



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
at The Old Red Lion
Clipston, Northamptonshire
October 2013**

DA/2013/0410

Report No. 14/62

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrators: Amir Bassir
James Ladocha



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Pottery: Tora Hylton

Glass: Tim Upson-Smith

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc
James Ladocha BA

OASIS REPORT FORM

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| PROJECT DETAILS | | Oasis No. Molanort1-173906 | |
| Project title | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at The Old Red Lion Clipston, Northamptonshire | | |
| Short description | An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) in October 2013 for Coles Architects, on behalf of their clients Riverwood Homes, at the former Old Red Lion Public House, Clipston, Northamptonshire. The work was carried out in advance of residential development. No archaeological deposits or artefacts predating the 19th century were found. | | |
| Project type | Trial trenching | | |
| Site Status | None | | |
| Previous work | Building recording (Wolfram-Murray 2014) carried out simultaneously with the current trial trench evaluation | | |
| Current land use | Garden of former public house | | |
| Future work | unknown | | |
| Monument type and period | None | | |
| Significant finds | None | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | |
| County | Northamptonshire | | |
| Site address | The Old Red Lion, The Green, Clipston | | |
| Post code | | | |
| OS co-ordinates | SP 71088 81652 | | |
| Area (sq m/ha) | 1,600 sq m | | |
| Height aOD | 142m aOD | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) | | |
| Project brief originator | Northamptonshire County Council | | |
| Project Design originator | Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) | | |
| Director/Supervisor | Yvonne Wolfram-Murray | | |
| Project Managers | Ed Taylor | | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Riverwood Homes Ltd | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | |
| Start date | October 2013 | | |
| End date | October 2013 | | |
| ARCHIVES | Location (Accession no.) | Contents | |
| Physical | Northamptonshire County Council store | Glass, pottery (1 box) | |
| Paper | | Site records (1 small archive box) | |
| Digital | | Client report PDF, digital images | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report) | | |
| Title | Archaeological trial trench evaluation at The Old Red Lion Clipston, Northamptonshire | | |
| Serial title & volume | 14/62 | | |
| Author(s) | Yvonne Wolfram-Murray | | |
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
AT THE OLD RED LION
CLIPSTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
OCTOBER 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) in October 2013 for Coles Architects, on behalf of their clients Riverwood Homes, prior to residential development on land at the former Old Red Lion Public House, Clipston, Northamptonshire. No archaeological deposits or artefacts predating the 19th century were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) was commissioned by Coles Architects, on behalf of their clients Riverwood Homes, to carry out archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Old Red Lion, Clipston, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 71088 81652, Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted to Studio Enterprise Ltd for the conversion of the former Public House to residential use and the construction of four dwellings on land to the rear of the building (DA/2013/0410).

The works were carried out in accordance with briefs issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (Mordue 2013 a, b and c) for a programme of archaeological building recording and trial trench evaluation to be undertaken in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The building recording was undertaken simultaneously with the trial trenching and results of this are presented in a separate volume (Wolfram-Murray 2014). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

