



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological watching brief  
during tree-screen planting on land  
to the south of Clevedon Court  
North Somerset  
December 2007



Ian Meadows

January 2008

Report 08/12

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



STAFF

Manager	Ian Meadows BA
Text	Ian Meadows
Illustrations	Jacqueline Harding BA HND

QUALITY CONTROL

	NAME	SIGNED	DATE
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified and approved by	Steve Parry		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological watching brief during tree-screen planting on land to the south of Clevedon Court, North Somerset, December 2007	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, during the excavation of tree planting holes at Clevedon Site 120. No archaeological features were identified, except for a scatter of stones of uncertain date.	
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Watching brief	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Earthwork survey 2007 by Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	None	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	North Somerset	
Site address (including postcode)	Clevedon	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	ST 44240 7147	
Height OD	6.2 to 5.5m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design originator		
Director/Supervisor	Ian Meadows	
Project Manager	Ian Meadows	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	12 December 2007	
End date	12 December 2007	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title		
Serial title & volume	08/12	
Author(s)	Ian Meadows	
Page numbers		
Date		

## **CONTENTS**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 TOPOGRAPHY**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**
- 5 DISCUSSION**

### **Figures**

Fig 1 Site Location

Fig 2 Tree holes indicating those containing stone with First Edition Ordnance Survey map

### **Plates**

Plate 1 General view of the site, looking south

Plate 2 Example of stony horizon in tree planting hole

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
DURING TREE-SCREEN PLANTING ON LAND  
TO THE SOUTH OF CLEVEDON COURT, NORTH SOMERSET  
DECEMBER 2007**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, during the excavation of tree planting holes at Clevedon Site 120, North Somerset. No archaeological features were identified, except for a scatter of stones of uncertain date.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during tree planting at Clevedon Site 120, North Somerset (centred on NGR ST 4240 7147, Fig 1, Plate 1). The watching brief took place on 12 December 2007.

The tree planting area is in the north-east corner of an approximately 3ha triangular field that was previously subject to an earthwork survey by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Yates 2007).

**2 TOPOGRAPHY**

Along the south-east side the field is bounded by the M5 motorway and on the western side by Court Lane. To the immediate north of the site is Clevedon Court, a Grade I Listed Building. The western part of the field lies within the registered garden area of Clevedon Court, which is Listed as Grade II\* status in English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

The site is situated on land on the edge of Clevedon Moor, a drained wetland and the northern limit of the Somerset Levels. The field slopes gently from north at 6.2m aOD to south at 5.5m aOD. The land is currently under pasture.

**3 METHODOLOGY**

The aim of the watching brief was to observe the excavation of approximately 60 small pits for tree planting. The pits were all hand excavated by spade. Most of them were 0.30m wide by 0.30m deep, although a small number of larger pits measuring 1.00m wide and about 0.40m deep were also excavated for specimen trees.

#### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

The natural comprised stiff dark grey clay and was overlain directly in most of the pits by a dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.25-0.30m thick containing only occasional pieces of grey roof slate and red roof tile, which were not retained.

However, in a group of pits there was a scatter of stone (yellow sandstone) at the interface of the topsoil and the clay horizon (Fig 2, Plate 2). The stone scatter comprised in many instances just one or two stones up to 0.20m across, although in some pits there was evidence for the deposit being a couple of stones thick. On the stone surface in one of the pits there were two joining but separate pieces of clay tobacco pipe, which was not retained.

The watertable was, at the time of the watching brief, sufficiently high that many of the pits filled with water to just below the topsoil.

