



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief
during soil stripping on land at Slipe Clay Pit,
Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe,
Northamptonshire
June - September 2008



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November 2008

Report 08/193

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief during soil stripping on land at Slipe Clay Pit, Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during soil removal in advance of the deposition of hazardous material on land at Slipe Clay Pit Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northampton. Undisturbed soils were noted across the development area, however no distinction between topsoil and subsoil could be discerned. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief Planning Reference EN05/1264C	
Site status	Greenfield	
Previous work	Archaeological desk-based assessment	
Current Land use	Landfill site for hazardous waste	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Slipe Clay Pit, Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northampton	
OS Easting & Northing	TF 0500 0000	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Faber Maunsell AECOM	
Director/Supervisor	Ian Meadows	
Project Manager	Ian Meadows	
Sponsor or funding body	Augean PLC	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2008	
End date	September 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (27) Colour slides (49) black and white contact prints (49) Digital photographs (78) Artefacts lead musket ball (1)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING SOIL STRIPPING ON LAND AT SLIPE CLAY PIT, STAMFORD ROAD,
KINGS CLIFFE, NORTHAMPTON,
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2008**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between June and September 2008 during soil stripping for the deposition of hazardous waste on land at Slipe Clay Pit, Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe Northampton. Undisturbed soils were recorded 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 June and September 2008 during soil stripping for the deposition of hazardous waste on land at Slipe Clay Pit, Landfill Site, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northampton (NGR TF 0500 0000: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Augean PLC and followed a specification produced by Faber Maunsell (Faber Maunsell 2006).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Slipe Clay Pit, Landfill Site is located to the north of Kings Cliffe and approximately 3.5km south-east of Collyweston Great Wood and west of Westhay Farm. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Upper Estuarine Series.

2.3 Historical background

The area lies within an area of archaeological interest. To the south of the development area pottery evidence suggests the site of a Roman settlement, whilst a Roman-British burial was found approximately 2km to the south. This contained three beakers and a ceramic lamp.

Previous archaeological work has comprised a desk-based assessment carried out as part of the present application (Faber Maunsell 2006). This suggested that the site had formerly been part of Rockingham Medieval Forest.

Up to the present application the development area has been used as a temporary storage area for the landfill site, including the storage of used automobile tyre casings. Prior to this it has been in agricultural use.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the stripping of soil cover across the development area, 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 stripping of the topsoil and subsoil across the development area (Plate 2). Archaeological observation initially consisted of an intensive watching brief requiring archaeological attendance during all periods of groundwork, however, following a reappraisal of the archaeological potential of the site, visits were subsequently undertaken intermittently with the agreement of the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council. The topsoil and subsoil stripping was carried out using 360° tracked excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets with the resultant spoil being taken away by dumper trucks (Plate 3). The groundwork methodology required that all vehicle movement within the area of archaeological observation was kept off the newly stripped areas. Following soil removal a membrane was laid across the site prior to the landfill phase (Plate 4).

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 natural substratum comprised grey/brown compact clay with pockets of red/brown ironstone, overlying this was grey/brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.40m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. This extended across all of the development area. In the area where a spoil heap of modern tyres had been located, numerous tyre fragments were noted within the topsoil and pressed into the natural clay as a result of heavy vehicular movement prior to the present (Plates 5 & 6).

A single lead musket ball of indeterminate date was recovered from the topsoil during the course of the metal detector. This was retained and will be included in the project archive.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	27
Colour slides	49
Black and white contacts and negatives	49
Digital photographs	78
Artefacts – Lead musket ball	1

6 CONCLUSIONS

No clear topsoil subsoil distinction was noted within the development area. This may be as a result of a combination of ploughing, which has extended down onto the natural clay and the movement of heavy plant across the development area prior to the present application.