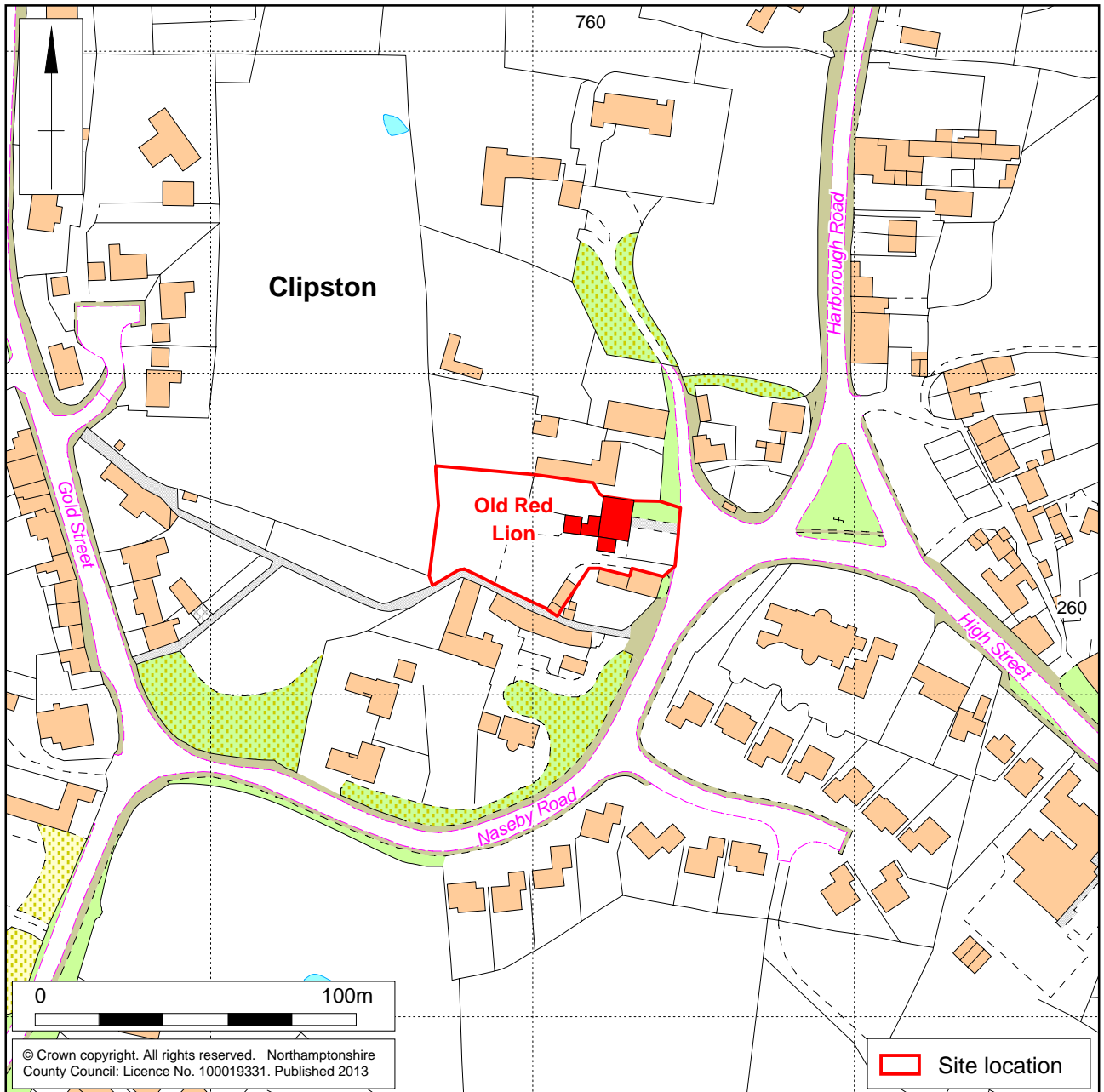
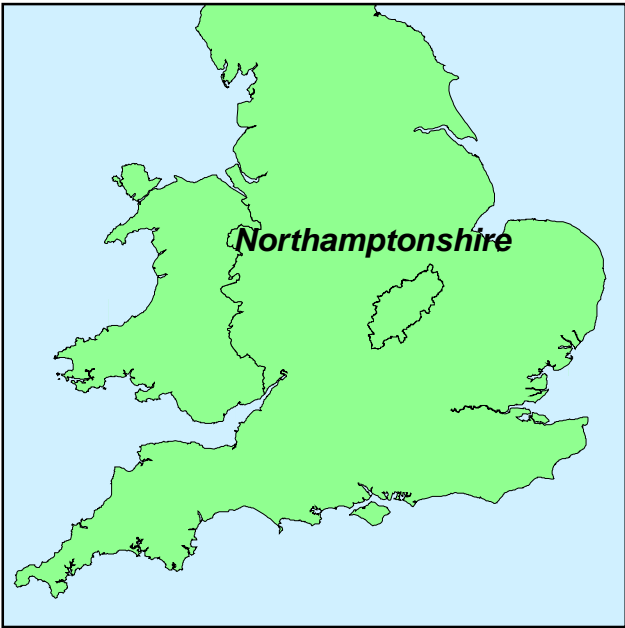
Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994b, revised 2008), the procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)* and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 1991; 2006).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Clipston is in the northern part of the county of Northamptonshire and approximately 6km to the south-west of Market Harborough. The development area lies within the centre of the village on the western side of The Green (NGR SP 71088 81652, fig 1). It is situated at an approximate height of 142m aOD and the ground slopes down from west to east.

