



**Archaeological Strip, Map, and Sample on land west  
of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital  
Colney, Norfolk  
August – September 2013**

ENF 132406

Report No. 14/17

Author: Simon Markus

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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Quality control and sign off:

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Date approved:</b>	<b>Checked by:</b>	<b>Verified by:</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Reason for Issue:</b>
1	13.02.14	Pat Chapman	Mark Holmes	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

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Illustration: Amir Bassir BSc

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. Molanort-170702</b>	
Project title	Archaeological Strip, Map, and Sample on land west of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, August-September 2013		
Short description	An archaeological strip, map, and sample was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA) on land west of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital as part of the construction of a new medical research building and access road on the site. An area approximately 1.9 ha was excavated and produced only evidence of plough scarring. Four flints were recovered from the topsoil.		
Project type	Strip, Map, and Sample		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	DBA (Walker 2012) geophysical survey (Butler 2009; Walford 2012) fieldwalking survey (Wolfram-Murray 2009) trial trench evaluation (Jones 2012)		
Current land use	Arable fields		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	N/A		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Norfolk		
Site address	Land West of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Colney		
Post code	NR4 7UY		
OS co-ordinates	NGR TG 1798 0730		
Area (sq m/ha)	1.9 ha		
Height aOD	30m		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA)		
Project brief originator	Norfolk Planning Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	Mark Holmes and Charlotte Walker		
Director/Supervisor	Simon Markus		
Project Managers	Mark Holmes and Charlotte Walker		
Sponsor or funding body	RG Carter		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	21/08/2013		
End date	12/09/2013		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	ENF 132406	None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological Strip, Map, and Sample on land west of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, August-September 2013		
Serial title & volume	14/17		
Author(s)	Simon Markus		
Page numbers	8 pages		
Date	February 2013		

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE ON LAND WEST OF  
NORFOLK AND NORWICH UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
COLNEY, NORWICH  
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2013**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological strip, map, and sample was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA) on land west of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital as part of the construction of a new medical research building and access road on the site. An area approximately 1.9 ha was excavated and produced only evidence of plough scarring. Four flints were recovered from the topsoil.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology, now operating as MOLA, was commissioned by RG Carter to carry out an archaeological strip, map and sample as part of the development of a new medical research building and access road on land to the west of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Colney (NGR TG 1798 0730; Fig 1).

The development site comprises c 1.9ha of land, lying to the west of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. The site consists of two areas; 0.8ha for the footprint of the new medical research building, and 1.1ha for the access road.

