



**Archaeological observation, investigation
recording and analysis of land at
Burnham Bungalow, Hemington
Northamptonshire
December 2014**

Report No 14/264

Author: Tim Sharman

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: MOLANORT1 -198391	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land at Burnham Bungalow, Hemington, Northamptonshire December 2014		
Short description	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton during construction work at Burnham Bungalow, Main Street, Hemington, Northamptonshire. The one archaeological feature present was a shallow post-medieval ditch.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Former bungalow and garden		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval		
Significant finds	Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Burnham Bungalow, Main Street, Hemington.		
Easting Northing	508987 285213		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.1 ha		
Height aOD	75m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, NCC		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr A Measures		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	01/12/2014		
End date	08/12/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical		Watching brief forms, permatrace plans	
Paper			
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Unpublished client report			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land at Burnham Bungalow, Hemington, Northamptonshire December 2014		
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New building foundations with partly-demolished Squirrel Cottage in background looking south-east

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Fig 2: Area of observation

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Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during construction works at Burnham Bungalow (formerly Squirrel Cottage), Hemington, Northamptonshire. The one archaeological feature present was a shallow ditch likely to be post-medieval in date.

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted to Mr A Measures for the demolition of an existing bungalow, Squirrel Cottage, and the construction of a new dwelling, Burnham Bungalow, on land at Main Street, Hemington, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 08987 85213; Fig 1).

A condition on the planning consent stated there was a requirement for archaeological investigation in accordance with Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This document had been prepared by MOLA in response to a brief from the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council issued on 25 March 2014 (Mordue 2014).

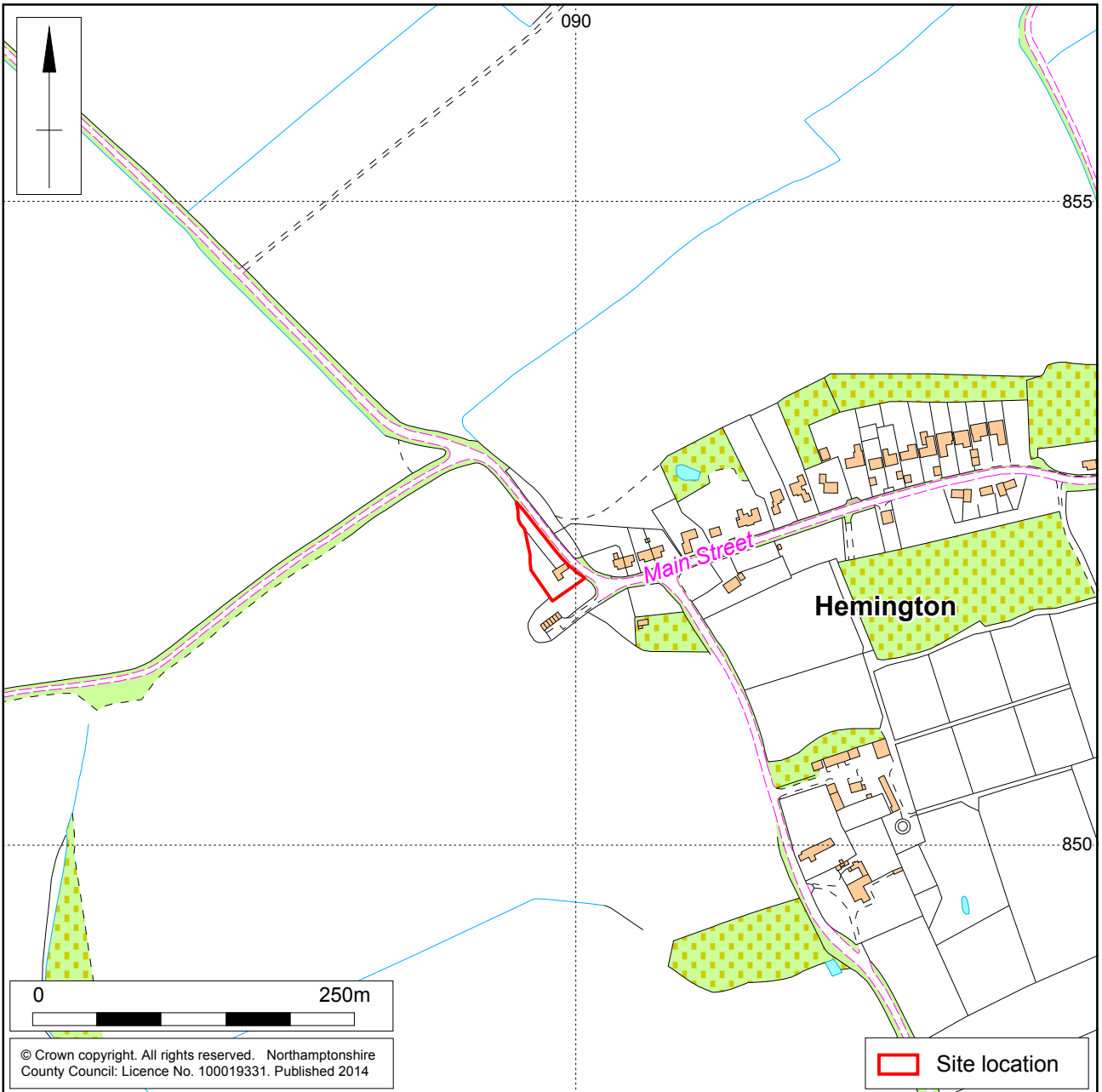
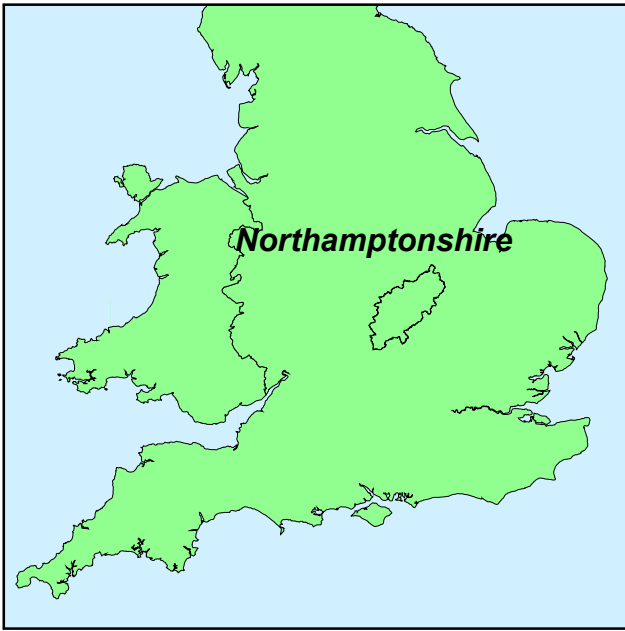
MOLA is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This document has been prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

