



**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording  
and analysis at Green Farm, 10 High Street  
Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire  
May 2014**

Report No. 14/108

Author: Simon Markus

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording  
and analysis at Green Farm, 10 High Street  
Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire  
May 2014**

Report No. 14/108

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	09/06/2014	Pat Chapman	Anthony Maull	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

Author: Simon Markus

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

© MOLA Northampton 2014

MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN  
01604 700 493  
[www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)  
[sparry@mola.org.uk](mailto:sparry@mola.org.uk)

## **STAFF**

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch  
Supported by David J Leigh BA

Text: Simon Markus BA

Fieldwork: Simon Markus

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

Medieval pottery: Tora Hylton

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. Molanort1-181068</b>	
Project title	An archaeological strip, map and recording action on land at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire		
Short description	A programme of archaeological strip, map, and sample investigation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new swimming pool on land at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire. Roman pottery was retrieved from the upper fill of one ditch and further ditches were dated to the 13th century, undated postholes were also recorded.		
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, investigation, recording and analysis		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/period	Ditches/medieval		
Significant finds	Medieval pottery		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois		
Post code	NN12 8PL		
OS co-ordinates	460150 246994		
Area (sq m/ha)	135m <sup>2</sup>		
Height aOD			
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Simon Markus		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull with David J Leigh		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Elkington		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	13/05/2014		
End date	13/05/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	WLGf 14	None	
Paper	MOLA Northampton office	Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire, May 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/108		
Author(s)	Simon Markus		
Page numbers	8		
Date	May 2014		

# Contents

1	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
2	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
2.1	Topography and geology,
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
3	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>
4	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>
5	<b>THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE</b>
6	<b>MEDIEVAL POTTERY</b> by Tora Hylton
7	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>
	<b>APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY</b>

## Tables

Table 1:	Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type
----------	---

## Figures

Front cover:	General area shot, looking south-east
Fig 1:	Site location
Fig 2:	The excavation area showing archaeological features
Fig 3:	Sections 2 and 4
Fig 4:	Ditch [109], looking north
Fig 5:	Ditch [107], looking south-east
Fig 6:	Ditch [105], looking north-east
Fig 7:	Posthole [111], looking north-east

# Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire May 2014

## *Abstract*

*A programme of archaeological strip, map, and sample investigation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new swimming pool on land at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire. Roman pottery was retrieved from the upper fill of one ditch and further ditches dated to the 13th century, undated postholes were also recorded.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Elkington to provide archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Green Farm, 10 High Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire (Fig 1; NGR 460150 246994). The work was carried out in advance of development of the site.

The excavation followed an approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by Leigh (2014) following a request for archaeological observation and investigation required by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in a brief for archaeological work (Mordue 2014). It adhered to the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and *MoRPHE* (EH 2006).