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

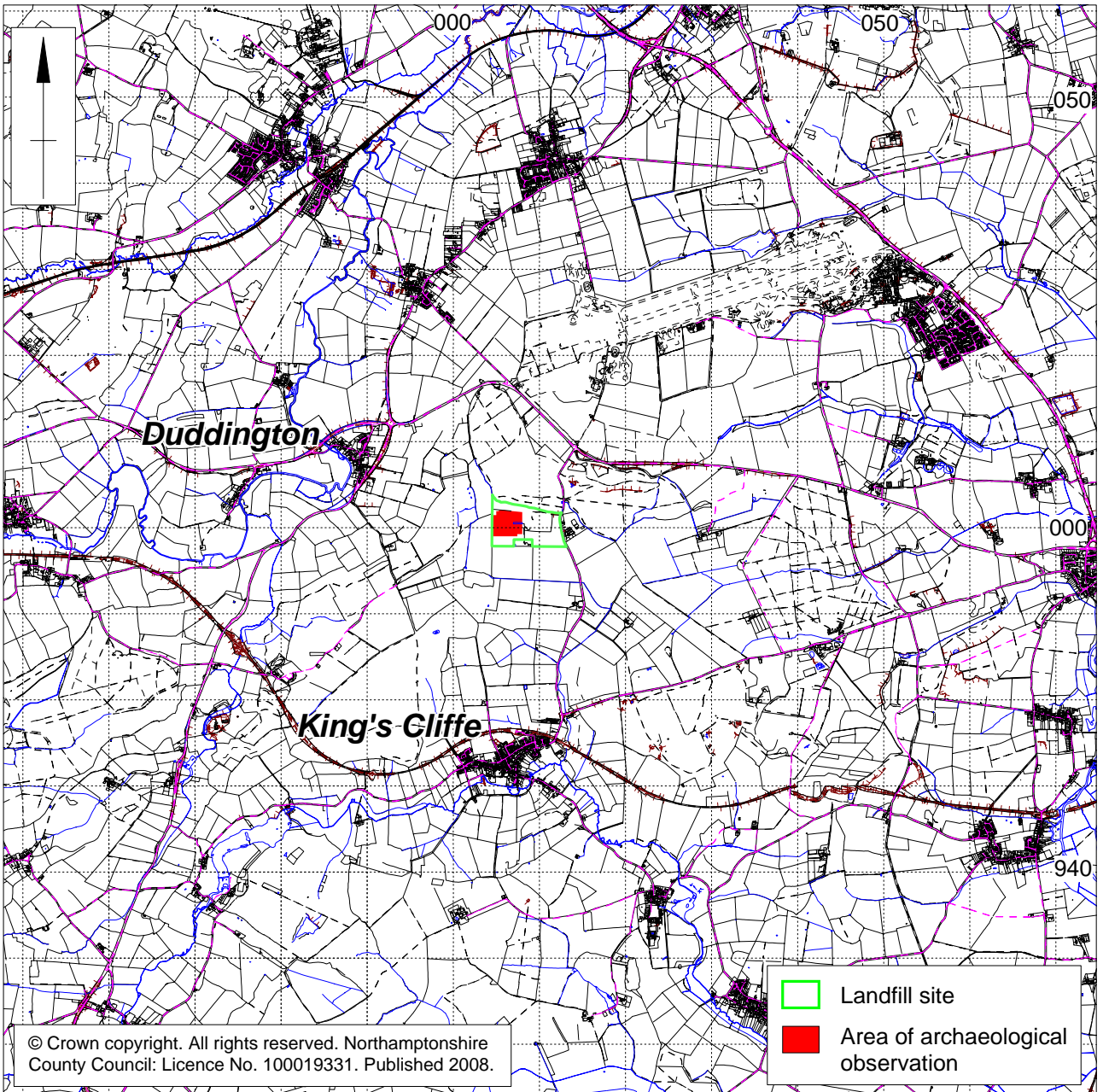
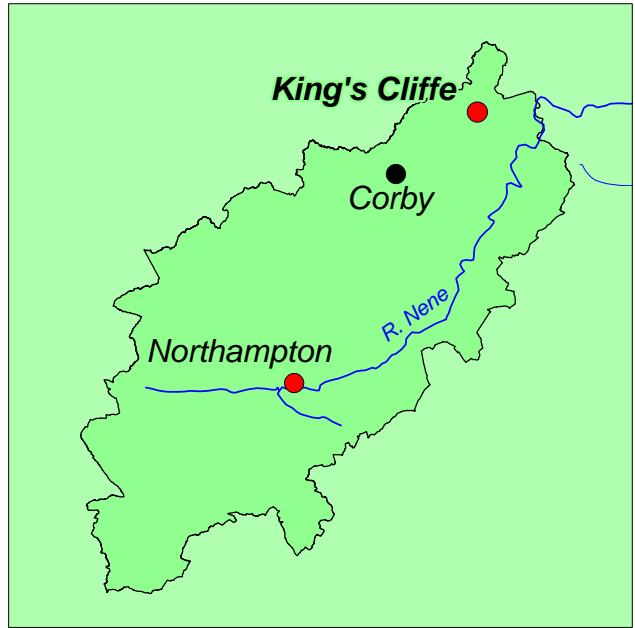
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RCHME 1975 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northampton, Volume 1 Archaeological Sites in North-East Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England



