

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief on land at
Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School,
Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire
May 2006



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Report 07/114

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground-works connected with the construction of a new extension on land at Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire. An undisturbed stratigraphy was revealed across the development area. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.	
Project type	Watching Brief Planning Application No: 05/01048/FUL	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Educational	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	164 sqm	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 569 880	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
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	Leicester Diocesan Board of Education	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2006	
End date	May 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Leicestershire Museum Accession No: X.A60.2006	Watching brief forms (4) Colour slides (15) black and white contact prints (13) Digital photographs (11) Video (1)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT
GILMORTON, CHANDLER, CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL,
CHURCH LANE, GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE
MAY 2006**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2006 during ground-works connected with the construction of a new extension on land at Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire. An undisturbed stratigraphy was present across all of the development area. No archaeological deposits were present and no artefacts were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in May 2006 during ground-works associated with the construction of a new extension on land at Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (NGR SP 569 880; Planning Application No: 05/01048/FUL: Fig 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Leicestershire Diocesan Board of Education following a specification submitted by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh, 2006) and approved by The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council on the 17th May 2006.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the village of Gilmorton and fronts directly onto Church Lane. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Boulder Clay.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area is located within the historic medieval and post medieval core of the village of Gilmorton. The name Gilmorton is derived from Old English *Gilden* Morton. Morton comes from *mor* meaning marshy and *tun* meaning settlement, village or place. The later affix *Gilden* means wealthy or splendid, possibly a reflection of its development in the medieval period. Gilmorton is recorded in the Domesday Book when it lay in the Guthlaxton Wapentake.

A number of entries are held in the Leicestershire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the village. The site lies within the environs of a shrunken medieval settlement or village

extending to the north-east and to the west and south of the development area. The precise limits of the medieval settlement have never been firmly determined. The later focus of the settlement moved to the east where the modern village now stands. A motte castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument No: 69, LE1535) together with a moated site (SMR No: 1537), fishponds (SMR: LE1538) and a hollow way (SMR: LE1536) mark an early development to the south-west of the development area.

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the ground-works connected with the construction of the new extension and associated ground-works, 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 topsoil and subsoil down to formation level. The ground-works were carried out using a JCB type 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

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.68m below present ground level and comprised orange/red silt sand. This was overlain by mid brown silt loam, up to 0.30m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. Sealing this was grey/brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.30m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. This was overlain by turf, up to 0.08m thick.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	4
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	13
Digital photographs	11
Video	1

