

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief
on land at 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe,
Blaby, Leicestershire
April 2007



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June 2008

Report 08/107

Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Steve Parry		
Verified by	Andy Mudd		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe, Blaby, Leicestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling on the site of a former dwelling demolished as part of the present application.. A truncated natural substratum was present across all the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief (Planning Application No: 06/0464/1/PX	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Site of former dwelling	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe, Blaby, Leicestershire	
Study area (sq.m or ha)		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 459 965	
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	Mr P Mac, 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	April 2007	
End date	April 2007	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Leicestershire, Museums Accession No: X.A54.2007	Watching brief forms (1) Colour slides (13) black and white contact prints (12) Digital photographs (12)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT
44 STATION ROAD, ELMESTHORPE,
BLABY, LEICESTERSHIRE
APRIL 2007**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in April 2007 during ground-works connected with the construction of a new dwelling, on the site of a former dwelling demolished as part of the present application, on land at 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe, Blaby, Leicestershire. A truncated natural substratum was revealed across all 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 April 2007 during ground-works associated with the construction of a new dwelling on the site of a former dwelling demolished as part of the present application, on land at 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe, Blaby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 459 965; Planning Application No: 06/0464/1/PX: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr P Mac following a specification submitted by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh, 2006) and approved by The Heritage Environment Team, Northamptonshire County Council on the 23rd of March 2007.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located within the village of Elmesthorpe and fronts directly onto Station Road. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Triassic Mudstones including Keuper Marl.

2.2 Historical Background

The development area is located within the historic medieval core of the village of Elmesthorpe (Sites and Monuments Record No: MLE 70). A number of sites of archaeological interest are listed in the vicinity by Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record Office. These include, The Church of St Mary (MLE 11899), which lies to the east of the development area. This is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (DLE 340) and was re-built in the 19th-century (MLE 66). Also to the east lie earthworks (MLE 76) thought to be connected with the formal gardens of Elmesthorpe Hall which is believed to have stood in this location. Medieval fishponds are located to the north and south of the development area (MLE 69/75).

Whilst no previous archaeological work has been carried out within the area of development there is a record of a Roman mosaic being discovered and subsequently re-buried in Station Road during the early 20th-century (MLE 10311).

Up to the present application the site has been occupied by a dwelling demolished as part of this application.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the ground-works connected with the construction of the new dwelling 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 a single visit to the site during the excavation of foundation trenches (Plates 2 & 4). The ground-works were carried out using a 360° mini-excavator fitted with a toothed 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 severely truncated natural substratum was present across all of the development area (Plate 3). This comprised natural clay which varied in colour from grey/brown to mid brown. This was sealed by grey/brown silt loam, up to 0.30m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	1
Colour slides	13
Black and white contacts and negatives	12
Digital photographs	12

