



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
on land at Lower Street,
Kettering, Northamptonshire
October - November 2006



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Report 07/087

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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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 Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground-works connected with the construction of a new medical centre on land at Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire. A truncated natural substratum was present across all the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief (Planning Application No: KET/20085/1146)	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Brown field	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Lower Street, Kettering	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 8624 7885	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Heritage Environment Team, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Stepnell Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	October 2006	
End date	November 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Watching brief forms (4) Colour slides (18) black and white contact prints (18) Digital photographs (3)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT
LOWER STREET, KETTERING,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2006**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October and November 2006 during ground-works connected with the construction of a new medical centre on land at Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire. A truncated natural substratum was revealed across all the development area. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October and November 2006 during ground-works associated with the construction of a new medical centre on land at Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 8624 7885; Planning Application No: KET/20085/1146; Fig 1; Plates 1 & 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Stepnell Ltd, Rugby acting for their clients Brackley Investments Ltd, following a specification submitted by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh, 2006) and approved by The Heritage Environment Team, Northamptonshire County Council in September 2006.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located on the western side of Kettering town centre and fronts directly onto Lower Street. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Upper Lias Clay.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area itself is located within the historic core of Kettering in an area mapped by the Extensive Urban Survey for Northamptonshire (funded by English Heritage) as belonging to former tenements (Sites and Monuments Record No: 7198/391). Evidence from 15th-century documentary sources suggest that these were agricultural 'virgate' tenements.

Documentary sources indicate that a tannery occupied a substantial area in the northern part of the site from sometime before the 19th century until around 1915. The site was subsequently used for leather finishing followed by timber storage and more was occupied by a petrol station.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the ground-works connected with the construction of the new medical centre and associated ground-works, 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 visits to the site during the removal of material down to formation level. The ground-works were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. As part of the general preparation of the site for development some material had been removed prior to the commencement of the archaeological watching brief.

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 2000).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The area of the new medical centre was reduced by a maximum depth of 0.48m down to the level of formation. A severely truncated natural substratum was present across all of the development area.

This stratigraphy comprised, red/brown natural sand and clay, this was overlain by grey/brown silt loam, up to 0.52m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and corroded fragments of modern metal associated with building construction.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	4
Colour slides	18
Black and white contacts and negatives	18
Digital photographs	3

6 CONCLUSIONS

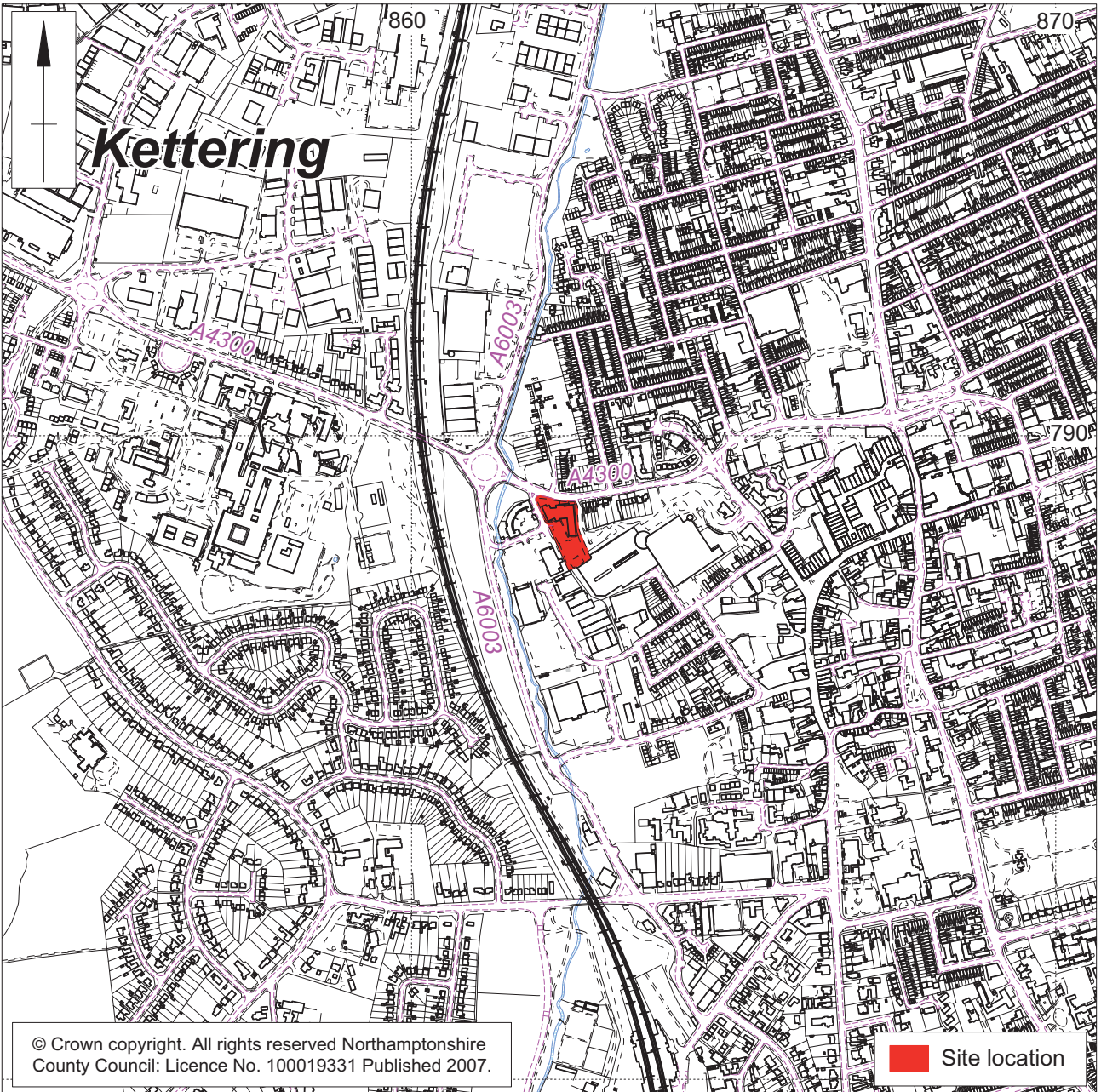
The results of the watching brief clearly show that considerable modern truncation of the natural substratum has taken place across the whole of the development area. This may have occurred during the construction and/or demolition of the building(s) that previously stood within the development area.

The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 2000 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists

Leigh D 2006 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new medical centre on land at Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Plate 1: The area of development prior to the start of ground-works, viewed from the north



Plate 2: The development area during ground-works