

Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological works
on land at Cook's Lane,
Sapcote, Leicestershire
February – December 2005
Accession No: X.A 27.2005



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Report 07/14

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Steve Parry		
Verified by	Andy Mudd		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Cook's Lane, Sapcote, Leicestershire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological works was undertaken during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling with associated garage on land at Cook's Lane, Sapcote, Leicestershire. The work comprised of a strip, map and sample exercise along the line of the new driveway, followed by the excavation of a single trial trench within the footprint of the new dwelling. Subsequently a watching brief was conducted during the construction of the new garage. An undisturbed stratigraphy was noted across the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Strip, Map and sample exercise, trial trench and watching brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Greenfield	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Cook's Lane, Sapcote, Leicestershire	
Study area		
OS Easting & Northing	4488 2943	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Senior Planning Archaeologist Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	David J. Leigh	
Sponsor or funding body	Mrs D Mac	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	February 2005	
End date	December 2005	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service Accession No: X.A 27.2005	Watching brief forms (7) Colour slides (28) Black and white contact prints (22) Digital photographs (4)
Digital	Ditto	Report text and figures

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
ON LAND AT COOK'S LANE, SAPCOTE,
LEICESTERSHIRE
FEBRUARY – DECEMBER 2005**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling with associated garage on land at Cook's Lane, Sapcote, Leicestershire. The work comprised a strip, map and sample exercise along the line of the new driveway, followed by the excavation of a single trial trench within the footprint of the new dwelling, subsequently a watching brief was conducted during the construction of the new garage. An undisturbed stratigraphy was revealed across the development area. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An programme of archaeological works was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between February and December 2005 during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling with a detached garage on land at Cook's Lane, Sapcote, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 488 933: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mrs Donna Mac and was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a brief for an archaeological watching brief issued by The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council on the 17th January 2005.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the village of Sapcote and fronts directly onto Cook's Lane, where the new access is to be located. The underlying archaeology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Keuper Marl.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area is located within the historic medieval core of the village of Sapcote, which includes the earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle. Directly opposite the development area is located the Church of All Saints. Well preserved ridge and furrow lies in the field to the rear of the property, this extends just into the development area, although in poorly preserved form. No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development.

Up to the present application the development area has been in use as pasture land.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the archaeological works were to:

- ◆ Strip, under archaeological supervision, the new access driveway, and record any archaeological deposits present.
- ◆ Excavate a single trial trench within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, and record any archaeological deposits present.
- ◆ Observe and record all archaeological deposits, uncovered during the ground-works for the new garage.
- ◆ Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits.

The line of the new driveway was stripped, under archaeological supervision, of topsoil and subsoil. Following this a single trial trench 10metres long was excavated within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. Subsequently a watching brief was conducted during the construction of the new garage. The ground-works were carried out using a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, along with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The new driveway (Figure 2; Plate 2)

The new driveway was located parallel with the western boundary of the development area; and extended 41m from the public pavement at the front of the site with a width of approximately 5m. The development area lies approximately 1.30m above the metalled surface of Cook's Lane, as a result the first 13m of the driveway from the frontage was cut deeper to create a ramp up into the development area.

In this area the natural substratum was revealed, this comprised compact red/brown clay. Overlying this was mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.23m thick, containing occasional rounded stones. This was sealed with grey/brown topsoil, up to 0.33m thick, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material. The remainder of the driveway was cut much shallower, with a maximum depth of 0.21m, the cut remaining within the topsoil layer.

4.2 The trial trench (Figure 2; Plate 3)

A single trial trench was mechanically excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling (Plate 3). This measured 10m in length with a width of 1m. The trench was located 22m back from the frontage and 26m from the western boundary of the site.

The stratigraphic sequence comprised natural red/brown clay, overlain by mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.23m thick, containing occasional rounded stones. Sealing this was grey/black topsoil, up to 0.40m thick, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material.

4.3 The watching brief (Figure 2; Plate 4)

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new garage (Plate 4). The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m, with a width of 0.46m. The stratigraphic sequence comprised, natural red/brown clay, overlain by mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.23m thick, containing occasional rounded stones. Sealing this was grey/black topsoil, up to 0.38m thick, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

