



**A Programme of Archaeological Observation,
Investigation and Recording on land at
Standens Barn Primary School,
Flaxwell Court, Northampton
February – November 2013**

Planning reference: 11/00059

Report No. 14/28

Authors: David J Leigh
and Gemma Hewitt

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-161744	
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northampton		
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA), on behalf of Galliford Try, between February and November 2013 during groundworks for the construction of a new two storey teaching block and temporary haul road on land at Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northampton. A truncated natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.		
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Educational		
Future work	No		
Monument type/ period			
Significant finds			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northampton		
Study area (sq metres)	2400m		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 7990 6188		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	The County Archaeological Advisor, NCC		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	Galliford Try		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	February 2013		
End date	November 2013		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical			
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (10) Photographic record sheets (2) Black and white photographs (12) Digital photographs (25)	
Digital		Report text and figures	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA report 14/28		
Author	David J Leigh and Gemma Hewitt		
Date	February 2014		

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Fig 3: The investigation area, looking south

Fig 4: The temporary haul road, looking north-east

Fig 5: The stratigraphic sequence

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Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology(now operating as MOLA), on behalf of Galliford Try between February and November 2013 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new, two-storey teaching block and temporary haul road on land at Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northampton. A truncated natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) between February and November 2013 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new two-storey teaching block on land at Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court, Northampton (NGR SP 7990 6188; Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work was undertaken on behalf of Galliford Try and was carried out following a request for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording by the County Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in a brief issued on the 14 December 2011 (Mather 2011).