The underlying geology comprises Whitby Mudstone overlain by mid-Pleistocene till (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index/html).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

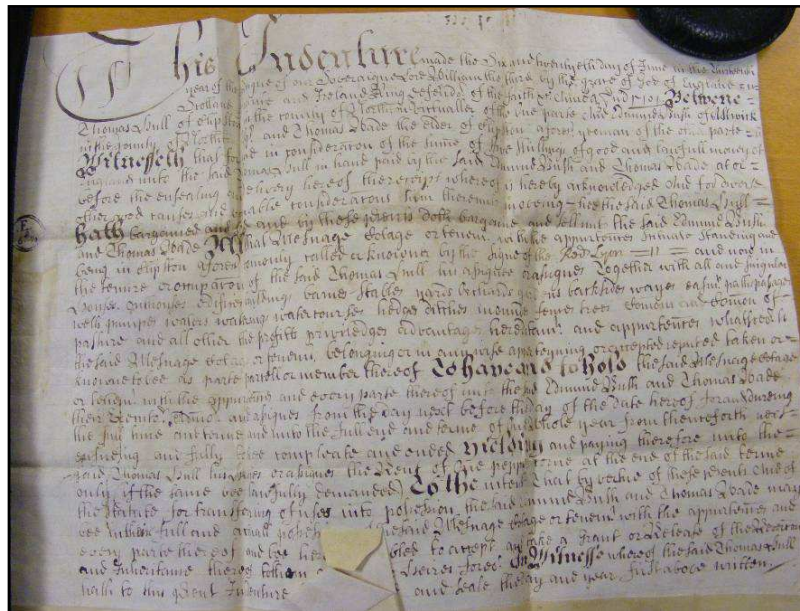
Roman remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the village. Also a Saxon burial was uncovered in the 19th century in the south-eastern part of the village.

Clipston is a shrunken medieval village with possible Saxon origins which contains and is surrounded by well-preserved settlement earthworks and associated ridge and furrow which are of national importance (MNN135209). Earthworks associated with the deserted medieval village of Nobold lie to the immediate west of the village (MNN5865).

Clipston is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Clipestone'. The village is listed as part of land of the King - King William I, land of the Bishop of Coutances, land of St. Edmund's and land of William Peverel. The oldest part of the village is centred on the High Street and Church Lane, the church can be dated to the 12th century.

The public house is located at 12 The Green. The site of the building lies in an area of the village which is thought to be part of a planned extension to the historic core to the south-east comprising three north-south aligned streets. Two of these survive as Chapel Lane and Harborough Road, the third may still be visible as a hollow-way equidistant between the two and north of the development area (Collier and Thompson 2009).

In the early 18th century the Old Red Lion was possibly one of four public houses operated in Clipston (Collier and Thompson 2009). Documentary search of the Northampton records office has revealed a lease dating to 1701, for a year (Fig 1). The document describes a public house, 'the Red Lyon' to be situated of the village green (Collier and Thompson 2009). The lease also included outhouses, barns, stables, yard and an orchard.

