

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street,
Little Odell, Bedfordshire
June 2006



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September 2007

Report 07/101

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 at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street, Little Odell, Bedfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of two new extensions at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street, Little Odell, Bedfordshire. A truncated natural substratum was revealed across all the development area. No archaeological deposits were revealed and no artefacts were recovered.	
Project type	Watching Brief: Planning Application No: 05/00582/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Dwelling and garden	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Old South End Farm, Little Odell, Bedfordshire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 9571 5743	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr R Ingles	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	June 2006	
End date	June 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Luton Museum	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (6) black and white contact prints (6) Digital photographs (14)
Digital	Bedford Museum	Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
OLD SOUTH END FARM, 207 HIGH STREET,
LITTLE ODELL, BEDFORDSHIRE
JUNE 2006**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in June 2006 during groundworks connected with the construction of two new extensions at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street, Little Odell, Bedfordshire. A truncated natural substratum was revealed throughout the groundworks. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in June 2006 during groundworks associated with the construction of two new extensions at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street, Little Odell, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 9571 5743: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr R Ingle in order to fulfil the requirements of a brief for an archaeological watching brief issued by The County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council on the 15th February 23rd August 2005.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area lies at a height of c50m aOD, and is located on the southern side of the High Street. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as Valley Gravels overlying Oolitic Limestone.

2.2 Historical background

The development area itself is located within an area of archaeological interest. Odell has two settlement cores. The main core of settlement lies to the east and contains the parish church, in the other to the west lies the development area. Both settlement cores are recorded in the Domesday Book.

To the west and south of the development area quarrying has revealed evidence of occupation dating from the Bronze Age up to the Saxon period (Historic Environment Record No: 64 and 543).

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development. Up to the present development the area of the new extensions has functioned as a garden.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new extensions, 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 two visits to the site during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extensions. One extension was located on the eastern side of the existing dwelling, whilst the other was located against the southern gable (Fig 2). The groundworks were carried out using a JCB mechanical 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, 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

A consistent stratigraphy was present within the foundations of both extensions. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of c0.96m below present ground level and comprised pale brown silty sand with limestone inclusions. Overlying this was grey/brown silty loam containing numerous fragments of un-worked limestone with occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material.

