



**An archaeological test pit evaluation  
on land at 8 Harbidges Lane  
Long Buckby, Northamptonshire  
April 2014**

Site Code: LB HAR 14

Report: 14/109

Author: Jim Burke

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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Text: Jim Burke

Pottery: Tora Hylton

Ceramic building material Pat Chapman BA CMS AIfA

Illustration: James Ladocha BA

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. molanort1-179987</b>	
Project title	An Archaeological test pit evaluation on land at 8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire		
Short description	Six test pits were excavated across a proposed development site on land at the rear of 8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. A possible post-medieval or medieval field boundary was recorded in one test pit.		
Project type	Test Pit evaluation		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Agricultural land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Agricultural features – medieval to post-medieval		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby		
Post code	NN6 7QL		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 62388 67645		
Area (sq m/ha)	Approximately 0.2ha		
Height aOD	c 129m AOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke (MOLA)		
Project Managers	Mark Holmes (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Ross Macindoe		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	14/04/2014		
End date	14/04/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	LB HAR 14	Pottery and CBM (1 small archive box)	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF, digital photos	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	An archaeological test pit evaluation on land at 8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire May 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/109		
Author(s)	Jim Burke		
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>THE FINDS</b>	
7.1	<b>Medieval and post-medieval pottery</b>	By Tora Hylton
7.2	<b>Ceramic building materials</b>	By Pat Chapman
<b>8</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
	<b>APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES</b>	

## Tables

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

## Figures

Front cover: The development area looking south-west

Fig 1: Site location, scale 1:00000

Fig 2: Trench plan, scale 1:500

Fig 3: Test pit 3, with ditch [305], looking west

Back cover: The development area looking north-west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EVALUATION**  
**8 HARBIDGES LANE, LONG BUCKBY**  
**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
**May 2014**

**ABSTRACT**

*Six test pits were excavated across a proposed development site on land at the rear of 8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. A possible post-medieval or medieval field boundary was recorded in one test pit.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA was commissioned by Mr Ross Macindoe to carry out archaeological test pit excavation on a proposed development site at the rear of 8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby (Fig 1). The scope of works was outlined in the brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council County Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2014) and detailed in the written scheme of investigation prepared by MOLA (2014). The works were undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The development area comprises a block of land fronting Holmfield Terrace to the south and Harbidges Lane to the east. The site lies to the rear (west) of numbers 8 and 8a, 10 and 12 Harbidges Lane, in the centre of Long Buckby, and is surrounded by residential properties. It lies at approximately 127-131m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology is mapped as Whitby mudstone formation with sand, silt and gravel (BGS GeoIndex).



### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the investigation was to confirm the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the application area and establish their extent character and date.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide:

- Identify and investigate the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any known, suspected and as yet unknown archaeological features/deposits which may be present on the site whilst avoiding unnecessary loss and/or fragmentation of the archaeological resource as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI);
- Provide sufficient information within the report to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy and appropriate management of the archaeological resource, likely to be affected by the proposed development.

Specific research objectives may be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991 and Knight *et al* 2012) as relevant, depending upon the results of the evaluation.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological importance, lying within the historic settlement of Long Buckby. The area in which the site sits may have been one of the earliest settled parts of the village; the more irregular, curvilinear plan form suggesting Saxon, rather than medieval origins (Foard and Ballinger 2000).

During the medieval period Long Buckby appears to have been situated on an important route between Cambridge and Northampton to Coventry and it may have been the presence of this that prompted the construction of a castle in the late 11th or 12th centuries. The route of this road is thought to have been aligned along where Holmfield Terrace now lies. The castle, which lay some way to the east of the site, had probably been abandoned by the late 13th century. A market was granted to Long Buckby in 1280, but the settlement differs from other market villages in the county in having no other urban attributes.

The Extensive Urban Survey for the village suggests that the site lies within a former medieval tenement row (Foard and Ballinger 2000). However, it is likely the proposed development area occupies land that sits back from the street frontages, and may have ancillary structures or garden features associated with the row. The potential for surviving features was represented when an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land immediately south of the proposed development area. This identified the remnants of stone walls, metalled surface and ditches which may relate to medieval boundaries and structures (Chinnock 2012).