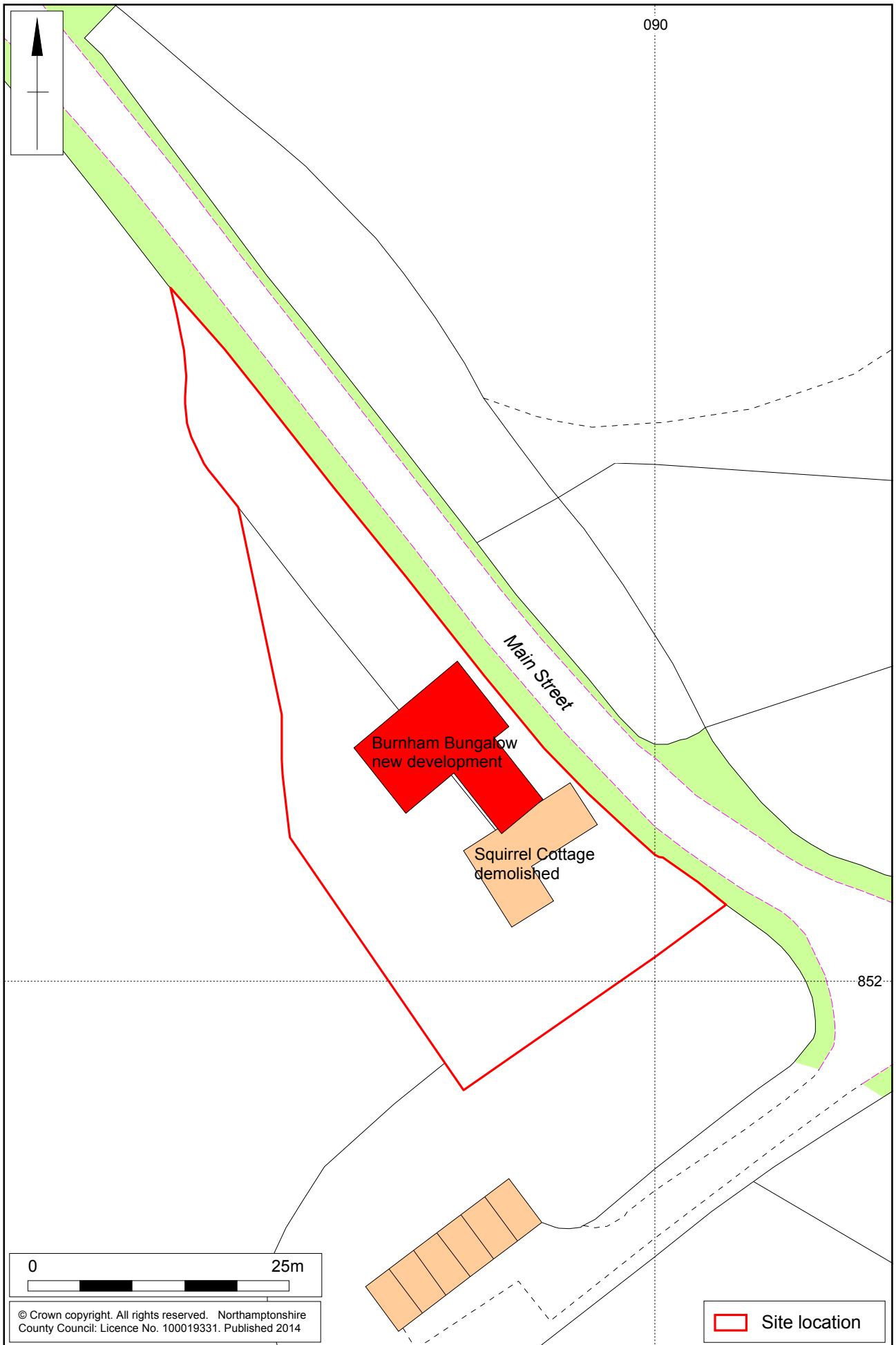
Hemington is located within the County of Northamptonshire approximately 32km north-east of Kettering. The site lies on the west side of Main Street on relatively level ground, at a height of approximately 75m aOD.