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	14

6 CONCLUSIONS

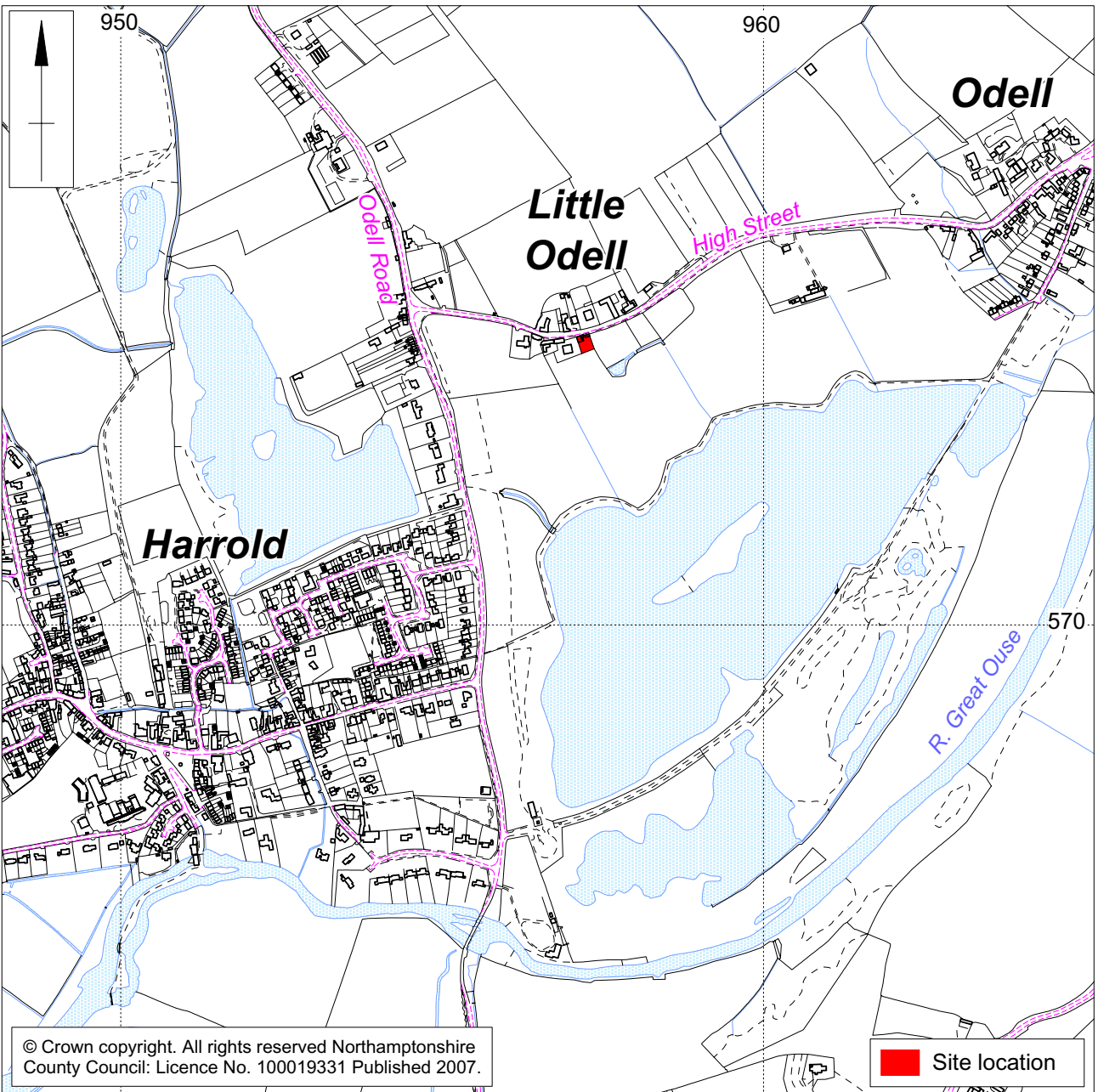
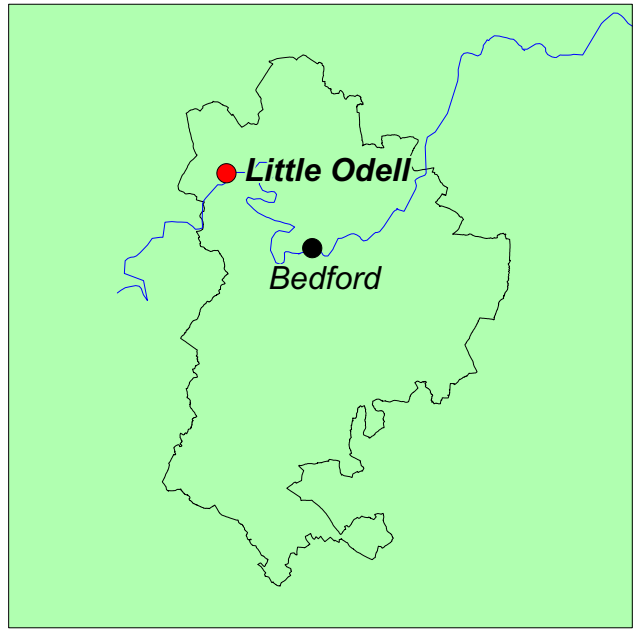
The results of the watching brief clearly show that modern truncation of the natural substratum has taken place within the area of the new extensions.