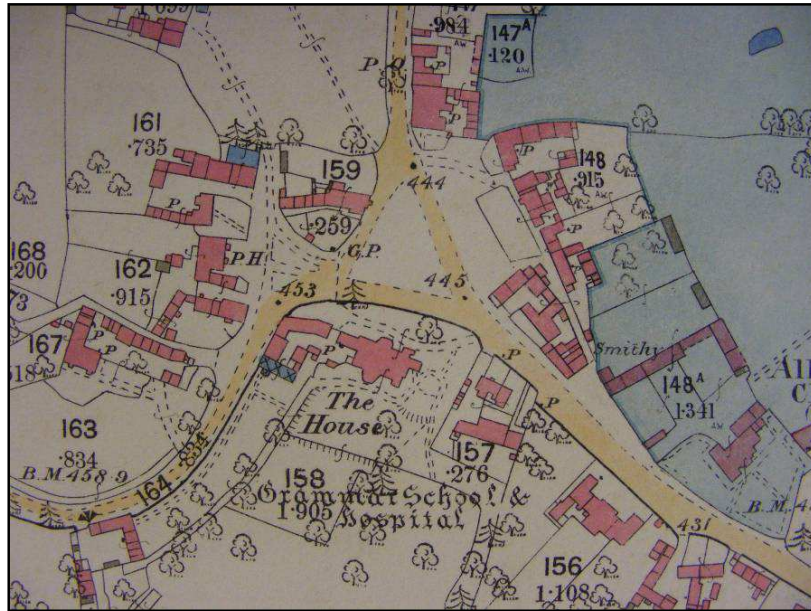


A lease dating to 1701 Fig 2

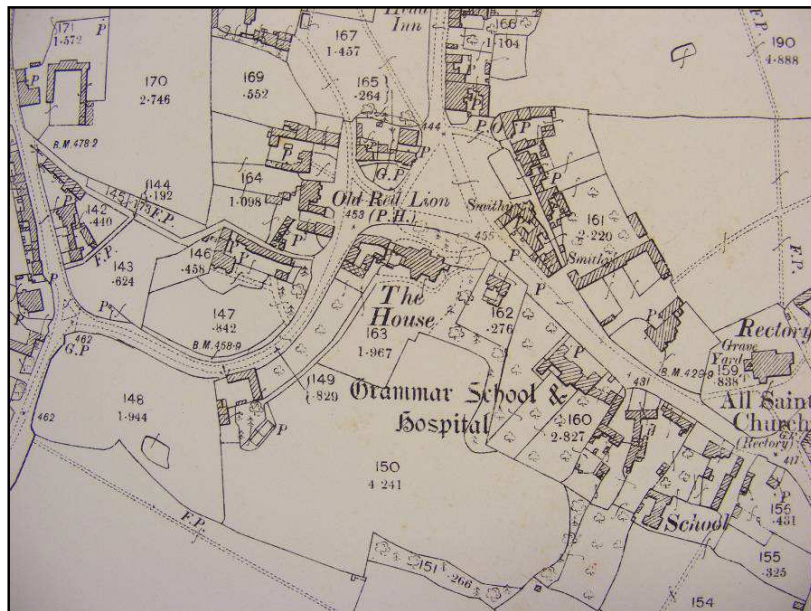
In the 19th century it was still operated as a Public House. Whelan's 'History of Northamptonshire' (1849) names Mary Buswell the victualler of the Old Red Lion. The Kelly's Directory names James Buwself as the victualler in the second half of the 19th century, by the beginning of the 20th century the Pub was run by Judd Williams (Kelly's Directory 1906). The pub closed in January 2012 (planning documents).

A cartographic search revealed maps dating to the early 19th century (visionofbritain.org.uk), which were not overly clear. The maps depict houses at the location but the outlines are generic and therefore it is to establish any changes to the building.

The public house appears on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map and is named as the Old Red Lion on the 1900 edition. The maps depict the building with its current outline, house and extensions (Figs 3 and 4). Additionally two houses stood adjacent to pub, which are depicted on the 1968 Ordnance survey map and an aerial photograph, possibly taken in the 1960, (Fig 5). These may have been demolished in the 1970s. The maps also depict the store and further outbuildings. The building is not listed, but is referred to in the Clipston Village Design Statement as a Non-listed Important Building.



1885 Ordnance Survey map Fig 3



1900 Ordnance Survey map Fig 4



Aerial photo of pub with demolished buildings (possibly 1960s) Fig 5

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

It is the principal aim of the archaeological evaluation to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource. This will be achieved through trial trench evaluation.

Trial trench evaluation is designed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of any important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically the aims were to:

- determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present;
- determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

The relevant research agendas were considered during the course of the evaluation (English Heritage 1991 & 1997; Knight *et al* 2012).

Three (3) trial trenches, one 13m long and two 11m long, each 1.8m wide, totalling 35m, were excavated. This amounted to approximately 3% of the proposed development area. All areas of ground disturbance were accurately surveyed in using Leica 1200 GPS survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey (Fig 6).

Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated by machine using a toothless bucket wide, to reveal archaeological remains or, where absent, undisturbed natural horizons.

Each trench was cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features. All archaeological features were investigated. All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Sections through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was maintained using black and white film supplemented by digital photography. Photographic views of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Each trench was photographed, together with views of individual features.