The local geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Oxford Clay Formation, Mudstone overlain by Oadby Member Diamicton (BGS Geotindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geotindex>).



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 500

Area of observation Fig 2

2.2. Historical and archaeological background

The site lies in the village of Hemington and within an area of archaeological interest.

The earliest recorded archaeological remains recorded comprise extensive cropmarks which lie to the south and south-east of the village and which may be of prehistoric date.

Archaeological investigations to the south-west of the village at Ellands Farm recorded a series of linear enclosures ranging in date from the Middle to Late Iron Age up to the 3rd century AD (Morris 2005). Further work at Ellands Farm in April and July 2014 revealed no archaeological features, although one sherd of Romano-British pottery and four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil (Clarke & Simmonds 2014).

Another area of extensive earthworks, recorded to the south of Main Street, are suggestive of medieval settlement and appear to have been abandoned by the 18th century. Archaeological remains in the form of linear features have been recorded entering the site from the west and south.

The Scheduled Monument of Beaulieu Hall, which dates from the 17th century, is located at the eastern end of the village. It is believed that the hall stands on the site of the medieval manor.

The now-demolished Squirrel Cottage which formed part of the area of investigation was at one time the site of the village smithy. The Ordnance Surveyors map dating from 1810 shows the location of a building within the development area. A later map, the first edition Ordnance Survey, shows a building labelled 'Smithy'. Architectural evidence appeared to demonstrate that originally the building did not have a residential use and at some time, possibly in the early part of the 20th century, it was converted to a bungalow and named Squirrel Cottage.



Excerpt from 1810 Ordnance Surveyors map Fig 3



Excerpt from 1880s Ordnance Survey map Fig 4

Up to the present, the investigation area has comprised an area of domestic garden, with an overlap in footprint between Squirrel Cottage and the footprint of the new dwelling (Fig 3).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 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 construction of the new dwelling 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;
- ◆ 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.