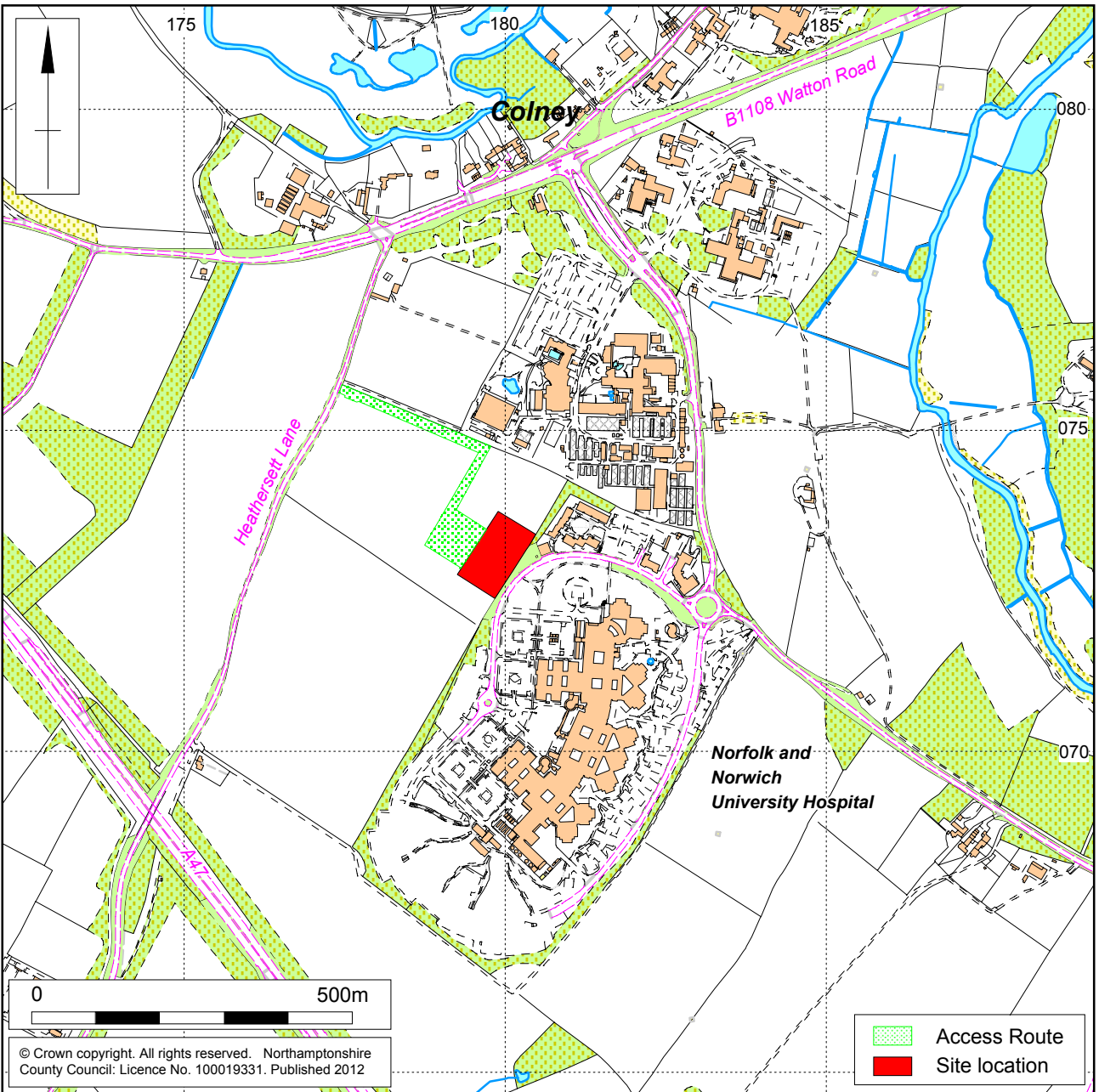
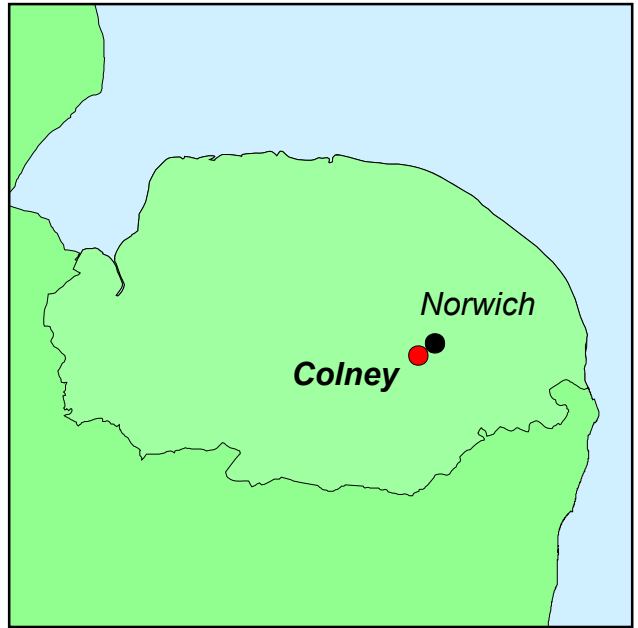
The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and with the *Project Design* produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by the Norfolk Planning Archaeologist (NA 2012).

All works were conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and *Code of conduct* (IfA 2010).

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The village of Colney lies to the west of Norwich. The site is situated to the south of the village and the B1108 Watton Road and immediately to the north-west of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. The site is flat and currently arable land.

The underlying geology is Cretaceous Chalk overlain by local drift geology of glacial sand and gravel (BGS 2013). The site lies at c 30m aOD.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

### 3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

A desk-based heritage assessment, geophysical survey, fieldwalking survey, and trial trench evaluation (Walker 2012, Butler 2009, Walford 2012, Wolfram-Murray 2009, Jones 2012) have previously been carried out across the proposed development area.

#### ***Prehistoric***

A Neolithic site was identified to the north of the current area prior to the construction of the John Innes Centre in 2000 (HER 9332). A large assemblage of worked flint had been collected from the site from the 1970s and when the site was evaluated a ditch containing further flint work, as well as Neolithic deposits and flint scatters were identified.

During the subsequent excavation a natural hollow filled with a brown forest soil was revealed. It was overlain by a Neolithic topsoil sealed by a Neolithic occupation layer and extensive deposits of flint-knapping waste (amounting to 28,000 struck flints) indicating a tool manufacturing site. Over the occupation layer was a rectangular structure and possible floor surface.

Immediately to the east of the current area, a Beaker period site was identified at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Scattered ditches and pits dating to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age were identified, as well as Mesolithic and Neolithic flints. Some of the ditches may continue into the development area. A subsequent watching brief found further flint and pottery, but no other features.