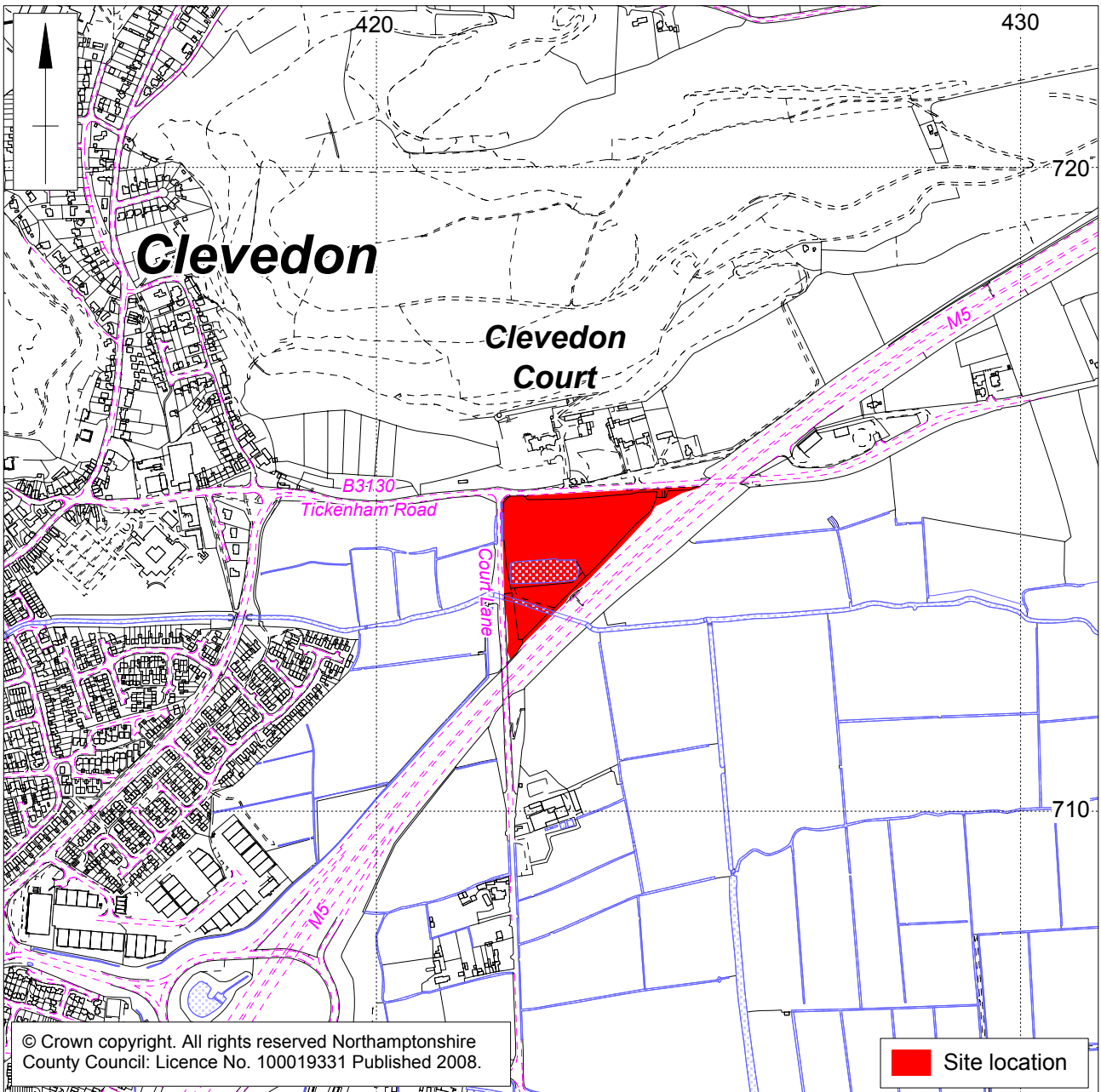
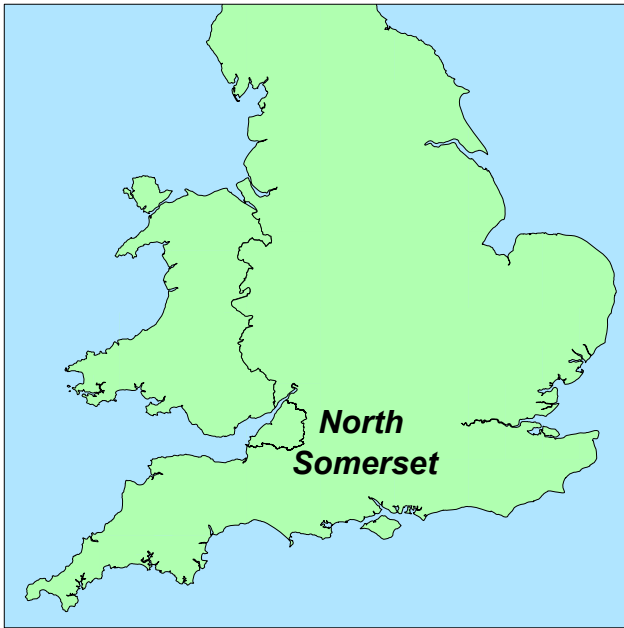
#### **5 DISCUSSION**

The limitations of observing small tree planting holes constrain any detailed comment. The absence of features across the observed area, with the exception of the stone scatter, was not a surprise as the area lay beyond any formal landscape associated with the Court.

