing material which was made up of pale grey/white crushed mortar and concrete, up to 0.12m thick, and sealed by tarmacadam surfacing, up to 0.08m thick (Fig 4).

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

#### 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

In a communication from Sheffield Museums it has been confirmed that they are not currently issuing accession numbers, nor are they accepting archives for deposition. The project archive will therefore be held at Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time that Sheffield Museums or an appointed depository is available for deposition.

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	12
Black and white contacts and negatives	12
Digital photographs	33

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the watching brief show that the area of archaeological observation has been subject to considerable modern disturbance that has resulted in the truncation of the natural substratum across all of the investigation area. Whilst no datable evidence is available, it is reasonable to infer that this event took place during the construction of the present building and its associated areas of hard-standing and landscaping.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the area of the watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

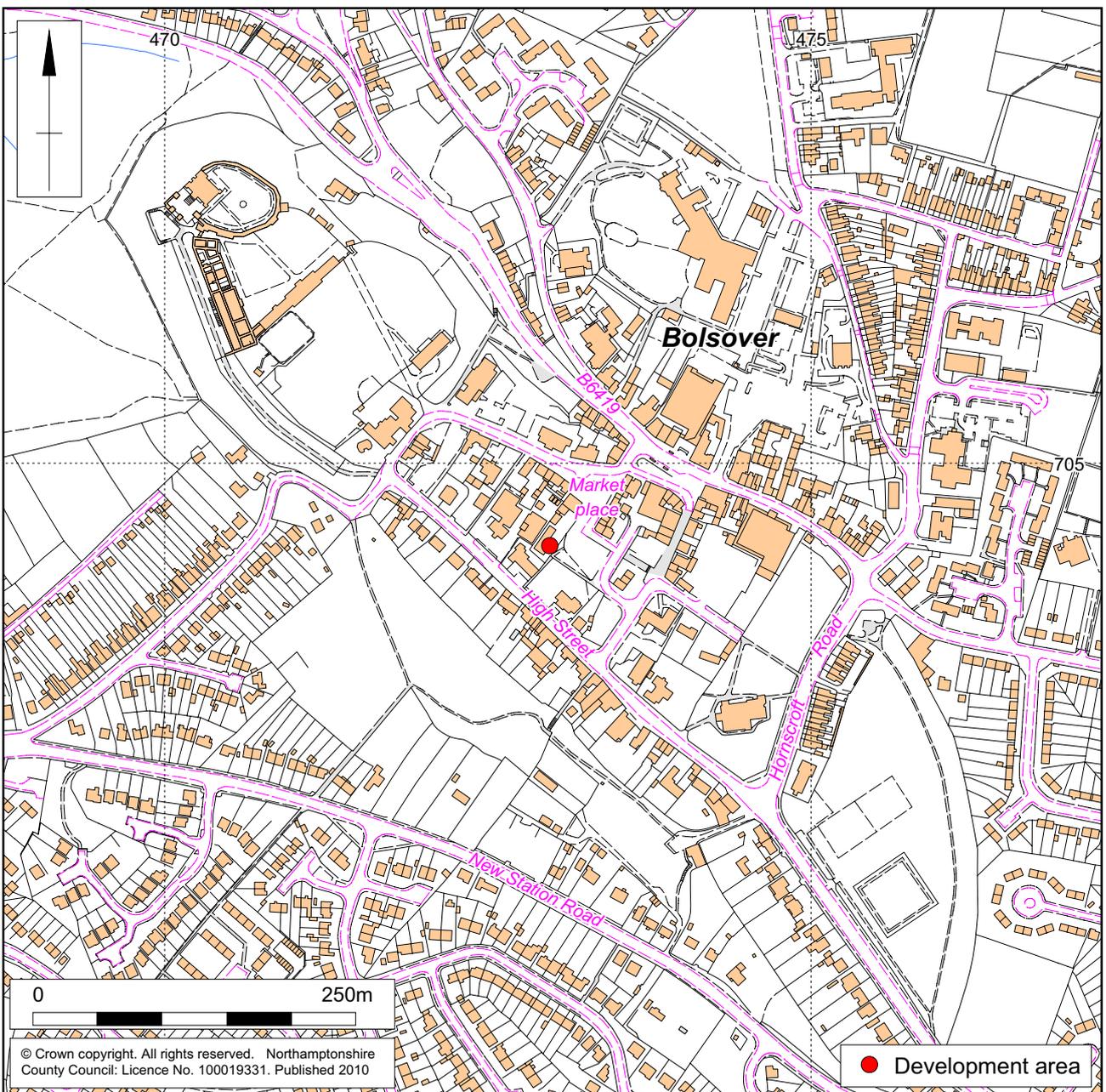
## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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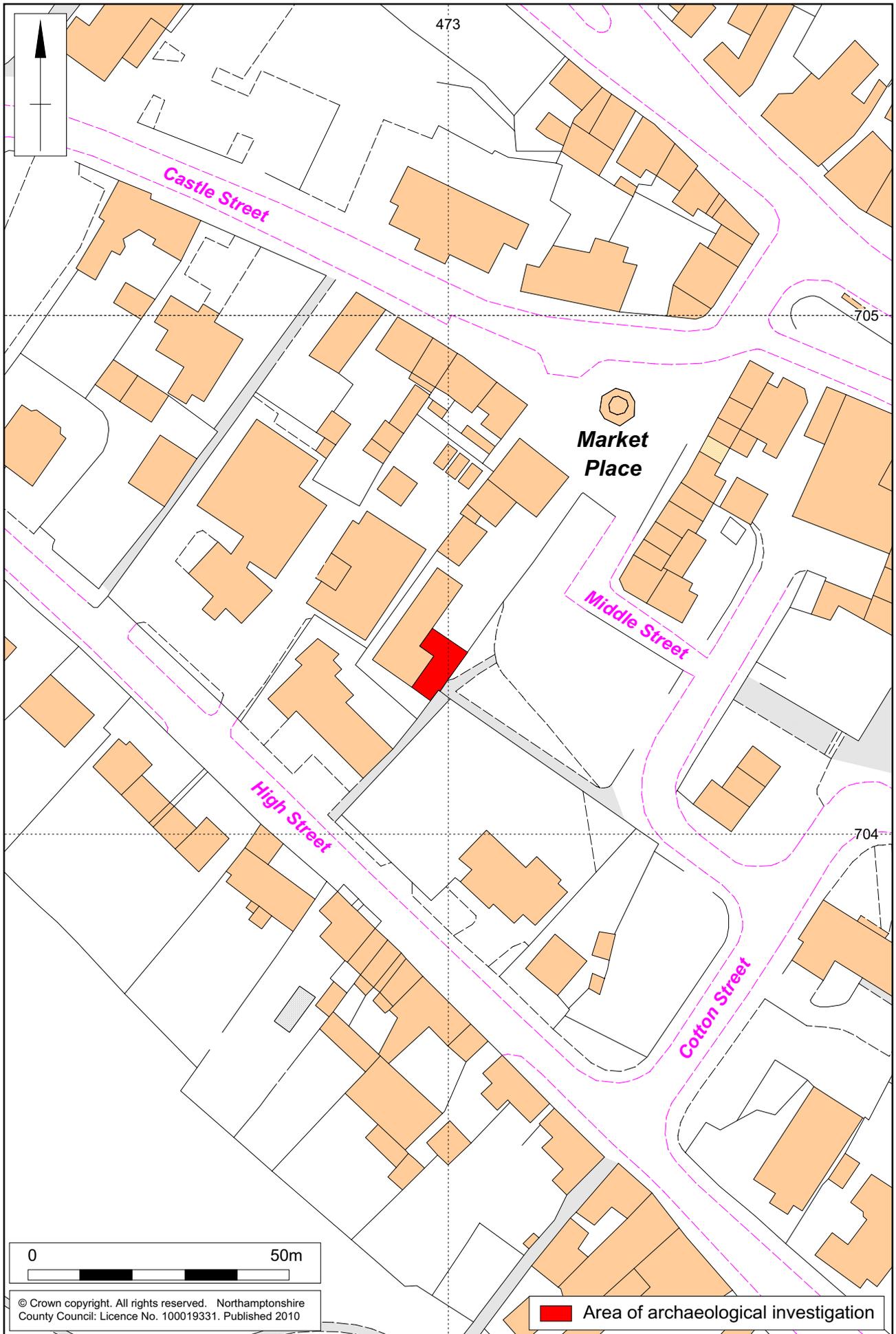
IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

Leigh, D J, 2009 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at 29 Market Place, Bolsover, Derbyshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology



1:5000

Location of the development area Fig 1



1:1000

The area of archaeological observation Fig 2



The development area prior to the start of groundworks Fig:3



The stratigraphic sequence within the development area Fig: 4



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