6 CONCLUSIONS

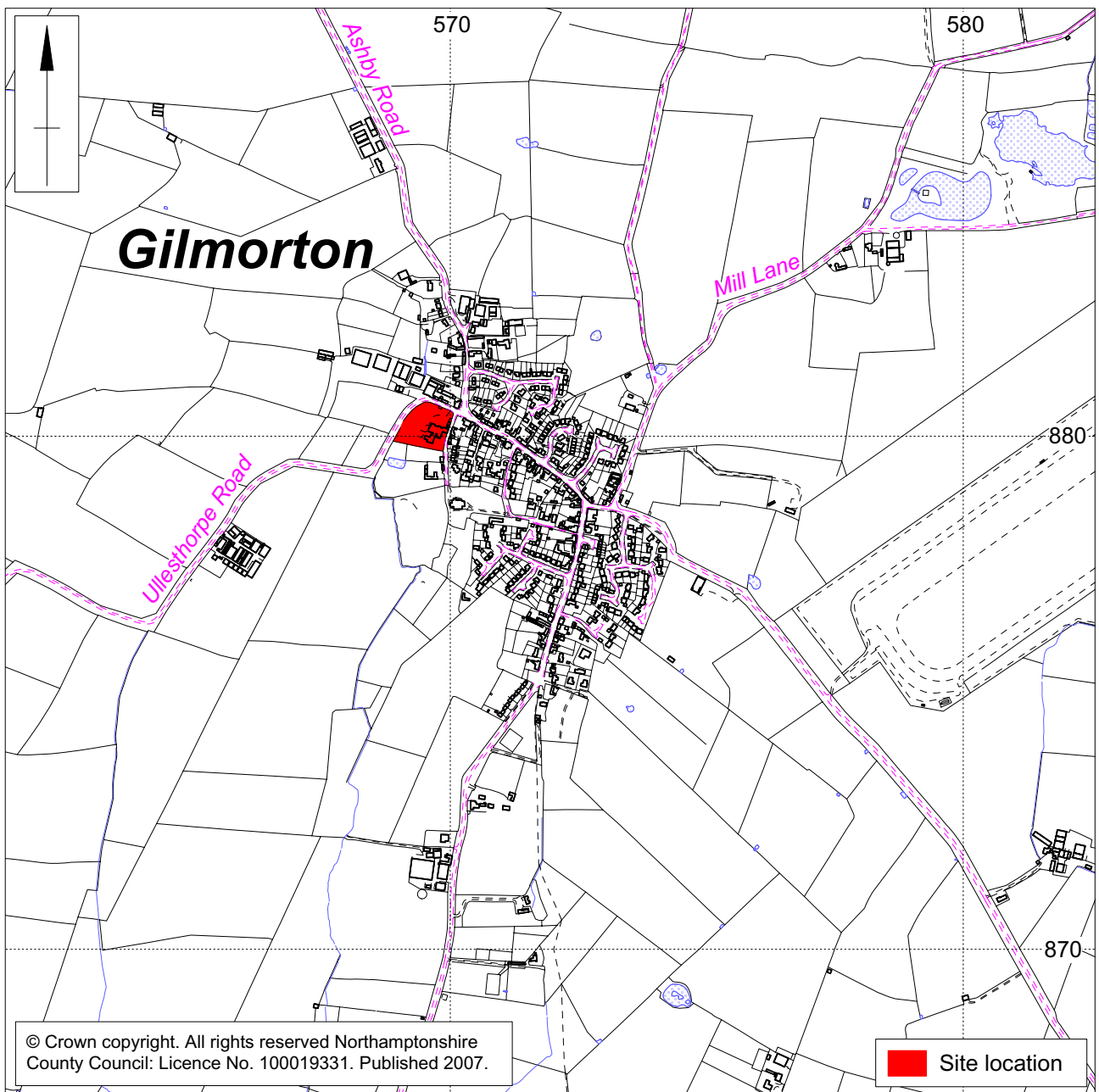
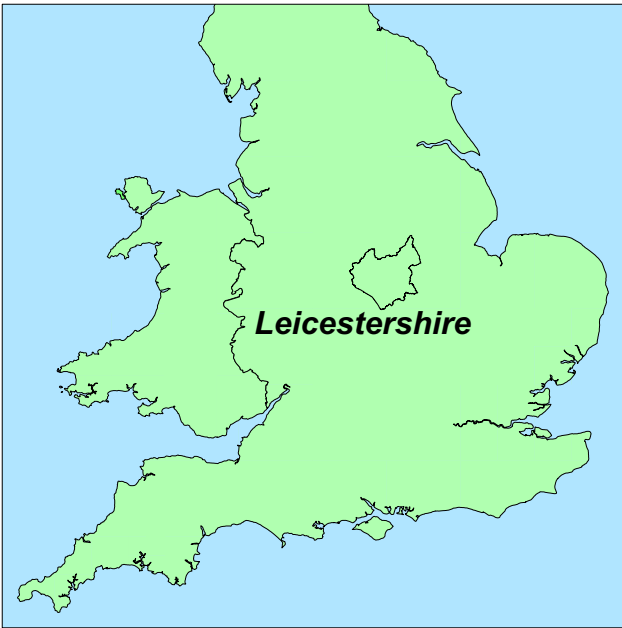
The results of the watching brief clearly show that undisturbed soils are present within the development area. The absence of archaeological deposits and any form of artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits area situated within the development area.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