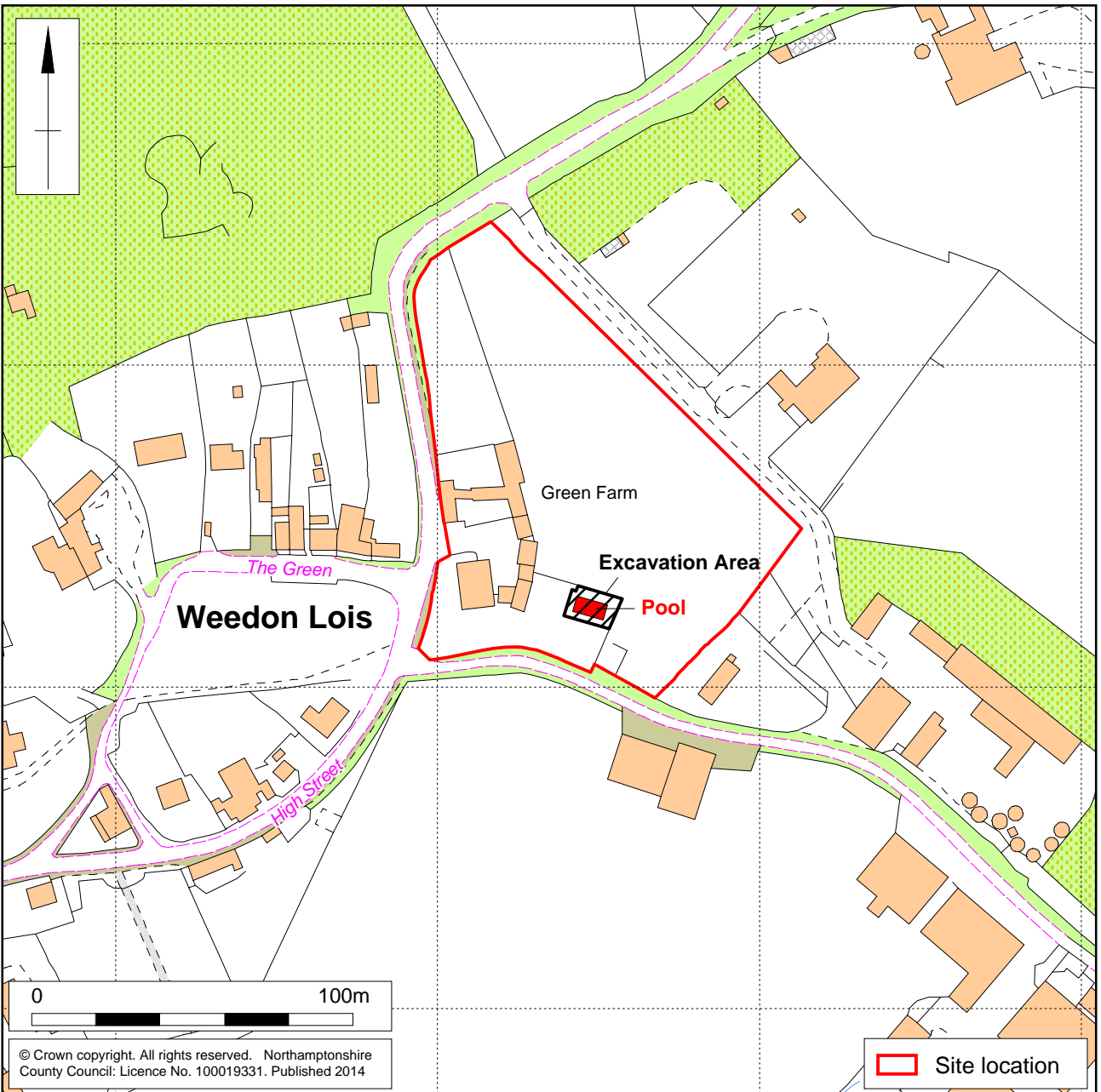
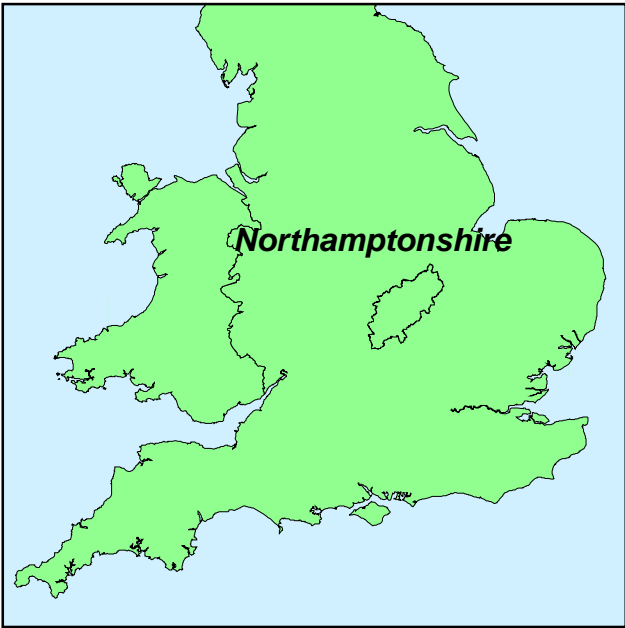
This report has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010). Work was carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **Topography and geology**

Weedon Lois is located in south Northamptonshire, and the development area is located in the east of the village. The site is bounded to the south by High Street, to the north and east by garden space and to the west by Green Farm. The proposed work covers an area of approximately 135m<sup>2</sup>.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Boulder Clay (BGS Geoindex)



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within the village of Weedon Lois, which is an area of archaeological interest.

Less than 1km to the north of the village there is a potential Roman settlement, determined by the presence of Roman pottery sherds (RCHME 1982).