Scale 1:7500

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:7500

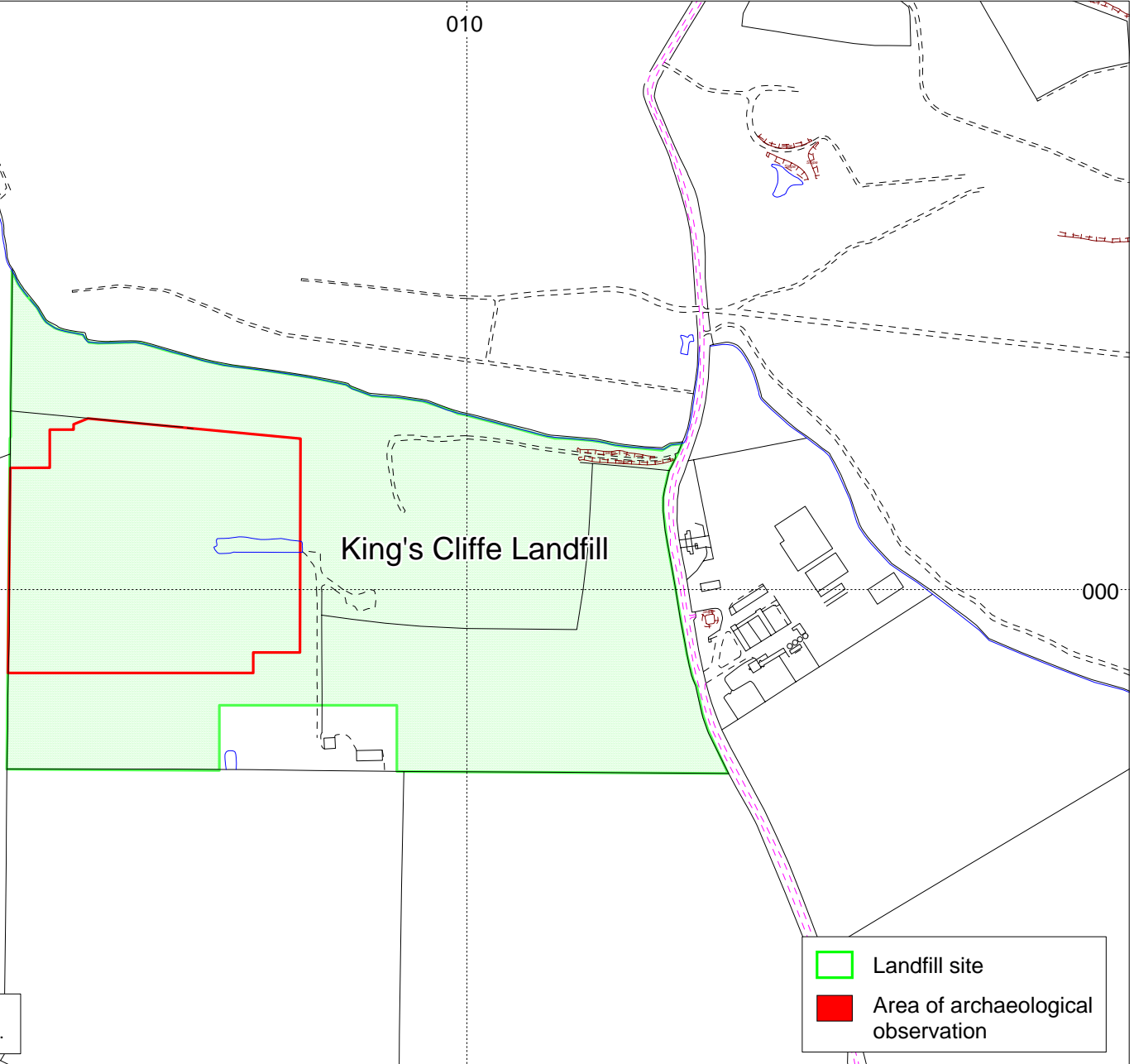




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Area of archaeological observation



-  Landfill site
-  Area of archaeological observation

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Fig 2



Plate 1: A view of the area of the new extension prior to the start of groundworks



Plate 2: The area of the new extension during groundworks



Plate 3: The heavy plant used for the groundworks



Plate 4: The membrane laid after the strip



Plate 5: Old tyre casings from the stripped area



Plate 6: Vehicle rutting with tyre fragments in the track