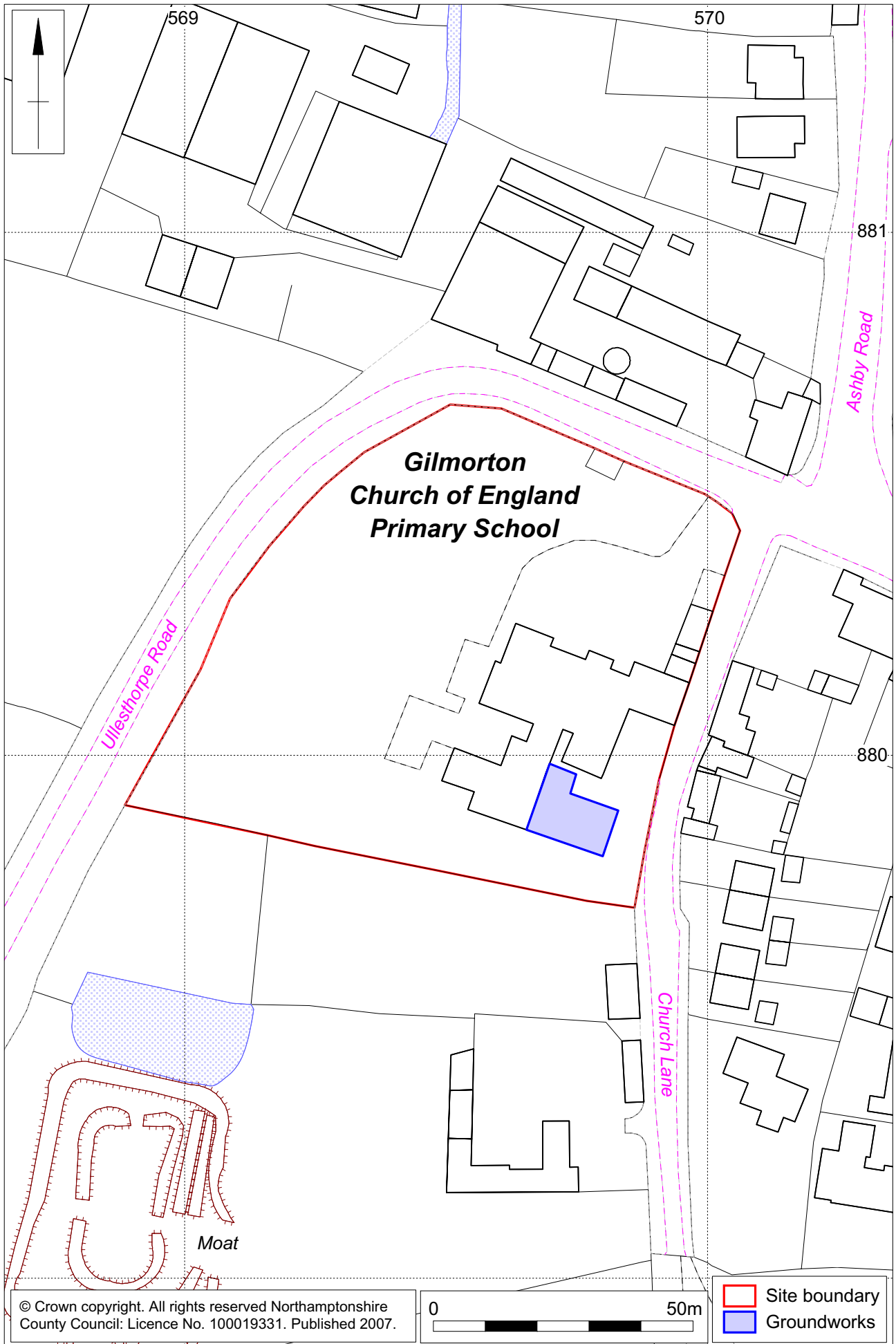
IFA 2000 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists

Leigh D 2006 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief on land at Gilmorton, Chandler, Church of England School, Church Lane, Gilmorton, Leicestershire* Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design



Scale 1:12,500

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000

Location of groundworks Fig 2



Plate 1: General view of the area of ground-works



Plate 2: The development area after topsoil stripping