The two phases of geophysical survey identified a number of possible ditches, including a likely ring ditch, which is located c 165m to the north-west of the site, although no archaeological features were observed within the site area.

Fieldwalking of the area (HER 55753) recovered large quantities of worked flint including an axe fragment, four cores and 24 blades.

A strip, map, and sample of land just to the north of the development site found a single sherd of early/middle Saxon pottery (Markus 2013).

#### ***Iron Age/Roman***

Iron Age pits and ditches were identified during the evaluation of the Hospital site in 1996, but a subsequent watching brief did not identify any further archaeological remains.

The fieldwalking survey found no Iron Age pottery and only a single sherd each of Roman pottery and tile from the field within which the site lies, indicating low background activity in the Roman period. Archaeological investigation at the John Innes site (HER 9332) to the north found several Roman coins and small quantities of Roman pottery. Several later Roman features were recorded during the excavation of the John Innes site (HER 9332).

#### ***Anglo-Saxon/medieval***

A number of finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been found close to the site. There are reports of pits dug to the north of the site, close to the B1108, where a number of early Saxon artefacts were found (HER 9335). These included knives, spearheads and pottery. Metal detecting carried out around the John Innes site to the north found a number of items including a mid-late Saxon disc brooch, ball-headed pin and late Saxon disc brooch.



At Domesday, Colney is referred to as *Coleneia*. There have been a number of medieval finds in the vicinity of the site, but most appear to have been the result of casual loss rather than indicating the presence of settlement.

#### **4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the development area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present at the development site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present at the development site.

#### **5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents *The Management of Archaeological Projects* issued by English Heritage (1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010). Where appropriate the research frameworks were borne in mind. The *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) were followed.

The topsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological fieldwork manual* (2011).

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site, in line with procedures outlined in *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected.

A photographic record comprising digital images was maintained.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

#### **6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

The c 1.1ha of land encompassed by the access road had been stripped and disturbed prior to arrival on site making it impossible to know if any archaeological features were present. Stripping of the remainder of the site, comprising 0.8ha, was undertaken under archaeological supervision.

The glacial sands and gravel natural was overlain by topsoil of dark brown sandy loam, with frequent flint inclusions, 0.30m-0.40m thick. Within the topsoil, four flint tools were recovered. No subsoil was observed in the excavation area. Remains of modern plough scars and changes in the natural were seen across the area (Fig 2).

No further archaeological finds or features were present.



Plough scars within building footprint, looking south-west

Fig 2

## 7 THE FLINTS by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Four pieces of worked flint were recovered as surface finds during the watching brief. The flint comprised two waste flakes, one waste blade, and one core re-junification flake. Table 1 provides a summary.

*Table 1: Summary of worked flint*

Context	Flake/Blade (portion)	Period	Material	Cortex (Patination)	Comments
1	Flake (whole)	--	mid grey-brown vitreous flint	(slight)	heavy post-depositional edge damage
1	Flake (whole)	Neolithic	flint	Light brown (Medium)	heavy post-depositional edge damage; possible core rejuvenation flake
1	Flake (whole)	Early Neolithic	opaque light grey flint		relatively large flake; heavy post-depositional edge damage
1	Blade (whole)	--	opaque light grey flint		post-depositional edge damage

The condition of the assemblage is poor with all flints showing post-depositional edge damage. This had a detrimental effect on the recognition of intentional retouch or utilisation on the flint. Patination was present on two flakes. The majority of the post-

depositional damage was caused by ploughing and abrasion of the flint in the sandy soil.

The raw material is a vitreous flint, mid brown coloured, and more granular light grey coloured flint. Cortex present on the dorsal surface of one piece ranges o mid brown colour and had a smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have originated locally from the terrace and glacio-fluvial deposits.

Technological characteristics of the assemblage indicate a broad early Neolithic to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The flint is consistent with the flint recovered previously from the fieldwalking survey (Wolfram-Murray 2009).

## **8 DISCUSSION**

The presence of a small number of worked flints within the topsoil is not enough to indicate prolonged activity on this site during the Neolithic period. Ploughing has likely shifted these through the area and so they can only be associated with casual loss or discard within the wider landscape, coinciding with known prehistoric sites to the north of the development area.

No pre-modern archaeological features and no finds, apart from the flints, were recovered.

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## APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLE

		<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth of natural</b>
		<b>TG 1798 0730</b>	<b>30m aOD</b>	<b>0.40m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.40m thick	Flint
002	Natural	Mid orange, dull white and mid brown sands mix. Plough scars.	—	—

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