



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
on land at The Old Rectory,
Harpole, Northamptonshire
April – June 2008



David J. Leigh

October 2008

Report 08/162

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Steve Parry		
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at The Old Rectory, Harpole, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new swimming pool and a small building on land at The Old Rectory, Harpole, Northamptonshire. A truncated natural substratum was present across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits and no artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Residential dwelling with associated garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	The Old Rectory, School Lane, Harpole, Northamptonshire	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 690 610	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr P Roberts acting on behalf of The Old Rectory, Harpole	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	April 2008	
End date	June 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (6) black and white contact prints (6) Digital photographs (22)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT
THE OLD RECTORY, SCHOOL STREET, HARPOLE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
APRIL – JUNE 2008**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between April and June 2008 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new swimming pool and a small building on land at The Old Rectory, School Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire. A truncated natural substratum was present across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between April and June 2008 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new swimming pool and a small building on land at The Old Rectory, School Street, Harpole, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 690 610: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr P Roberts acting for the owners of The Old Rectory, Harpole.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the village of Harpole and lies to the rear of the main building of the Old Rectory. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Till.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area lies within the historic medieval and post medieval core of the village of Harpole and within an area of archaeological interest.

Approximately 750m to the north lies the site of a Roman Villa (National Monument Record No: SP 66 SE 2). Another Roman Villa is recorded approximately 1.3km south-west. This is thought to be associated with a possible shrine and lies close to the site of a Bronze Age/Iron Age enclosure. Quantities of Roman pottery and tile are recorded close-by to the west of the development area.

Just to the south-west of the development area lies a Medieval moated site, possibly connected with a manor house (NMR No: SP 66 SE 22).

Up to the present application the development area has functioned as a domestic garden containing greenhouses for the Old Rectory. No previous archaeological investigation is recorded as having been carried out within the area of development.

Directly adjacent to the developer area is located the Church of All Saints (Plate 2). The church dates from the 12th century and was restored in 1828.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new swimming pool and the new building and associated groundworks, 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 modern overburden and the removal of two old greenhouses within the development area (Plates 3 & 4). The groundworks were carried out using a Fimec 860 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

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

A consistent stratification was revealed across all of the development area. This comprised mid grey/brown compact clay overlain by modern overburden. This comprised grey/brown garden soil, up to 0.38m thick, and contained numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and corroded fragments of modern metalwork.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	6
Black and white contacts and negatives	6
Digital photographs	22

6 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the watching brief clearly show that all of the development area has been subject to considerable modern disturbance.