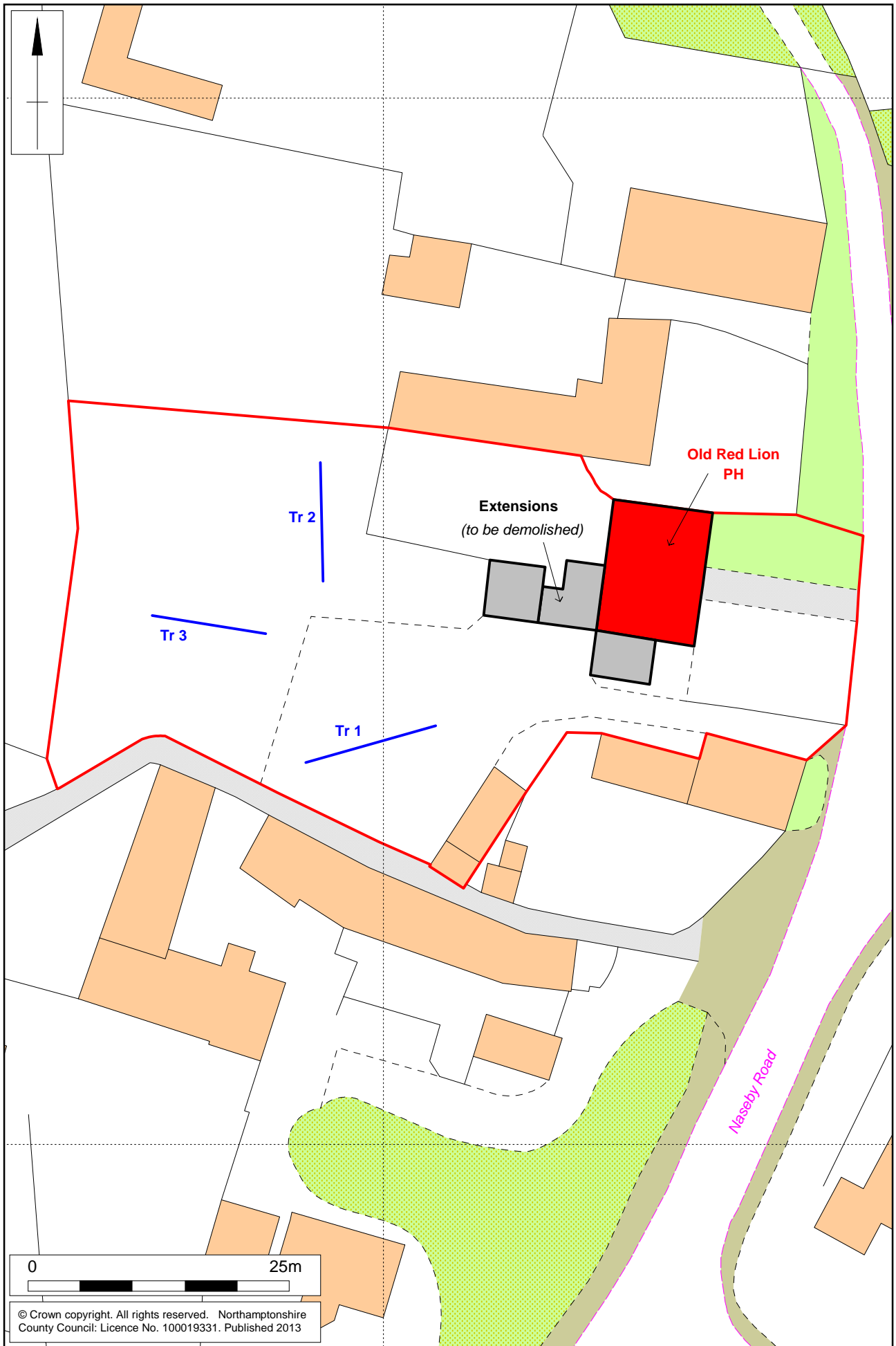
Finds were collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions, by context. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located within the pub car park (see Appendix for details) (Figs 6 to 10). The trench was excavated down to blue-grey organic clay (108), a possible paleo-channel, which was overlain by yellow-green clay (107) and a buried soil (104). These were cut by Pit [106], 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep. This was filled by dark grey-brown loam containing brick fragments, coal and ash. The pit was also filled with 19th and 20th century glass bottles.

In the eastern end of the trench, also overlaying the pit was a limestone gravel layer (103). This was overlain by a make-up layer comprising large stones and brick rubble (102). The surface of the car park was a fine gravel layer (101).