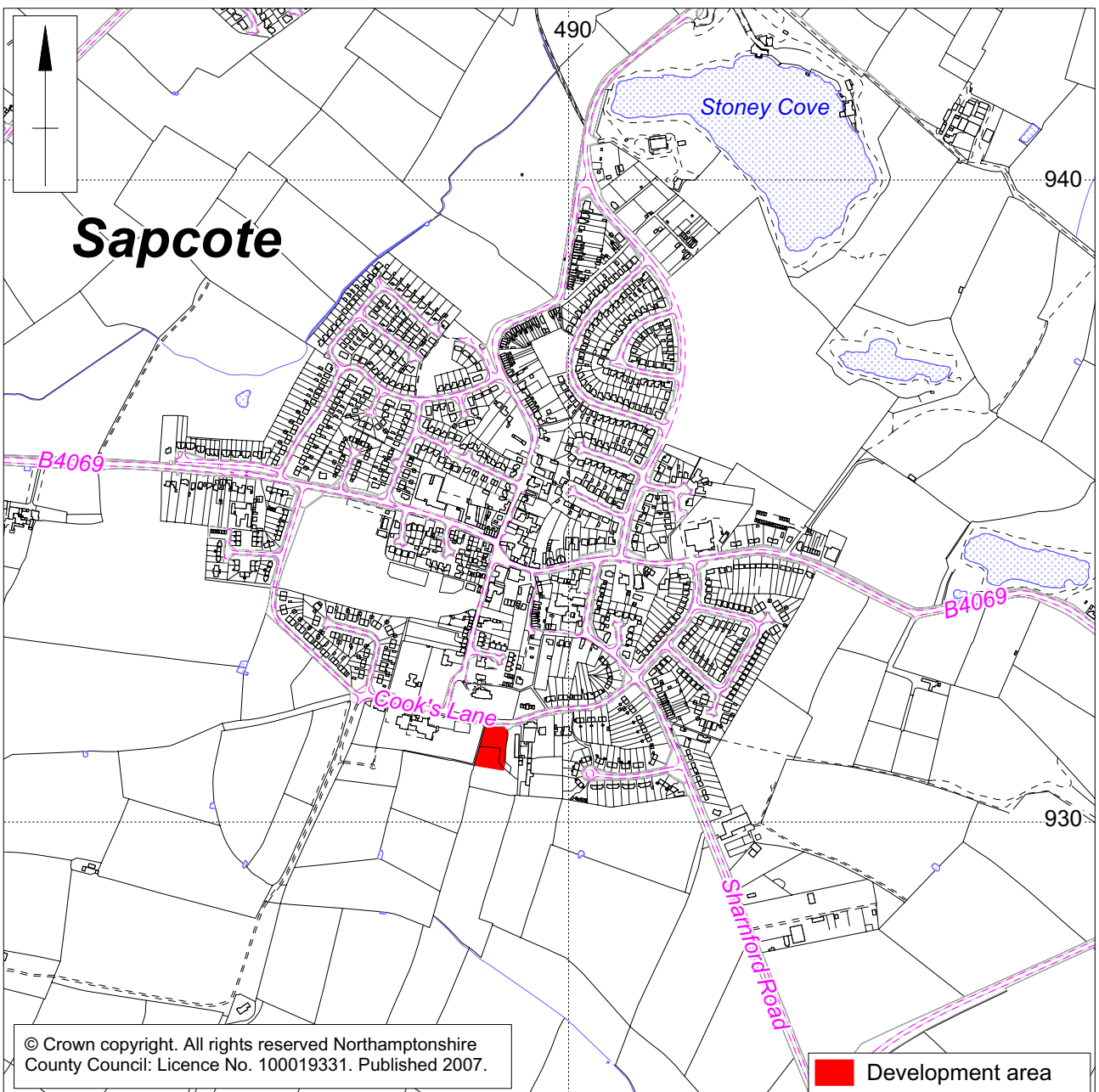
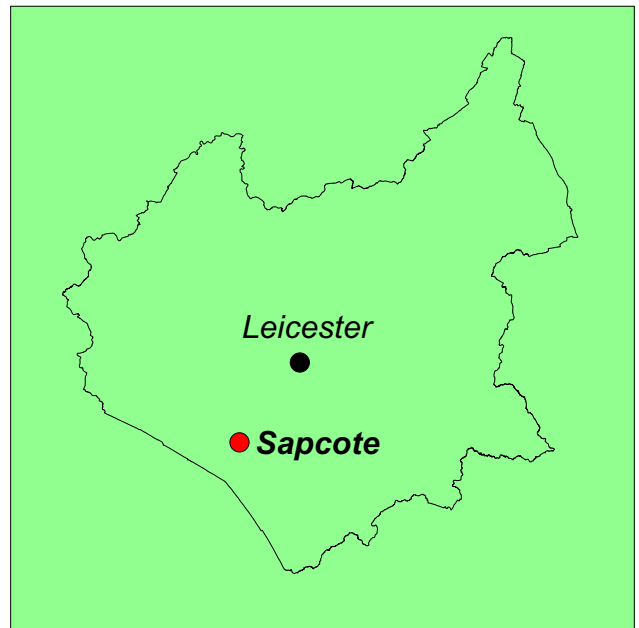
RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	7
Colour slides	28
Black and white contacts and negatives	22
Digital photographs	4