The stone scatter was probably of locally sourced yellow sandstone, none of the pieces observed had been scorched and none showed any evidence of having been dressed. In the single pit in which an approximately 1m by 1m area was exposed it was clear the stone had not been laid and the pieces were not worn, suggesting that it was not intended for regular traffic. The location of the spread within the orchard area would suggest it is either a dump of loose stone or a spread of stone for a rough hard standing. This is perhaps further reflected by the occurrence of a number of clay roof tiles in one of the pits instead of the stone. With the high level of the watertable such a function is perhaps not unsurprising.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Yates, A, 2007 Archaeological Earthwork Survey, Clevedon Site 120, Somerset, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report, **07/68**



Scale 1:12,500

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:2000

Tree holes indicating those containing stone with 1st Ed OS

Fig 2

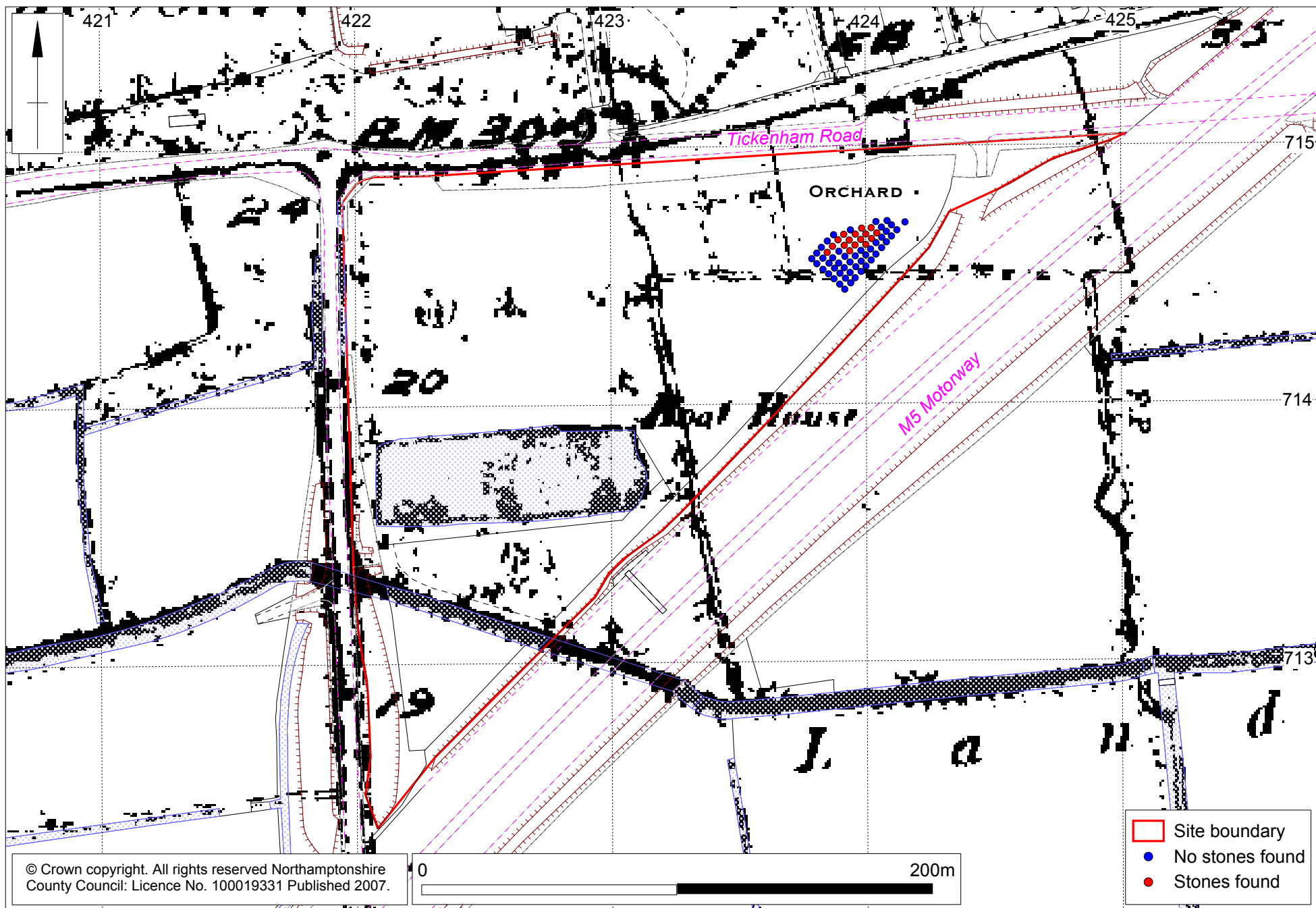




Plate 1: General view of the site, looking south.



Plate 2: Example of stony horizon in tree planting hole.