



**Archaeological observation, investigation and
recording on land at 17 Chelveston Road
Raunds, Northamptonshire
April and May 2013**

RCR 13

Report No. 14/85

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort1-177217	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) between April and May 2013 for Mr and Mrs Wood during the construction of a new residential dwelling on land rear of 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire. Two features of possible medieval date were recorded.		
Project type	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type and period	-		
Significant finds	Medieval pottery sherd		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	17 Chelveston Road, Raunds		
Post code	-		
OS co-ordinates	SP 99100 71805		
Area (sq m/ha)	7930sq m		
Height aOD	62m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Managers	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Wood		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	17 April 2013		
End date	7 May 2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	MOLA Northampton store	Pottery	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	14/85		
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Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at 17 Chelveston Road Raunds, Northamptonshire April and May 2013

Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) between April and May 2013 for Mr and Mrs Wood during the construction of a new residential dwelling on land rear of 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire. Two features of possible medieval date were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Wood to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording in April and May 2013 during the construction of a new residential dwelling with integral garage on land to the rear of 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire (SP 99100 71805, Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted.

The works were required as part of a planning consent in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council requested that the impact of development on heritage assets potentially present on the site be mitigated through a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the work (Leigh 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant County Archaeological Advisor to Northamptonshire County Council.

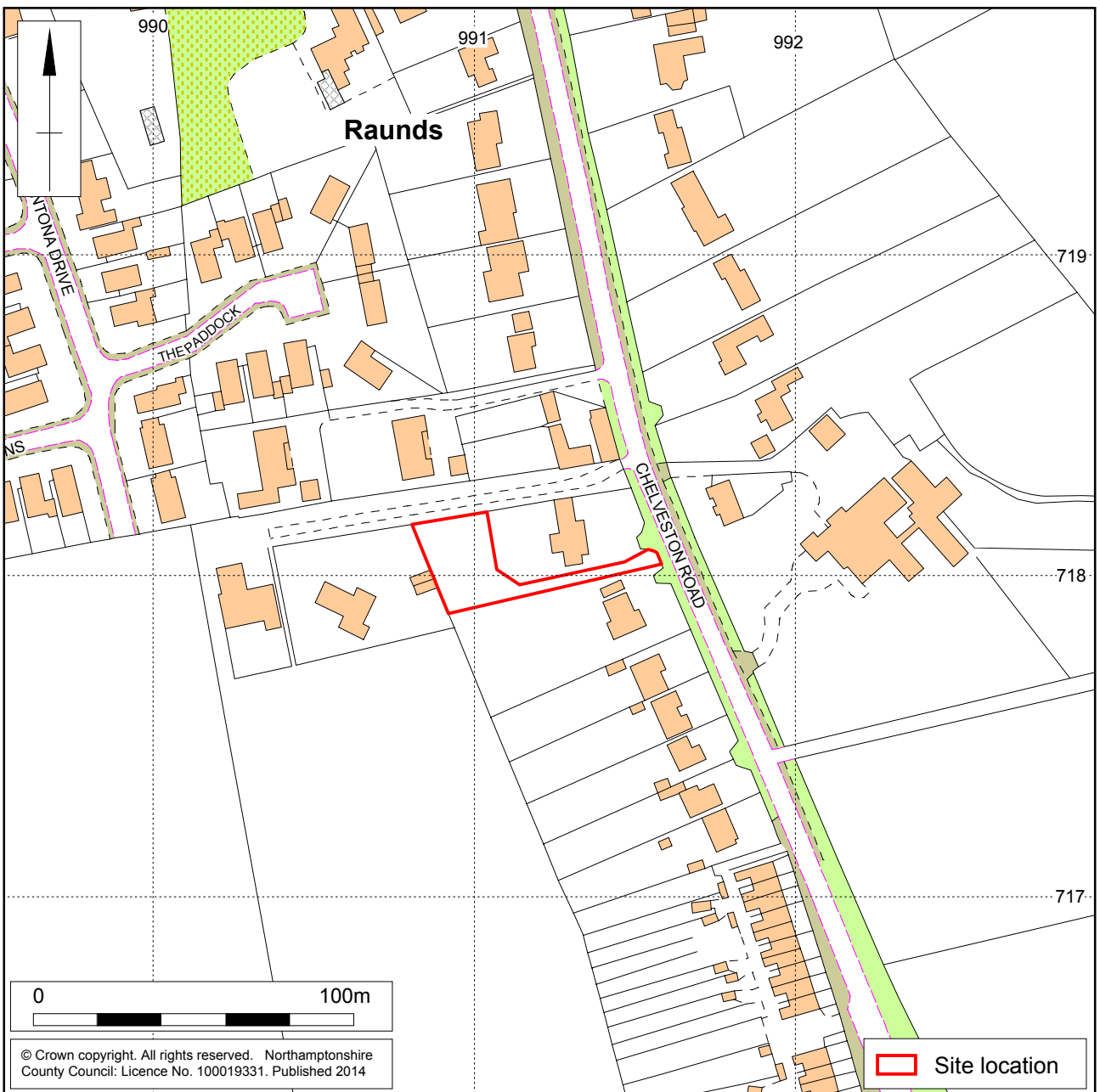
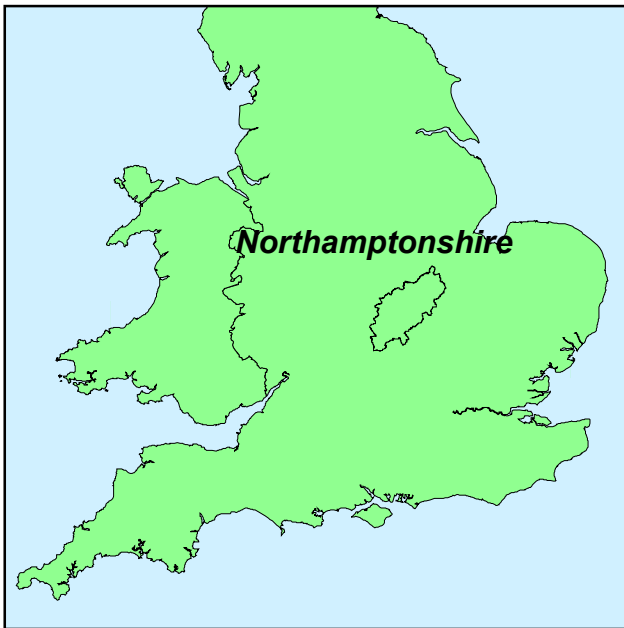
MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. The work was carried out in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Raunds lies approximately 23km to the south-east of Kettering. The development area lies on the southern side of the town on relatively level ground at a height of 62m aOD.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Cornbrash Limestone (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies on the southern boundary of the town in an area which developed during the 20th century. The town is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Rande*.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest where aerial photography has identified a number of cropmarks of uncertain date. A possible enclosure lies to the west of the site, whilst linear features and enclosures have been identified on the eastern side of Chelveston Road.