Weedon Lois is Saxon in origin, the village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD, where it is recorded as *Wedone*. Close-by to the south and south-west of the development area lie the remains of the medieval settlement of Weedon Lois and a series of fishponds thought to have belonged to a Benedictine Priory established at Weedon Lois during the reign of King Henry I (1100AD – 1135AD) as an outpost of the Abbey of St Lucien, Beauvais. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the priory church became the parish church of Saints Mary and St Peter. Earthworks in the field to the south of Church Close appear to show buildings and other features associated with the priory.

An earthwork known as Castle Hill, now a Scheduled Monument (SAM 13663) is situated just to the west of the development site. This comprises a ring-work thought to date from the late 11th century. Medieval pottery sherds and structural remains are recorded from the area around Castle Hill.

Earthworks of medieval date comprising low banks, possibly defining two enclosures, lie to the south of Green Farm. The present farm is a stone building of 18th century date, associated with this is a walled garden and stables, all of which are Grade II Listed.

Up to the present application the site has comprised an area of the domestic garden belonging to Green Farm.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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 swimming pool 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;
- Recover paleo-environmental remains to assist in the determination of local environmental conditions;
- Establish the relationship of any archaeological deposits within the wider contemporary landscape;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.



#### 4 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 Watching Brief* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) . Where appropriate the research frameworks were borne in mind (Knight *et al* 2012).

Within the development area, the topsoil and, where applicable, 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 (Fig 2).

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 MOLA Northampton *Archaeological fieldwork manual* (2014).

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives was maintained, supplemented with digital images.

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).

