

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief  
on land at Main Street,  
Saddington, Leicestershire  
May 2006 - March 2007  
Accession No: X.A43.2006



David J. Leigh

June 2007

Report 07/088

**STAFF**

Project Manager Steve Parry MA MIFA  
Text David J. Leigh BA Hons  
Fieldwork David J. Leigh  
Illustrations Jacqueline Harding BA

**QUALITY CONTROL**

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

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire. An undisturbed stratigraphy was noted across the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Garden	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire	
Study area		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 657 918	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
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	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Stone (UK) Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	May 2006	
End date	March 2007	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service Accession No: X.A43.2006	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (12) Black and white contact prints (12) Digital photographs (21) Video (2)
Digital	Ditto	Report text and figures

# Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
  - 2 BACKGROUND
  - 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
  - 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
  - 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE
  - 6 CONCLUSIONS
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **Figures**

Fig 1: Location of Saddington and the development area

Fig 2: The location of the ground-works

## **Plates**

Plate 1: View from Main Street into the development area

Plate 2: The foundation trenches during excavation

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND AT MAIN STREET, SADDINGTON,  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
MAY 2006 - MARCH 2007**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire. An undisturbed stratigraphy was revealed across the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between May 2006 and March 2007 during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 657 918: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Stone (UK) Ltd and was undertaken following a specification for an archaeological watching brief produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2006) and approved by The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and Topography**

The development area is located within the village of Saddington and fronts directly onto Main Street. The underlying archaeology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Chalky Till.

**2.2 Historical Background**

The development area is located within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Saddington (MLE 9319). In the immediate vicinity of the site lies Saddington Hall, this dates from the 13<sup>th</sup>-century and is believed to lie on the site of the capital messuage. Directly opposite is located the church of St Helen (MLE 1841/55/2/80), the earliest fabric of which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup>-century.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development. Up to the present development the site has functioned as an uncultivated garden.

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe and record all archaeological deposits, uncovered during the ground-works for the new dwelling and associated ground-works.
- ◆ Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits 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 ground-works were undertaken in two stages. The first comprised the excavation of a new driveway and the foundations for the new garage, this was followed by the excavation of the foundations for the new dwelling (Fig 2; Plate 2). The work was carried out using a 360° mini-excavator fitted with a combination of both toothed and toothless buckets. 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. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 2001).

### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum width of 0.78m with a maximum depth of 1.67m below present ground level. Undisturbed deposits were revealed across all of the development area. The stratigraphic sequence comprised natural yellow/brown chalky silt, overlain by mid brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.25m thick and containing occasional rounded stones. Sealing this was grey/black topsoil up to 0.19m thick.

### 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

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	21
Video	2

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

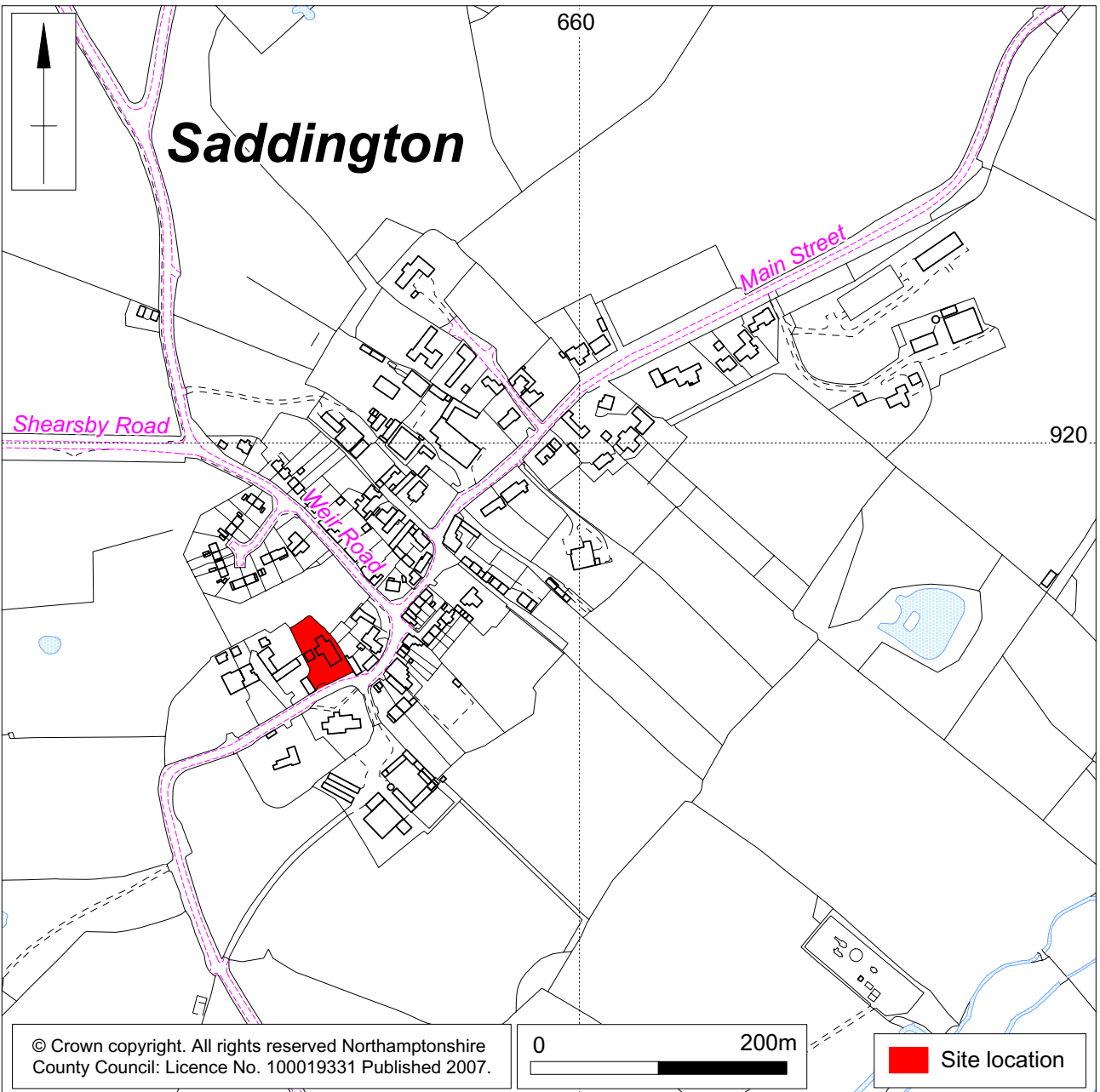
No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered. The ground-works revealed that the area of the new dwelling contains undisturbed soils. The lack of artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present within the immediate area of the watching 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

Leigh D 2006 *A specification for an archaeological watching brief on land at Main Street, Saddington, Leicestershire* Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Specification





Scale 1:5000

Location of Saddington and the development area Fig 1



Scale 1:250

The location of the groundworks Fig 2



Plate 1: View from Main Street into the development area



Plate 2: The foundation trenches during excavation