6 CONCLUSIONS

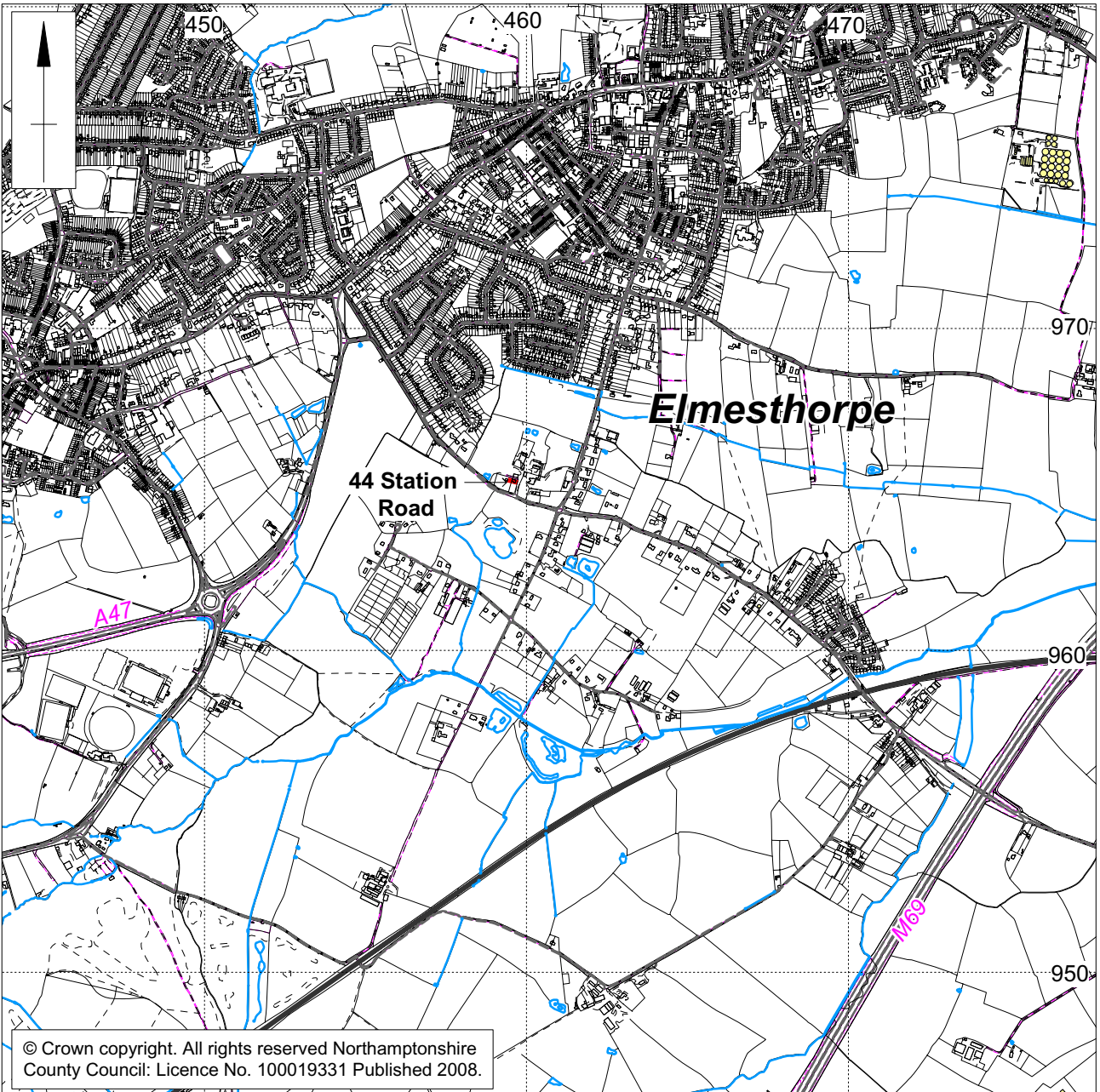
The results of the watching brief clearly show that considerable modern truncation of the natural substratum has taken place across the whole of the development area. This may have occurred during the construction and/or demolition of the building(s) that previously stood within the development area.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

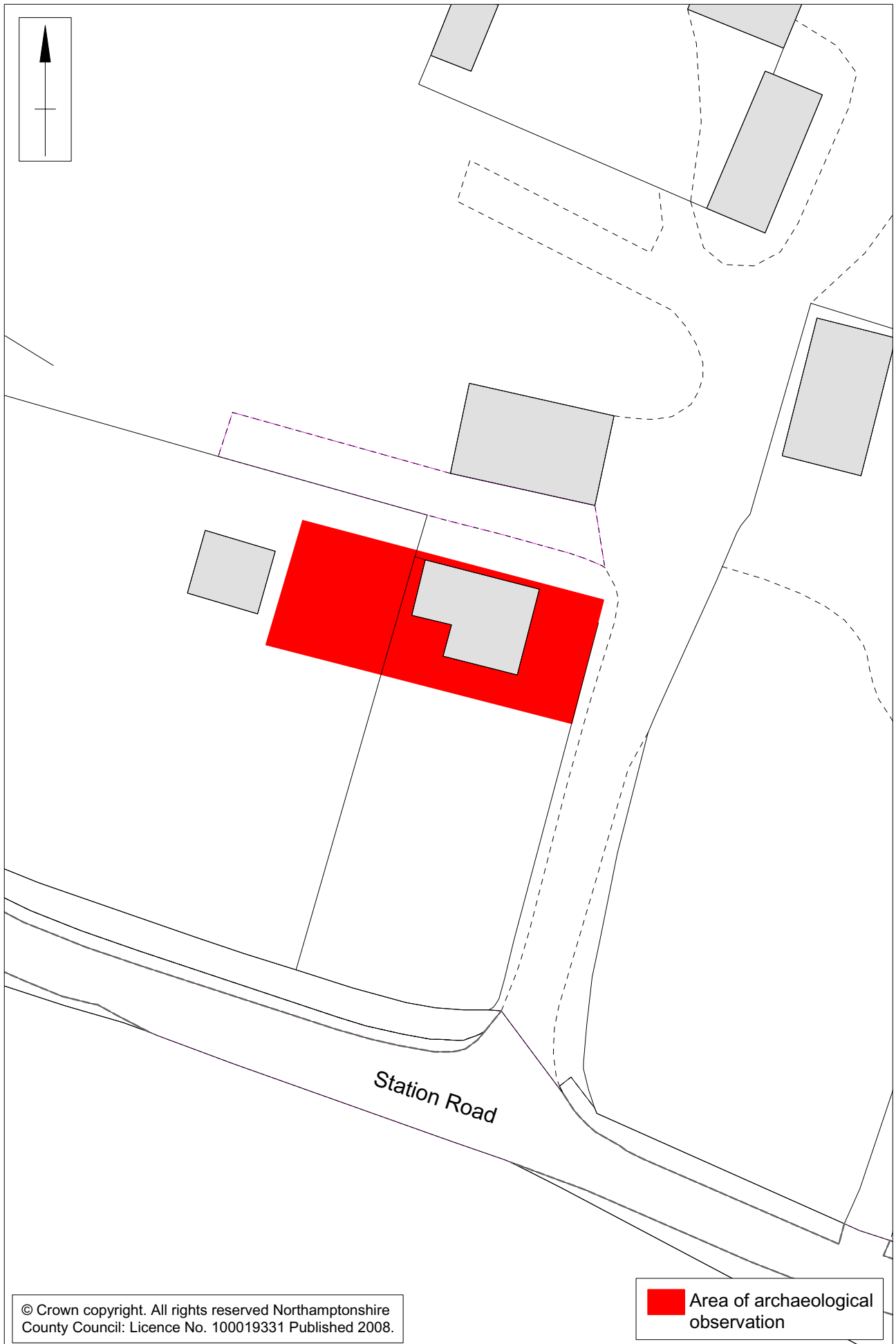
IFA 2000 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Institute of Field Archaeologists