The site, with the partly-demolished Squirrel Cottage looking south Fig 5

3.2 Methodology

Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. The photographic record comprised 35mm black and white film and digital images.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2014) and *Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

Within the observation area, ten footings trenches for the construction of Burnham Bungalow were observed in generally good weather conditions on two separate occasions during December (Fig 2). The footings trenches were excavated using a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket. The groundwork areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features, if present.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The footings trenches were mostly excavated to formation level, between 0.80m and 0.90m below ground level, except for the south-western corner of the site (the junction of Trenches 2 and 6) where the footing trenches were excavated to 1.30m below ground level. The general stratigraphic sequence observed in the footing trenches was as follows: the natural substrate was generally greenish-brown clay with numerous small chalk and limestone pebble inclusions. Overlying this natural layer was a 0.25m thick layer of yellowish-brown sandy clay loam subsoil above which was a 0.3m thick layer of garden soil consisting of dark grey sandy loam with a few small limestone inclusions and numerous tree roots.

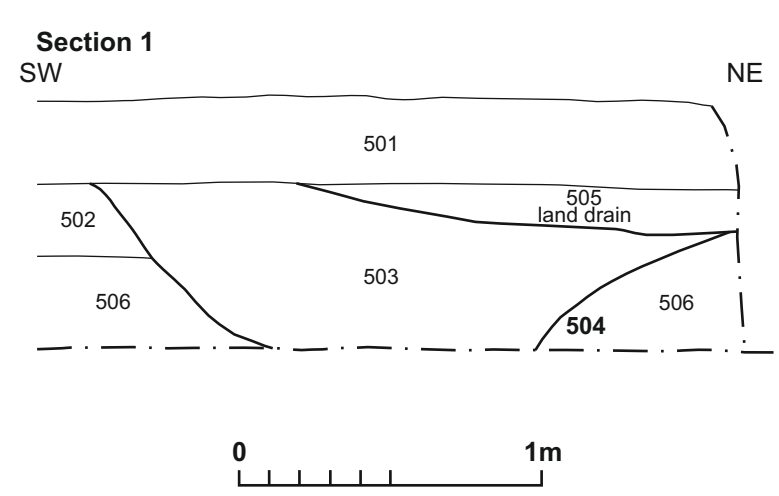
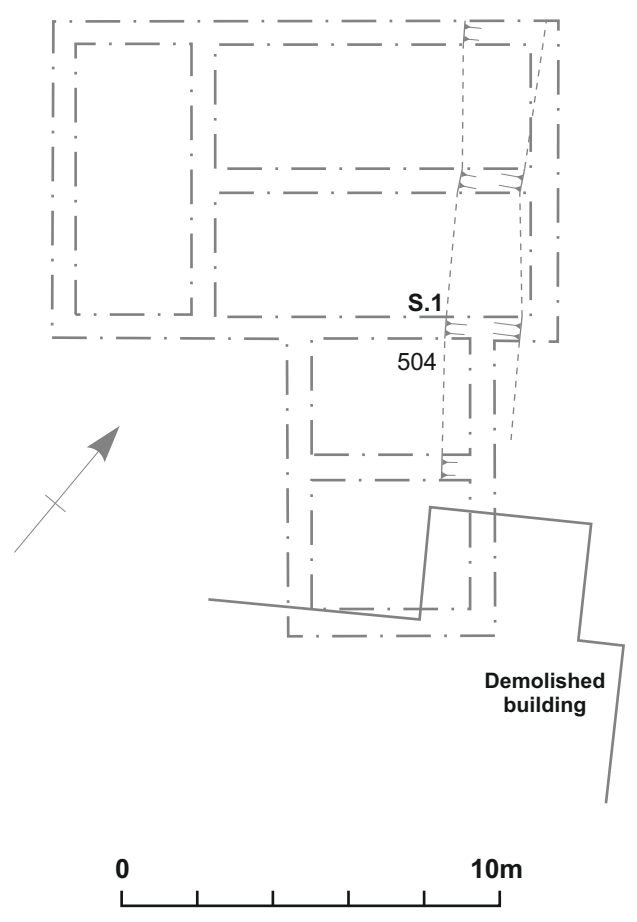
4.1 The ditch

A linear ditch [204, 304, 504, 904], likely to be of post-medieval date, was identified during the monitoring of the footings trenches (Figs 4, 5, section 1 and Fig 6). The length of ditch exposed was 12m, aligned north-west to south-east, and approximately 2m wide by 0.50m deep. The ditch contained a fill of grey-brown sandy clay loam with a few small fragments of limestone and coal (203, 303, 503, & 903). Three fragments of clay tobacco-pipe stem were recovered from the fill of this ditch in three separate locations (203, 503 & 903).

