

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Nicholas Church,
Cottesmore, Rutland

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH,
COTTESMORE, RUTLAND

Abstract

The archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for the installation of a disabled toilet in the tower of the church. A single inhumation burial of probable medieval date was seen during the excavation of the manhole, no other features were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief, consisting of the viewing of the drainage trench and manhole was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology in July 2006, to the south and west of the Church of St Nicholas, Cottesmore, Rutland (NGR SK 9024 1361, Fig 1)

The work was undertaken to discharge a faculty condition for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the manhole and drainage trenches.

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features exposed during the works.

2 BACKGROUND

St Nicholas Church Cottesmore as a building has a complex history. There is fragmentary evidence of a Norman phase, and the building was extended to the east in the 13th century, with the aisles dating to the early 14th century. The windows are mostly Perpendicular in style, which covers the period c1350-1530. The porch was rebuilt in 1851 and the church underwent a further minor restoration in 1866-7 (Pevsner & Williamson 2003, 463).

3 WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief was carried out as a series of visits in July 2006 to view the excavation of the manhole and the associated drain run (Fig 2). The drain run was typically 0.4m wide by 1.05m deep dug into a sandy loam subsoil which was overlain by 0.2m of topsoil and turf.

The manhole in the south western corner of the churchyard measured *c* 1.7m by 2m. At a depth of 1.65m below the present ground surface a single extended supine inhumation was observed. The burial had been laid directly onto the ironstone natural and had then been covered with two lines of ironstone slabs set steeply pitched to form in section a triangular cavity or cist (Plate 1). No finds were recovered from the grave, but the nature of the stone cist would be appropriate for a burial of medieval date. The burial was overlain by 1.45m of sandy loam subsoil which in turn was overlain by 0.2m of topsoil and turf.

No further features or finds were noted during the watching brief.

5 CONCLUSION

Apart from the burial of probable medieval date, no archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from the watching brief.

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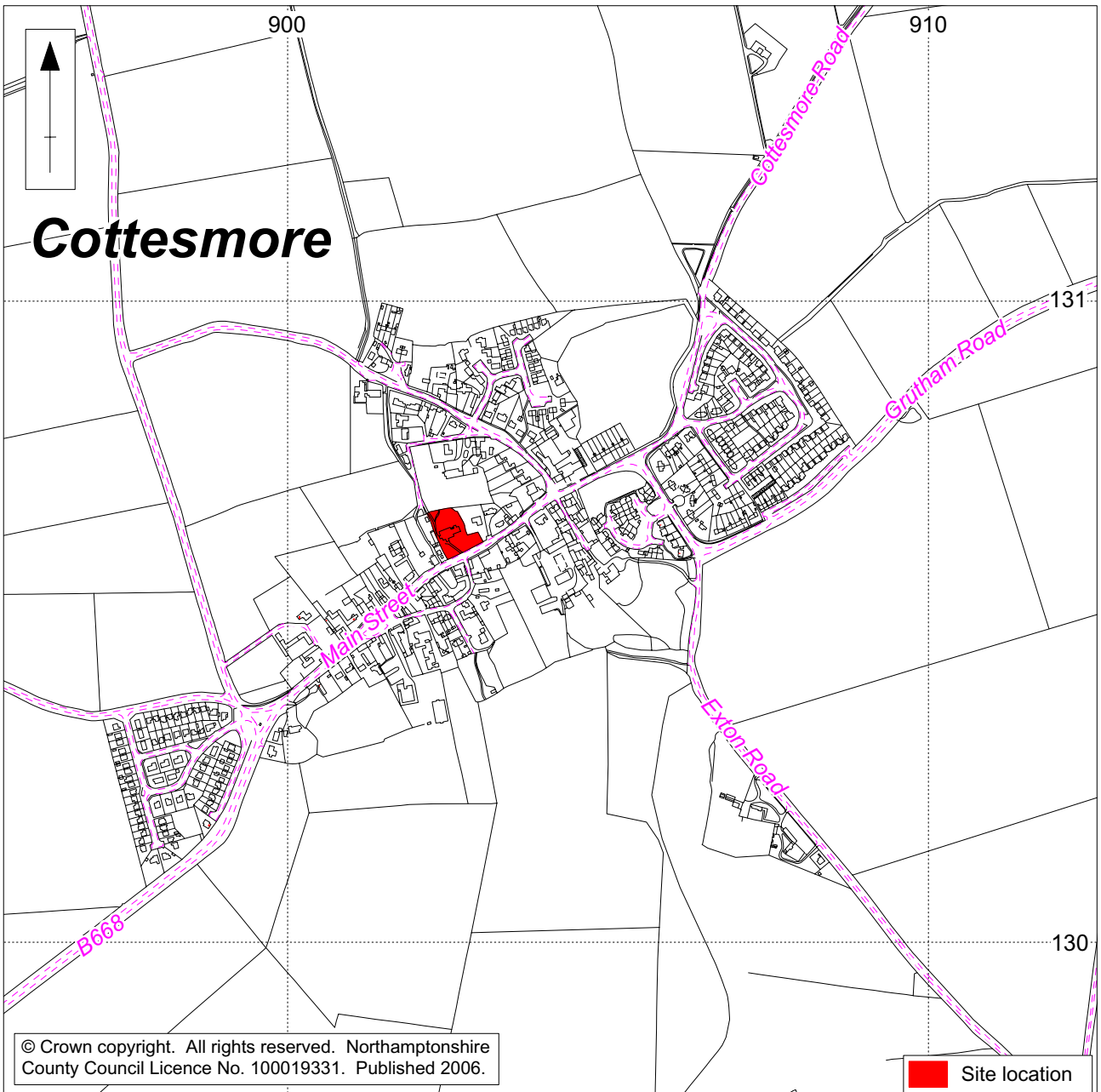
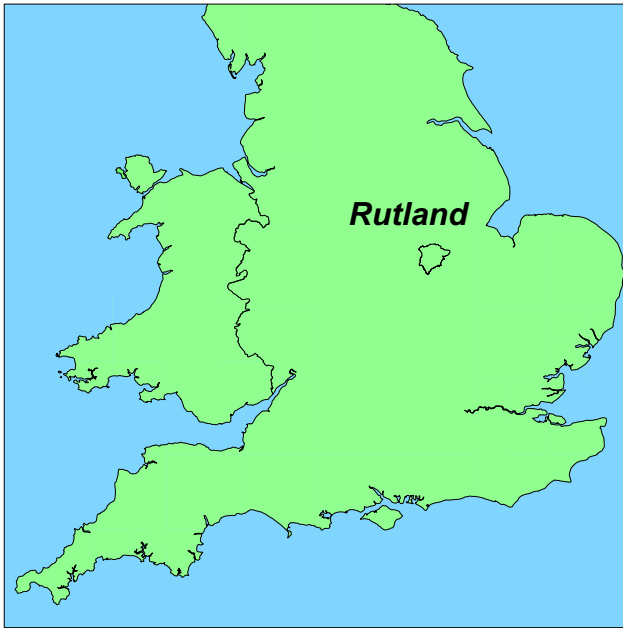
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Plate 1 Ironstone slabs covering medieval burial



Scale: 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