Although the road was turnpiked and re-routed in the 18th century, the wool industry, particularly woolcombing, had become increasingly significant by the mid 18th century. However, this industry declined rapidly thereafter and by the early 19th century the village appears to have been one of the poorest in the county (Foard and Ballinger 2000). The boot and shoe trade was introduced in the 1830s and it is this trade that formed the core industry of the village until the 20th century.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

The six test pits, each measuring approximately 2m by 2m, were excavated using a tracked mini digger excavator fitted with a 0.80m wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2).

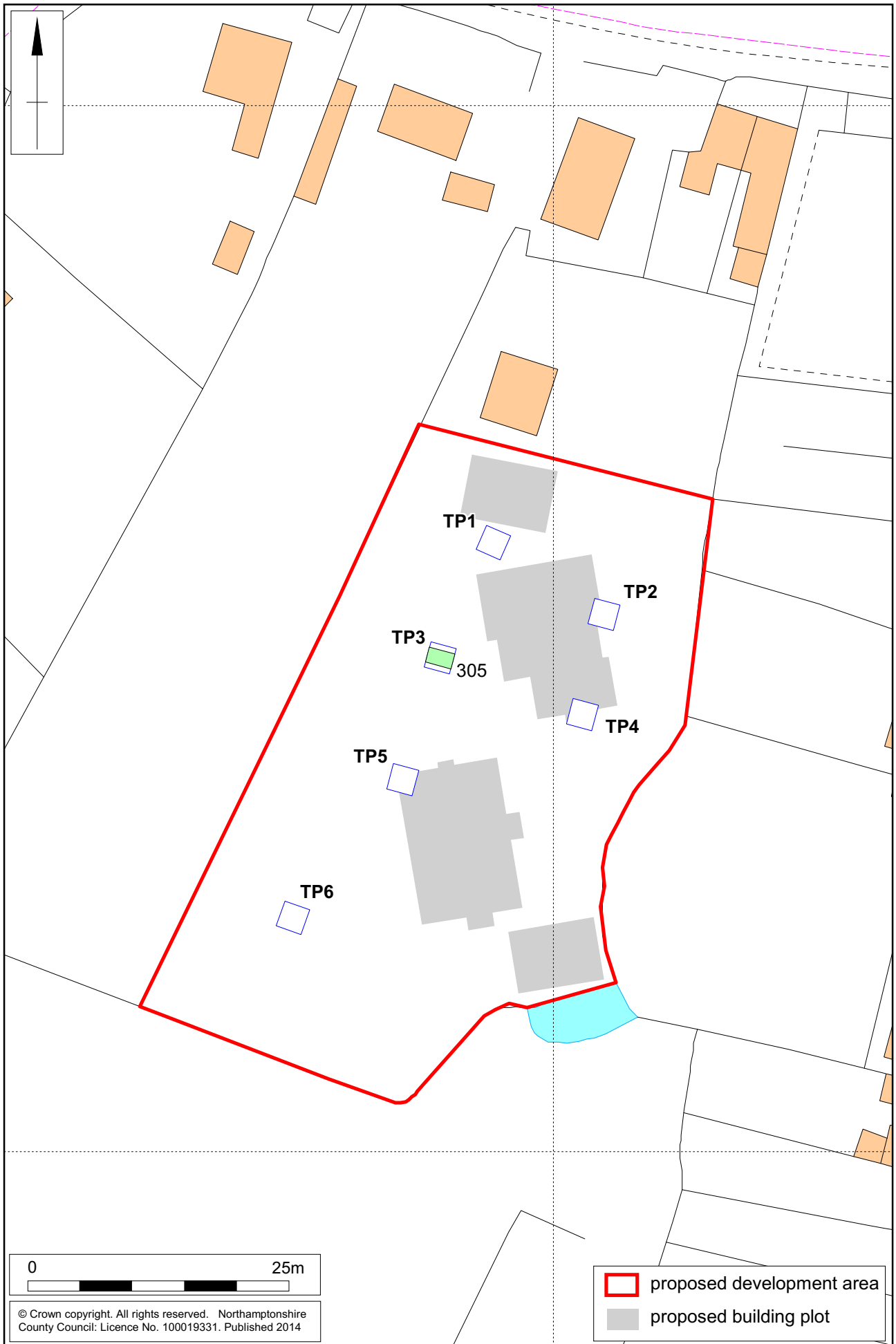
The test pits were surveyed using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of  $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ . Test pits were relocated to avoid tree remains and recently site clearance. All test pits were excavated under constant archaeological supervision to reveal archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated test pit.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines, following the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).