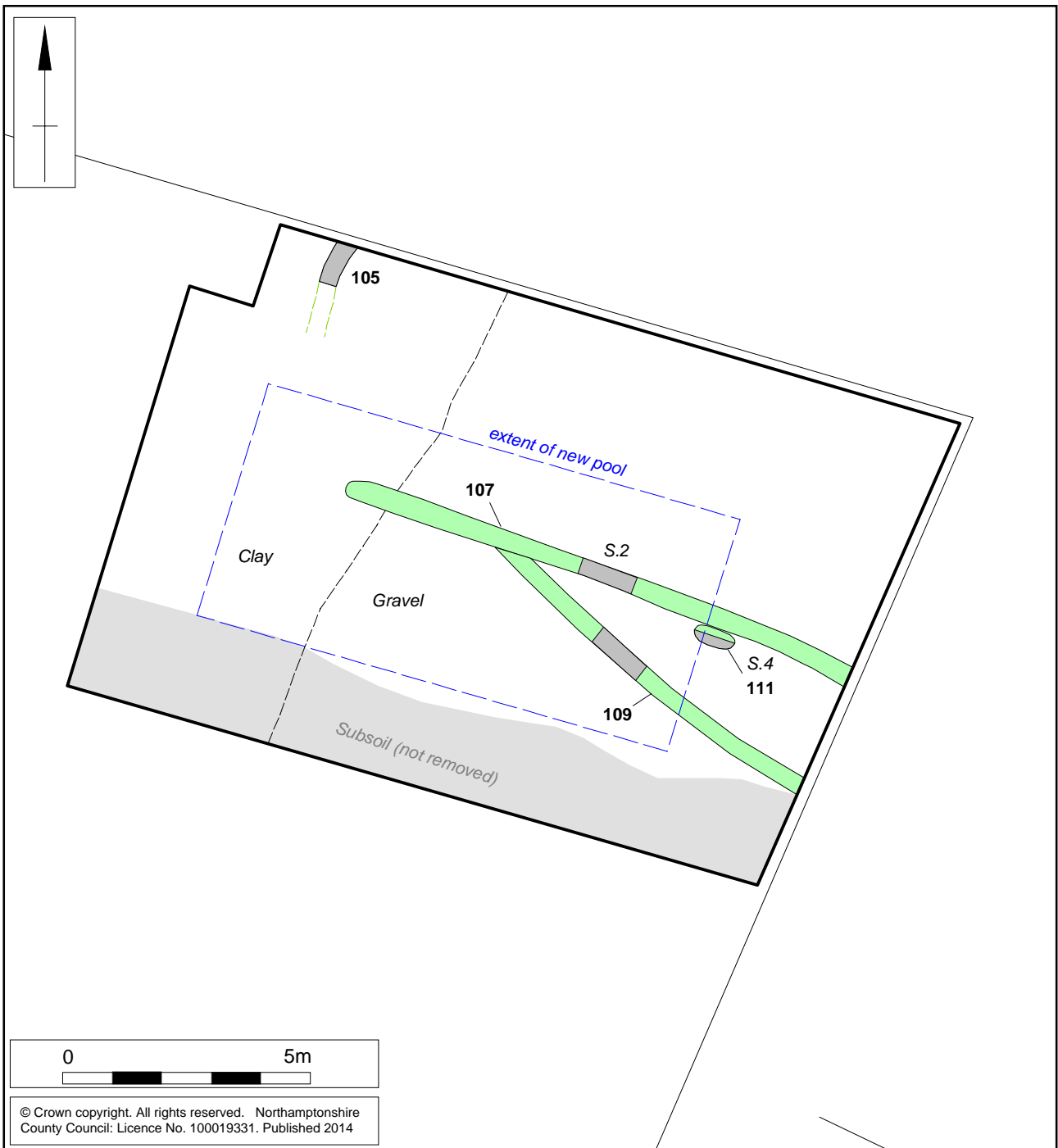
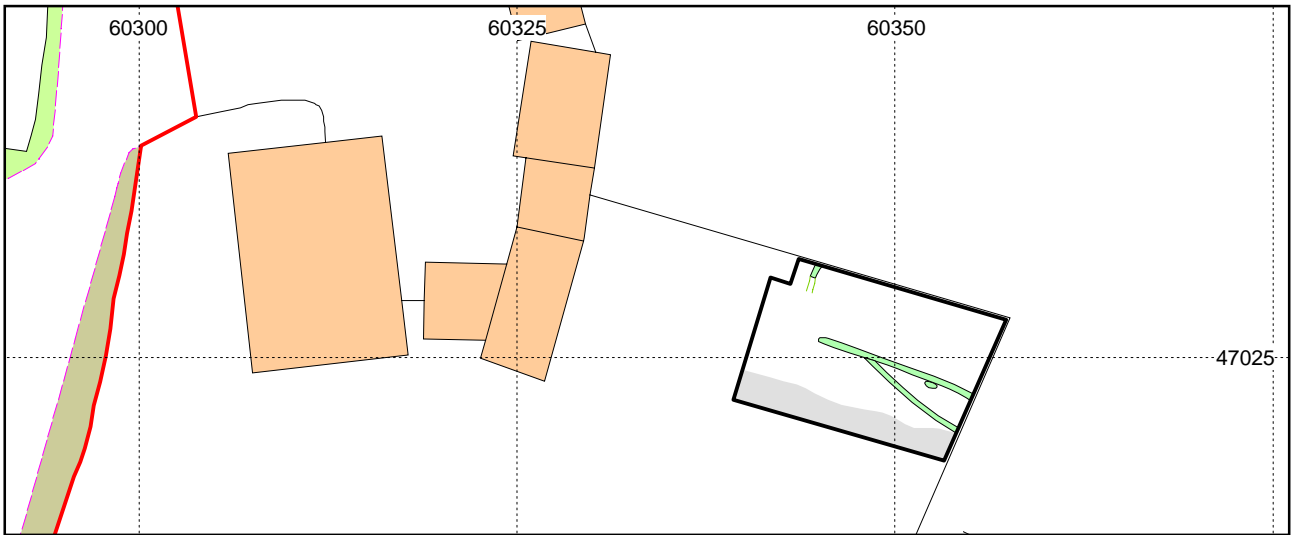
#### 5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The natural substratum (103) was a mixture of orange clayey sand with 25-30% gravels and mid grey silty clay. This was overlain by subsoil (102) consisting of mid grey silty clay, with 2-3% small gravel inclusions. The topsoil (101) consisted of dark brown clay-loam, with 2-3% gravel inclusions.

There was a small U-shaped ditch [109] 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned north-west to south-east, with a fill (108) of mid grey silty clay with 5% small gravel inclusions, <1% charcoal flecks, and a single sherd of Roman pottery (Fig 4). This feature was cut by a U-shaped ditch [107], which was 0.65m wide and 0.24m deep, aligned east-west (Fig 3, section 2). The fill (106) comprised of dark grey silty clay with 5% gravel inclusions, <1% charcoal flecks, and 13th century pottery (Fig 5).