Scale 1:500

Trench locations Fig 6



Trench 1, looking west Fig 7



Section of Trench 1 with Pit [106], looking south Fig 8



Stratigraphy in Trench 1, looking north Fig 9

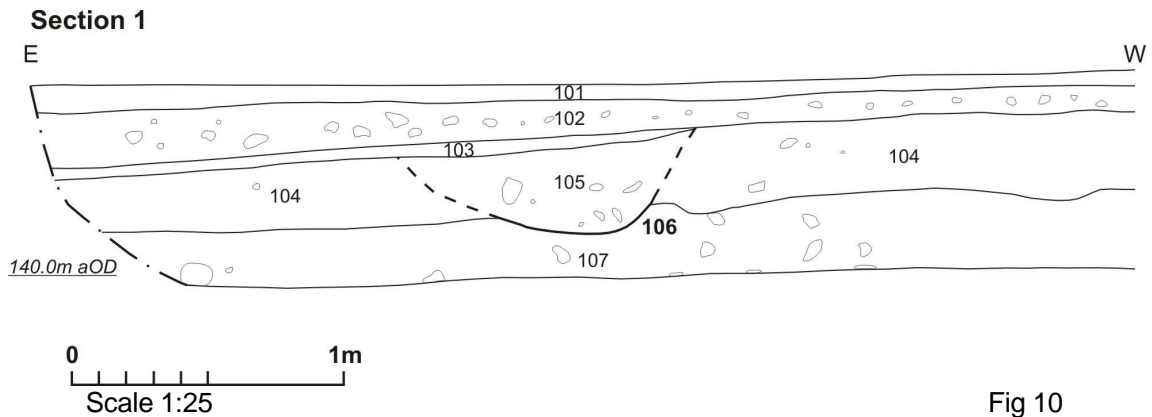


Fig 10

4.2 Trenches 2 and 3

Trenches 2 and 3 were located within the pub garden. The natural substrate consisted of green-brown clay (Figs 6, 11 and 12). In the garden area, Trenches 2 and 3, this was overlain by mid brown gravelly clay containing brick and tile fragments. The topsoil was dark brown-grey loam (see Appendix for details). A wine flask dating to the 19th century was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3.



Trench 2, looking south-east Fig 11



Trench 3, looking west Fig 12

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Tora Hylton

A glazed black earthenware sherd with a metallic lustre was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3. The pottery sherd dates to the 19th/20th century.

5.2 The glass by Tim Upson-Smith

A sample of the more complete glass bottles was collected from Pit [106]. The seven bottles date to the 19th and 20th centuries. They include wine and cordial bottles. The base of a 19th century wine bottle was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 3.

6 DISCUSSION

Three trial trenches were opened behind the former public house; two were located in the garden and one in the car park. The two trenches in the garden revealed the natural substrate overlain by subsoil containing brick fragments and a topsoil. In Trench 3 the base of a 19th-century wine bottle was found with a 19th/20th century earthenware sherd in the subsoil.

Trench 1 revealed a 19th/20th-century rubbish pit dug through a buried soil and clay layer. It was filled with many glass bottles. This was overlain by a gravel layer, possibly representing an old surface. The area of the car park was raised before the car park surface gravel was laid down.

Otherwise no archaeological deposits or artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were found. Nor were any previous structures located, the trench locations did not coincide with possible outbuildings shown on the Ordnance Survey maps.

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MOLA

10 March 2014

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | 12m x 1.8m NE-SW | | 140.7m aOD | 1.28m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/samples |
| 101 | Surface | Fine gravel, car park of car park surface | 0.75m thick | - |
| 102 | Make-up layer | Medium to large stone and brick rubble | 0.67m thick | - |
| 103 | Gravel layer | Fine gravel; dark grey-brown clay loam, frequent inclusion of limestone gravel | | - |
| 104 | Buried soil | Dark grey-brown clay loam, brick and limestone fragments | 0.50m thick | China and glass fragments 19 th and 20 th century not retained |
| 105 | Fill of [106] | Dark grey-brown clay loam; brick fragments, coal and ash | - | 19 th century glass bottles |
| 106 | Cut of Pit | Possibly circular, U-shaped profile | 0.70m wide 0.20m deep | - |
| 107 | Clay | Yellow-green clay | 0.20m thick | - |
| 108 | Natural | Blue-grey natural | - | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 | 11m x 1.8m N-S | | 141.7m aOD | 0.75m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/samples |
| 201 | Topsoil | Dark brown-grey loam, occasional stone fragments; heavy root disturbance | 0.60m thick | - |
| 202 | Subsoil | Mid brown gravelly clay, brick and tile fragments, pebbles | 0.10m thick | - |
| 203 | Natural | Green-brown clay | - | - |

| Trench No | Length, width & alignment | NGR | Surface height | Depth of natural |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | 11m x 1.8m E-W | | 141.6m aOD | 0.95m |
| Context | Context type | Description | Dimensions | Artefacts/samples |
| 301 | Topsoil | Dark brown-grey loam, occasional stone fragments; heavy root disturbance | 0.65m thick | - |
| 302 | Subsoil | Mid brown gravelly clay, brick and tile fragments, pebbles | 0.30m thick | - |
| 303 | Natural | Green-brown clay | - | - |



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