No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

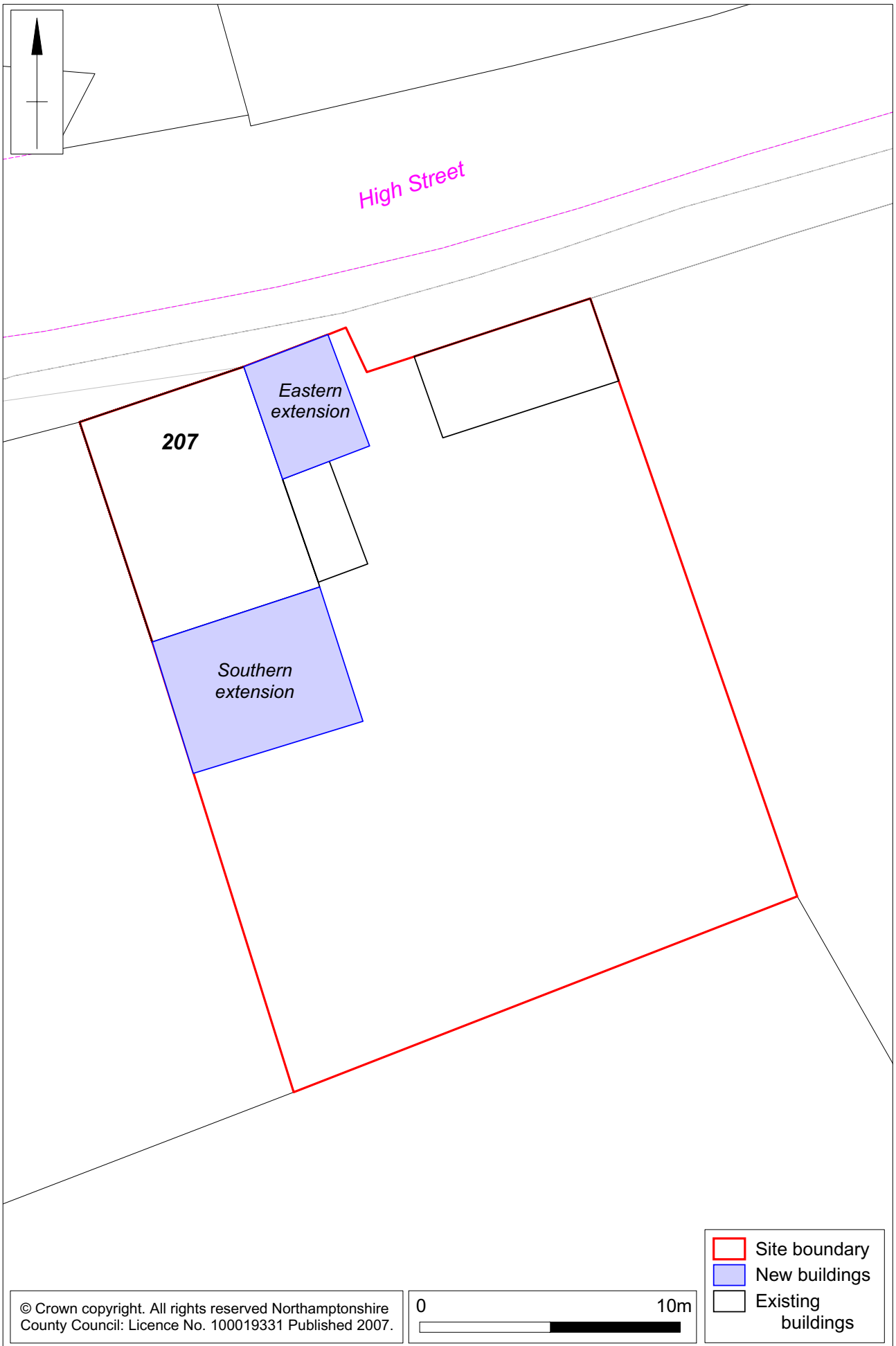
IFA 200 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Leigh, D J, 2006 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at Old South End Farm, 207 High Street, Little Odell, Bedfordshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design for Archaeological Work



Scale 1:15,000

Location of Old South End Farm, Little Odell Fig 1



Scale 1:200

Location of groundworks Fig 2



Plate 1: Old South End Farm



Plate 2: The excavation of the southern extension



Plate 3: The eastern extension after excavation



Plate 4: The stratigraphic sequence in the eastern extension