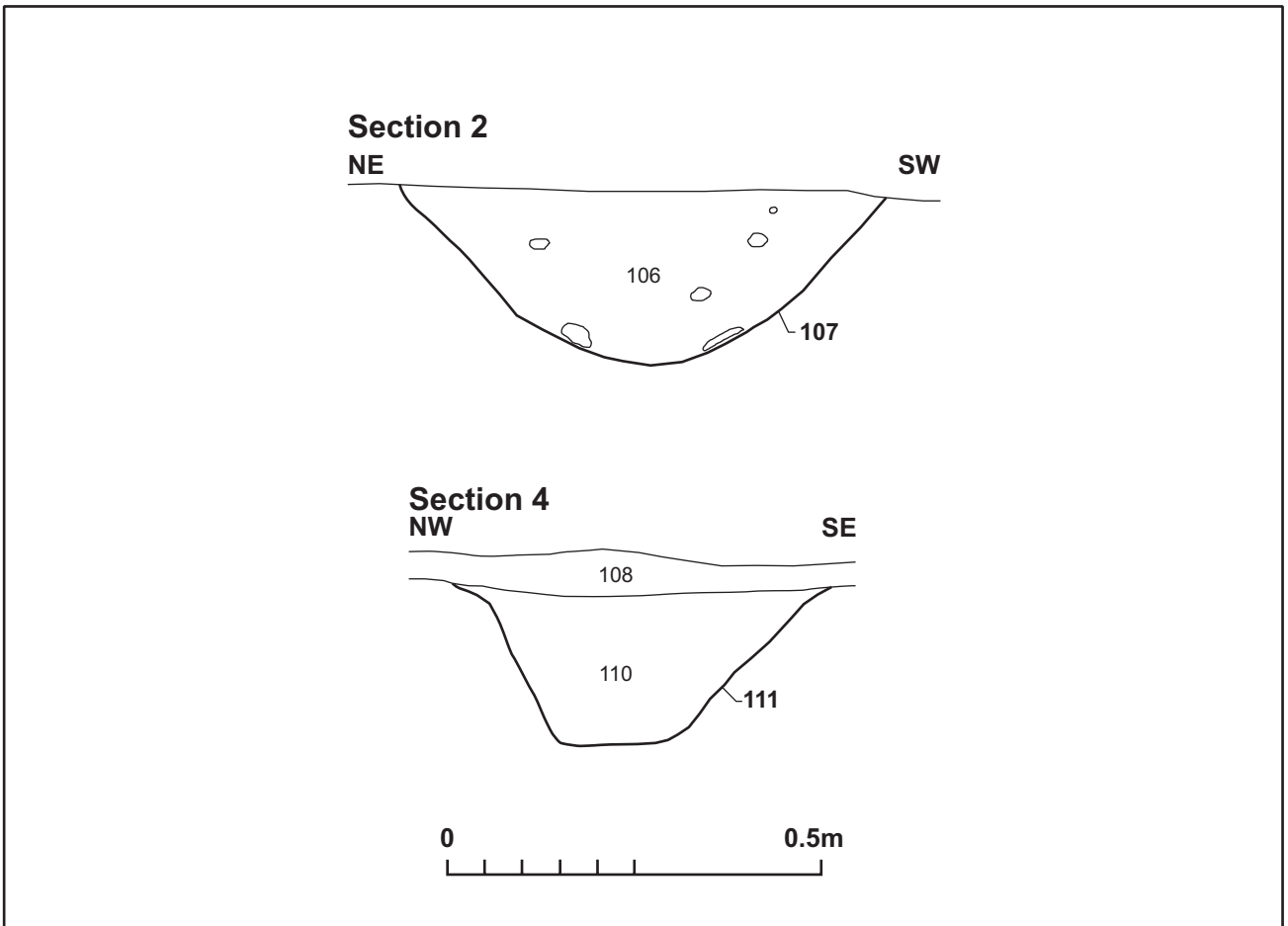
In the north-west corner of the site was a short length of U-shaped ditch [105] with eroded upper edges, 1.20m wide and 0.38m deep, aligned north-east to south-west, with a fill (104) of mid grey silty clay with 5% gravels, <1% charcoal flecks, and 13th-century pottery (Fig 6).