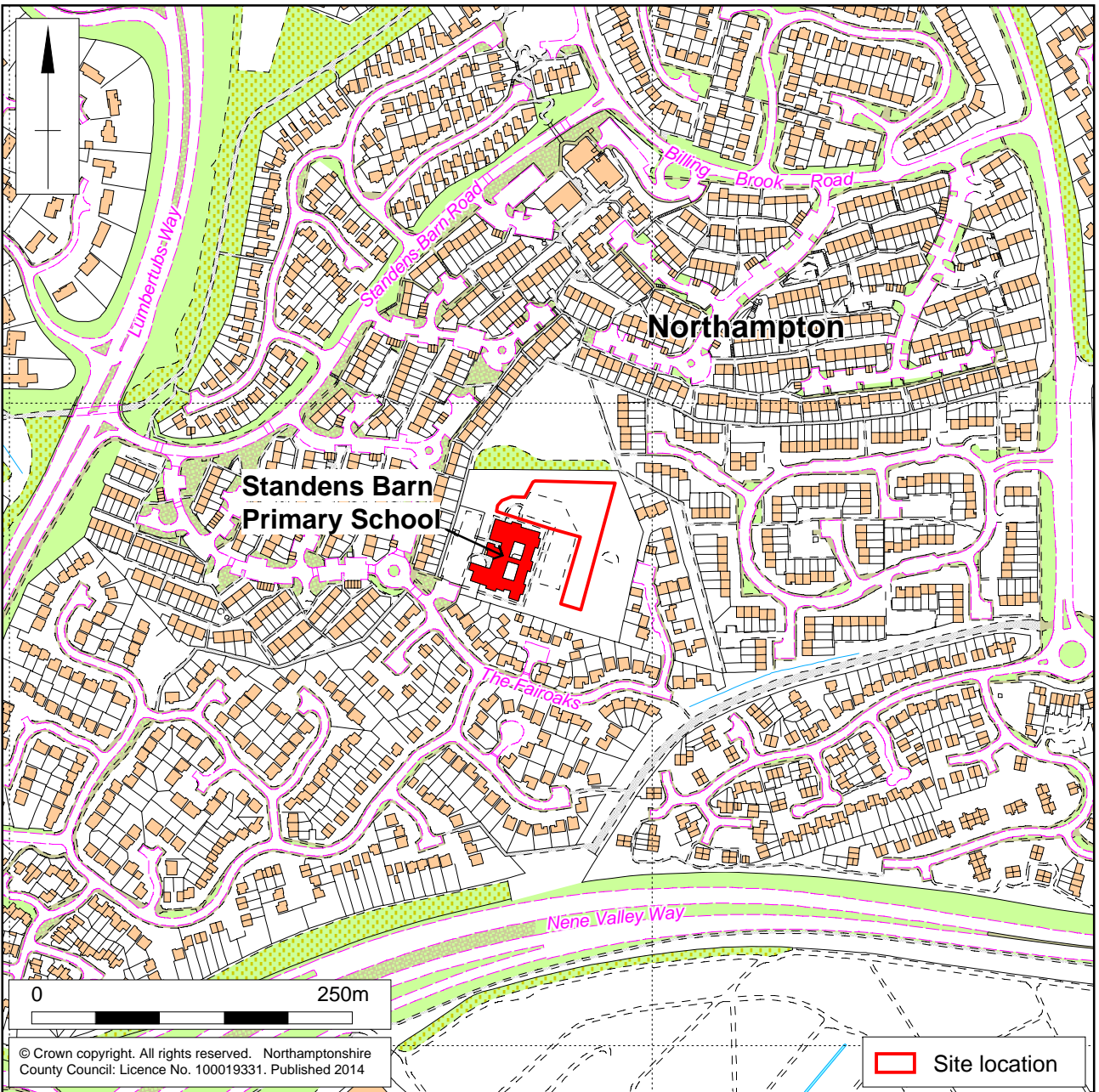
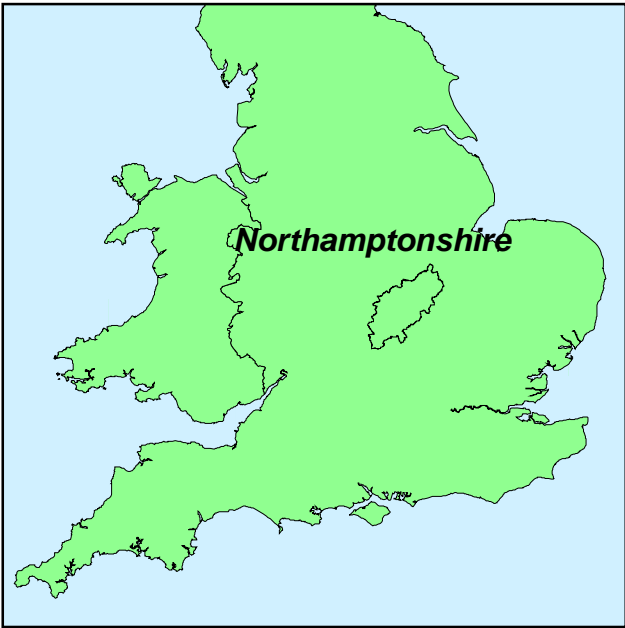
It adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2012) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