Each trench was hand cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features, unless it was certain that there were no archaeological remains present.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts identified during the course of evaluation were recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014b). Levels were related to the Ordnance Datum.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned by metal detector. Photographs were taken of all trenches and any relevant deposits on 35mm monochrome print film, high resolution digital images were also taken.



Scale 1: 500

8 Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby

## 6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The general topography across the site comprised a natural horizon of orange-brown sandy clay, overlaid by 0.12m - 0.28m of grey-brown loam subsoil, this was sealed by 0.28m - 0.30m of dark brown topsoil. All the test pits had evidence of heavy tree root disturbance and planting beds intrusions, from the various uses of the land. Only test pit 3 contained an archaeological feature.

Test pit 3 contained a single ditch [305] aligned roughly east to west. It was 1.78m wide and approx 0.47m deep, with gradual sloping sides with a broad uneven base (Fig 3), the main fill of the ditch had been truncated by heavy root disturbance, seen within the topsoil and subsoil. Pottery and ceramic building material recovered from the ditch indicates a medieval to post-medieval date.



Test pit 3, with ditch [305], looking west

Fig 3

No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the other test pits.

## 7 THE FINDS

### 7.1 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Tora Hylton

Seven sherds of pottery weighing 57g were recovered from ditch [305] in test pit 3. Six of the sherds are medieval in date and they are in locally produced fabrics recovered regularly from medieval sites throughout Northamptonshire and beyond. This small group includes a single rim sherd from a large storage vessel in Shelly coarseware (CTS 330) and a five sherds (from the same storage vessel) in buff fabric with a grey core, originating from the kilns at Potterspury (CTS 329) and dating to AD 1100-1400. A single rim sherd of coloured porcelain from a small tea plate or saucer, dating to the c19th century, was recovered from the same deposit.

*Table 1: Quantification of pottery*

Fabric Type (Northamptonshire CTS No)	Fill/cut	
	304 / ditch 305	
	No	Weight (g)
<b>Medieval pottery</b>		
Shelly Coarseware c1100-1400 (CTS 330)	1	15
Potterspury Ware c1250-1600 (CTS 329)	5	40
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
Porcelain c 19th century	1	2

### 7.2 Ceramic building materials by Pat Chapman

One small roof tile sherd, weighing 30g, came from a ditch [305] in test pit 3. The sherd was 10mm thick and made from hard, fine, silty orange-brown clay.

A brick corner fragment, weighing 87g, also came from ditch [305] in test pit 3. It was handmade from hard fine sandy orange-brown clay with some small grog and occasional narrow buff streaks. There is a trace of white lime mortar on one surface.

These fragments probably date from the 18th or 19th centuries.

## 8 CONCLUSION

The evaluation indicates that there are no significant archaeological remains within the investigated area with the exception of a single ditch possibly relating to a medieval or post-medieval field boundary.

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MOLA

30 May 2014

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES**

Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.28m	-
102	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.13m	-
103	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	-	-



Test pit 1, looking west

Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.28m	-
202	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.14m	-
203	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	-	-



Test pit 2, looking west

Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.28m	
302	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.28m	
303	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	-	
304	Fill of [305]	Grey-brown sandy clay, gravels, cobbles and root disturbance		Pottery, brick and tile
305	Ditch	Linear east-west ditch with gradual sloping sides with concave base	1.78m wide 0.47m deep	



Test pit 3, looking west



Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.30m	
402	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.12m	
403	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	-	



Test pit 4, looking west

Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.29m	
502	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.24m	
503	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	0.10m	



Test pit 5, looking west

Test pit No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	2m x 2m, NW-SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Dark brown loam, frequent gravels, cobbles and roots	0.30m	
602	Subsoil	Grey-brown loam, frequent gravels roots and modern disturbance	0.28m	
603	Natural	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent gravels, flint and chalk	0.15m	



Test pit 6, looking west



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