Towards the east of the site was a single sub-circular posthole [111] with eroded upper edges, 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with a fill (110) of mid grey silty clay with 2-3% gravel inclusions (Figs 3, Section 4, and 7). This was cut by ditch [107].



Scales 1:500 & 1:125

The excavation area showing archaeological features Fig 2



Scale 1:10

Sections of ditch [107] and posthole [111] Fig 3



Ditch [109], looking north (scale 0.5m) Fig 4



Ditch [107], looking south-east (scale 0.5m) Fig 5





Ditch [105], looking north-east (scale 1.0m) Fig 6



Posthole [111], looking north-east (scale 0.5m) Fig 7

## 6 MEDIEVAL POTTERY by Tora Hylton

The pottery assemblage comprised 32 sherds with a total weight of 412g. It was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F329: Potterspurly Ware, AD1250 – 1600 28 sherds, 360g.

F373: Brackley Whiteware 13th – 14th c 3 sherds, 38g.

In addition, a single sherd (14g) of wheel-thrown, fine shell-tempered ware of late Iron Age or early Roman date was also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fill / cut	LIA/RB		F329		F373		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
104 / 105	-	-	5	44	3	38	M13th century
106 / 107	-	-	23	316	-	-	M13th century
108 / 109	1	14	-	-	-	-	LIA/RB
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	

All the fabrics are typical finds in the region, are in good condition, and appear reliably stratified. Most of the pottery from fill (106) of ditch [107] (20 sherds, 274g) is from a single vessel, a Potterspurly Ware jar, and most of the sherds re-fit. It appears to be a primary deposit.

## 7 DISCUSSION

A single sherd of Late Iron Age / Roman pottery was retrieved from the surface of one of the ditches potentially dating it to this period or later. There is a small amount of known occupational evidence around Weedon Lois from this period, however, not much has been recorded.

It is unknown which phase of activity the posthole relates to. It was cut by one of the latest features on site and therefore could date to any time up to the mid 13th century. It is also difficult to ascertain a use for this without a larger investigation to establish if any more were present.

The two ditches dated to the 13th century may have been plot boundaries or subdivisions within plots within the medieval village, with a possible entrance set in the corner. However, with a limited area of investigation it is difficult to prove this.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government

EH 2009 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* English Heritage Procedural Document

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation*, English Heritage

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Nottingham Archaeology Monographs, 6

Leigh, D, J, 2014 *Written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works on land at Green Farm, 10 high Street, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire*, MOLA Northampton

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA Northampton

Mordue 2014 *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works on land at Green Farm, Weedon Lois, Northamptonshire*

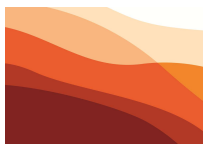
RCHME 1982 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, IV, Archaeological sites in South-West Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England

MOLA  
10 June 2014

## APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES

<b>Trench 1</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown clay-loam with 5% small gravels	D: up to 0.40m	--
102	Subsoil	Mid grey silty clay with 2-3% small gravels	D: up to 0.15m	--
103	Natural	Mixed mid orange clayey sand with 25-30% small-medium gravels, and mid grey silty clay with <1% small gravels	--	--
104	Fill of [105]	Mid grey silty clay with 5% small gravels and <1% charcoal flecks	D: 1.20m W: 0.38m	Pottery
105	Ditch	Linear, U-shaped ditch with a step at the upper edge on both sides, rounded base	D: 1.20m W: 0.38m	--
106	Fill of [107]	Dark grey silty clay with 5% small gravels and <1% charcoal flecks	D: 0.65m W: 0.24m	Pottery
107	Ditch	Linear, U-shaped ditch with rounded base	D: 0.65m W: 0.24m	--
108	Fill of [109]	Mid grey silty clay with 2-3% small gravels and <1% charcoal flecks	D: 0.60m W: 0.24m	Pottery
109	Ditch	Linear, U-shaped ditch with rounded base	D: 0.60m W: 0.24m	--
110	Fill of [111]	Mid grey silty clay with 2-3% small-medium gravels	D: 0.50m W: 0.20m	--
111	Posthole	Sub-circular with a flat base	D: 0.50m W: 0.20m	--





MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN  
01604 700 493