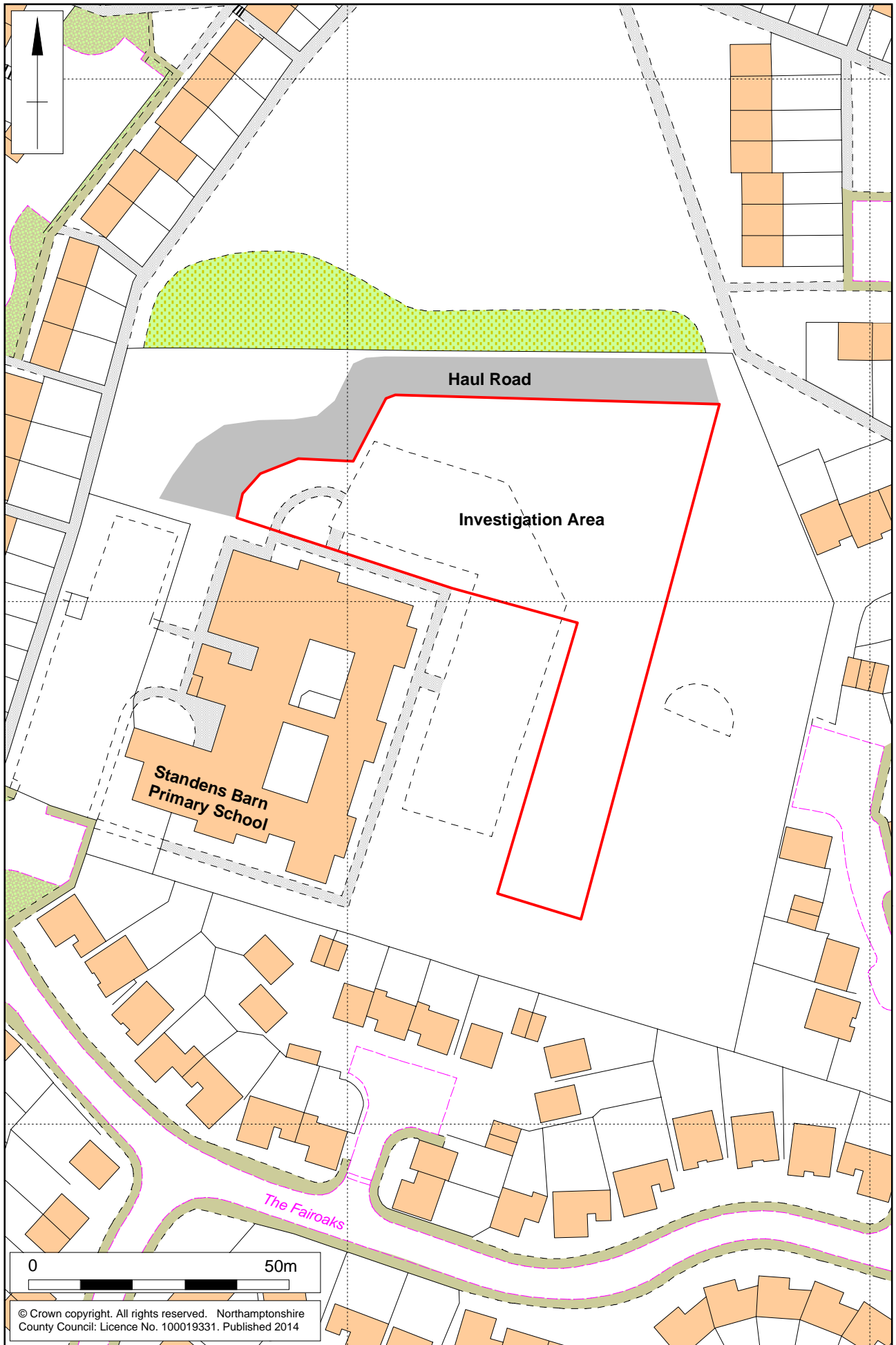
Standens Barn Primary School is located within a residential area on the south-eastern side of Northampton. The investigation area lies on ground sloping gently down to the south-east at an approximate height of 65-60m aOD.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Upper Lias Clay (BGS Geindex: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex>).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000

The investigation area Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

The site lies within an area of undetermined archaeological interest. To the east of the site a number of Roman pottery sherds are recorded as having been recovered in the area.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site. Up to the present application the site has comprised an area of hard-standing and grass within the school grounds.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the new teaching block and temporary haul road 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.

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, (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken between February and November 2013 during soil stripping for the temporary haul road (Fig 4) and groundworks for the new teaching block. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets. The works comprised the removal of topsoil across the area of the new haul road and teaching block.



The investigation area, looking south Fig 3



The temporary haul road, looking north-east Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the investigation area (Fig 5). This comprised pale grey-brown clay encountered approximately 0.20m below present ground level. Overlying this was grey-brown sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.20m thick, containing numerous small fragments of modern ceramic building material and degraded fragments of modern plastic along with very occasional irregular stones.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present.



The stratigraphic sequence Fig 5

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	10
Photographic record sheets	2
Black and white photographs	12
Digital photographs	25

The project archive which will be consolidated and prepared for deposition will be held by MOLA until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

6 CONCLUSIONS

A truncated natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present. The absence of any artefactual evidence, would suggest, but not preclude, that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the investigation area.

The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
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