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

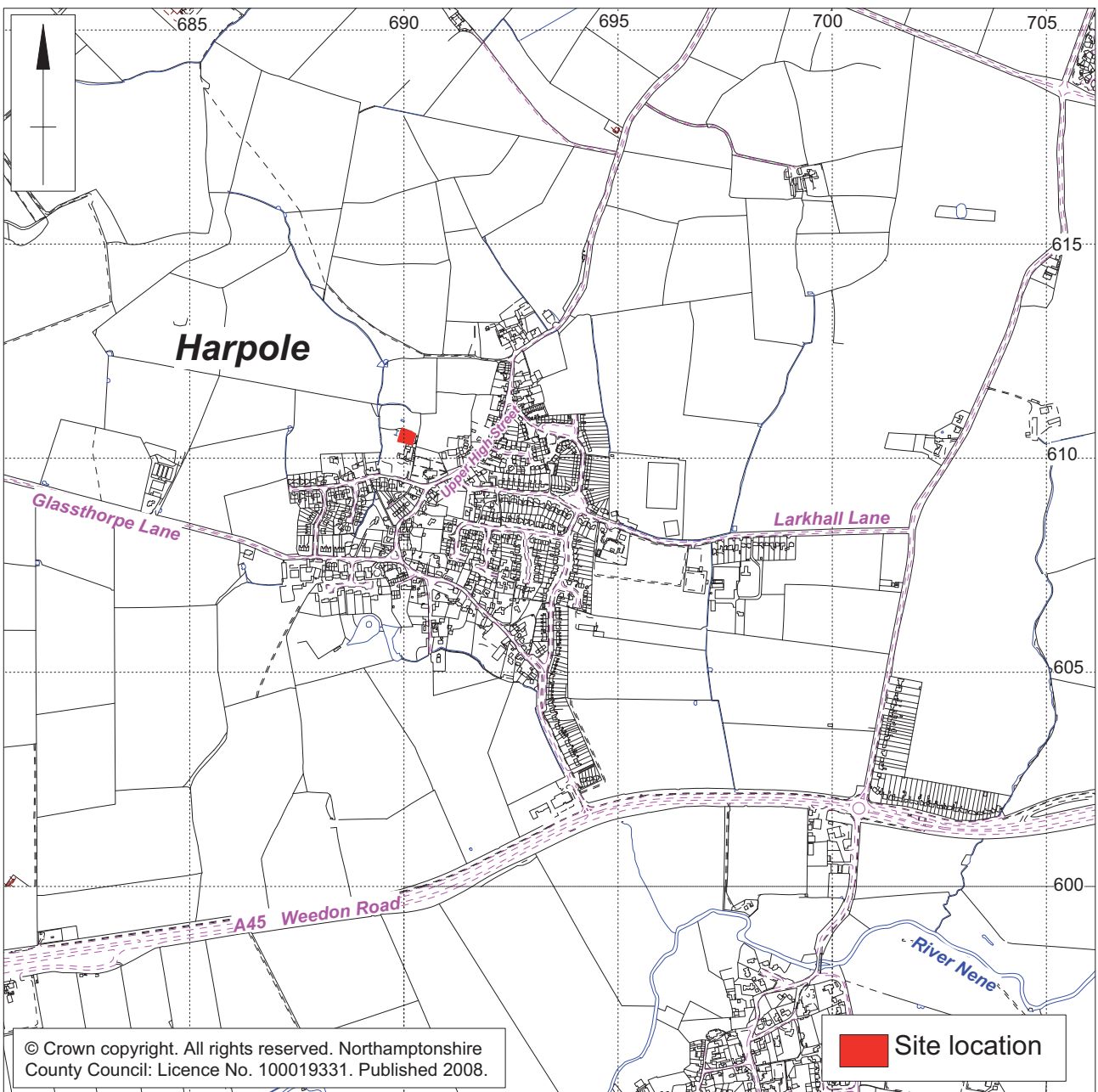
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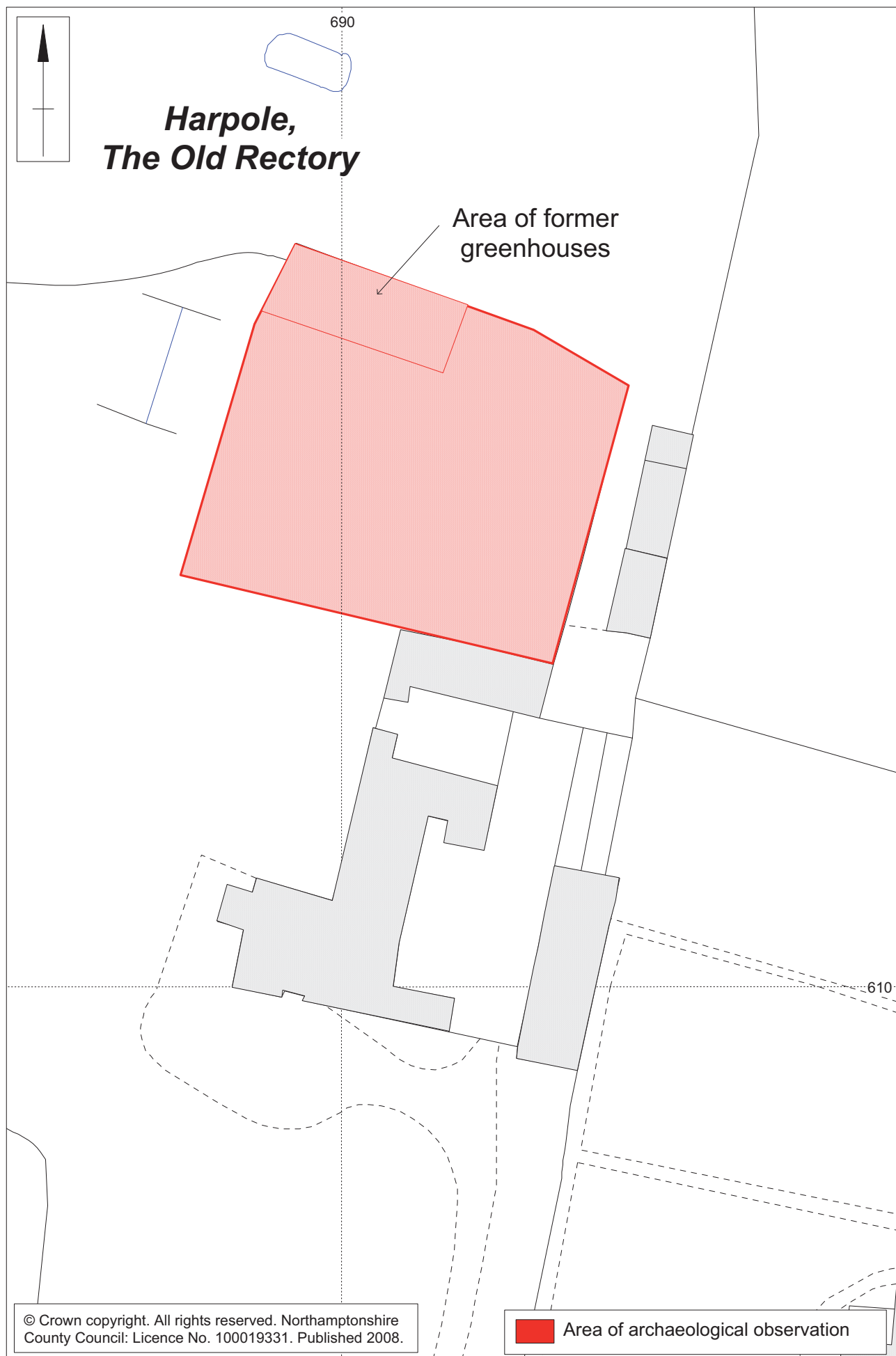
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IFA 2000 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2



Plate 1: General view of the Old Rectory and the area of development



Plate 2: The development area and All Saints Church



Plate 3: Groundworks in progress



Plate 4: The development area during groundworks, with the bases of the old greenhouses to the rear of the plot