6 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered. The ground-works revealed that the area of the new development contains undisturbed soils. The lack of artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present within the immediate area of the watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

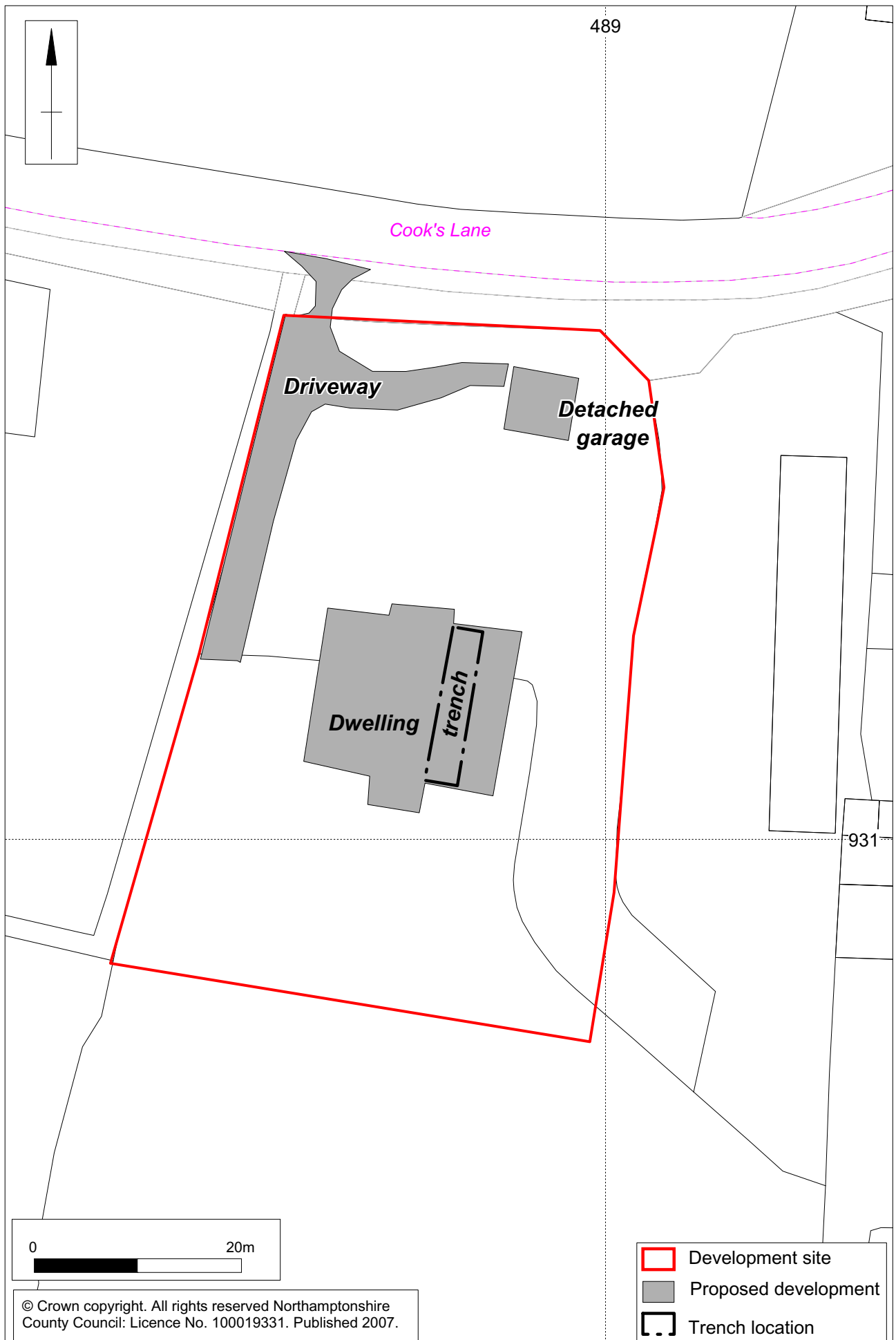
BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 2001 *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists



Scale 1:10,000

Location of Sapcote and the development area Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Location of archaeological works within the development area Fig 2



Plate 1: The development area at the start of ground-works, viewed from the south



Plate 2: The new driveway during ground-works, view of the access ramp



Plate 3: The trial trench after excavation, viewed from the south



Plate 4: The area of the new garage