Leigh D 2006 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief on land at 44 Station Road, Elmesthorpe, Blaby, Leicestershire* Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design




Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1



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 Area of archaeological observation

Scale 1:500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2



Plate 1: General view of the development area at the start of ground-works



Plate 2: The ground-works in progress

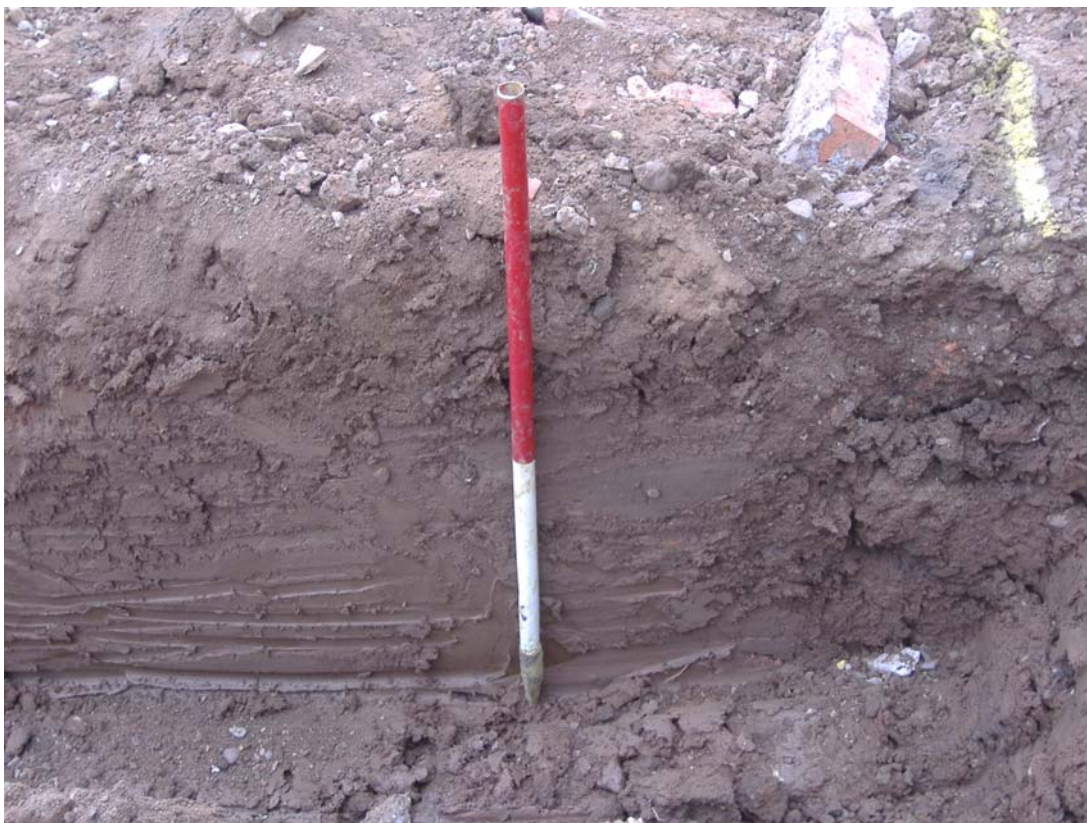


Plate 3: The stratigraphic sequence within the foundation trenches



Plate 4: The ground-works nearing completion