Approximately 680m to the north-east of the site lies Thorpe End (National Monument No: 11508) where evidence of settlement dating from the Iron Age, Saxon and medieval periods has been identified through archaeological survey and excavation (Parry 2006).

Evidence of pre-enclosure agricultural activity survives in the form of ridge and furrow on the eastern side of Chelveston Road.

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 the private garden belonging to 17 Chelveston Road.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the investigation were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new dwelling and integral garage and any associated groundworks;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Recover any artefacts that may assist in the development of pottery type series within the region;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images, colour slides and black and white photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009).

The development site comprised an area of c 7930m² (Figs 2 and 3), it was undertaken in April and May 2013 during the groundworks associated with the proposed development. This comprised of excavation of trenches down to foundation levels of the sewer trench and the new dwelling.

The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a combination of both toothed and toothless buckets. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The sewer trench

A sewer trench was excavated along the new access road on the southern side of the existing house. The natural substrate comprised blue-grey clay at a depth of 1.40m below the present ground level at the eastern end of the trench, westward this rose to 0.76m below the present ground level where the natural changed to a fragmented pale brown stone (Fig 2).

At the eastern end to the trench, cutting the natural substrate, were two features. Pit/ditch [104] was 1.00m wide and 0.15m deep, and pit/ditch [106] measured 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. The features were filled with brown-black sandy loam containing occasional irregular stones (103) and (105). A single possible 12th or 13th-century pottery sherd was recovered from fill (105). The natural substrate and features were overlain by mid brown-grey sandy loam (Fig 3).



Sewer trench, looking east Fig 2



Features [104] and [106] in south facing section Fig 3

4.2 The house foundation

To the rear, in the former garden of 17 Chelveston Road the new house foundations were excavated (Fig 4). At foundation depth of 1.60m, c 0.50m of blue-grey natural substrate and a further 0.50m mid grey-brown clay gravel natural substrate was recorded. This was overlain by was c 0.40m thick subsoil and 0.20m of mid grey-brown sandy loam (Fig 5).



General view of the house foundations, looking north-west Fig 4



Stratigraphy in the foundation trenches, looking east Fig 5

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Andy Chapman

There is a single small sherd of pottery, weighing 6g, from the fill (105) of a possible pit. The sherd has a grey core and an orange-brown outer surface, and contains dense crushed shell, typically 1-2mm across. It comes from the base angle of a wheel-thrown/finished vessel, but there is insufficient surviving to enable a positive identification, especially given the usage of shell as an inclusion in local coarse pottery through the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. It is suggested that the sherd is probably a Medieval Shelly Coarseware (CTS Fabric 330) of the 12th or 13th centuries.

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared and consolidated for deposition.

Table 1: Summary of the site archive

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Digital photographs	18
B &W photos	10
Colour slide	10
Context Sheets	6
Small finds box	1

7 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on the machine excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new residential dwelling with integral garage on land to the rear of 17 Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire was carried out.

During the excavation of the sewer trench, at a depth of 1.40m of two features were recorded. Health and safety considerations due to the narrowness and depth of the trench meant the features could not be fully investigated. Therefore it was not possible to establish the exact nature of feature other than that they were the bases of ditches or pits. A pottery fragment of possible medieval date was recovered from one of the features.

Undisturbed soils were uncovered to the rear in the garden during the excavation of the house foundations. No pre-modern deposits or artefacts were present.

The conditions were good and observation of the excavated groundworks was possible throughout the machine excavation.

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