Overlying the ditch within Trench 5 was a layer of mid brown sandy clay loam (505) containing a ceramic field drain, possibly of 19th century date (Fig 5).



Trench 2, ditch (204), looking south-east Fig 6



Scale 1:200 (plan) & 1:25 (section)

Foundation trenches and ditch 504 Fig 7



Trench 5, ditch (504), looking north-west Fig 8



Squirrel Cottage, former external stone wall, looking south-east Fig 9



Squirrel Cottage, showing bull-nosed bricks on former doorway, looking east Fig 10

4.2 Squirrel Cottage

Following the demolition of the greater part of Squirrel Cottage, the opportunity was taken to examine the structure of the remainder of this building. It was noted that the core of the building consisted a small rectangular structure, approximately 6m long by 4m wide, with mortared limestone rubble walls (Fig 7). The original doorways and windows were edged with bull-nosed bricks which were concealed at a later date when the building was remodelled and extended during its conversion to a bungalow at some time, possibly in the early 20th century (Fig 8).

5 CLAY TOBACCO-PIPE BY TORA HYLTON

Three clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered, one each from three individual cuts [204, 504 & 904] through a post-medieval ditch which crossed the site. The stems measure up to 102mm in length and they display very little sign of abrasion or wear. The bores (hole through the pipe stem) range from 7 to 4/64ths of an inch, suggesting an early 18th to 19th century date for the fragments.

6 DISCUSSION

A linear ditch, likely to be of post-medieval date, was identified during the monitoring of the footings trenches. The three fragments of 18th or 19th-century clay tobacco-pipe recovered from the ditch would suggest it dates to this period. The presence of fragments of coal within the ditch fill may be contemporary with the former smithy clearly labelled on the 1880s Ordnance Survey which, after falling out of use, was incorporated into Squirrel Cottage.

Although the function of the ditch is unclear, it is possible that it formed a roadside drainage ditch as the nearby Main Street runs parallel with and 5m to the north of the ditch. Such a function may have been short-lived as the presence of a modern ceramic field drain running above the ditch fill suggests it was abandoned in favour of a different form of drainage. The presence of coal within the fill of the ditch could suggest that it was still extant during the period that Squirrel Cottage was the village smithy.

Evidence for a non-residential use for the earliest structure on the site of Squirrel Cottage was confirmed by the presence of bull-nosed bricks on the door jambs and window ledges. Such bricks were normally found in an agricultural or industrial context.

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MOLA Northampton

V1: 23 December 2014

V2: 8 January 2015

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
1	8.5m x 0.6m NW - SE			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
102	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
103	Layer	Greenish-brown clay with numerous small – medium chalk and limestone inclusions.	0.5m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
2	13.5m x 0.6m NE - SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
202	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
203	Fill	Grey-brown sandy clay with a few small limestone inclusions	0.5m thick	1 fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco-pipe
204	Ditch	Ditch with sloping sides, possibly a V-shaped bottom	1.5m wide x 0.6m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
3	8.5m x 0.6m NE - SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
302	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
303	Fill	Grey-brown sandy clay with a few small limestone inclusions	0.5m thick	—
304	Ditch	Ditch with sloping sides, possibly a V-shaped bottom	1.5m wide 0.6m deep	—

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
4	7m x 0.6m NW - SE			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
402	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
403	Layer	Greenish-brown clay with numerous small – medium chalk and limestone inclusions.	0.5m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
5	13.5m x 0.6m NE - SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
502	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
503	Fill	Grey-brown sandy clay with a few small limestone inclusions	0.5m thick	1 fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco-pipe
504	Ditch	Ditch with sloping sides, possibly a V-shaped bottom	1.5m wide 0.6m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
6	8.5m x 0.6m NW - SE			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
602	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
603	Layer	Greenish-brown clay with numerous small – medium chalk and limestone inclusions.	0.5-0.8m thick	—

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
7	7.5m 0.6m NW - SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
701	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.25m thick	—
702	Layer	Dark grey ash with small stone and coal inclusions	0.05m thick	—
703	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam with a few small limestone inclusions	0.1m thick	—
704	Layer? Fill?	Greyish-brown sandy clay loam with a few small limestone inclusions	0.45m thick	—
705	Layer	Greenish-brown sandy clay with a few small – medium limestone inclusions	0.1m thick	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
8	7.5m x 0.6m NW - SE			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	Layer	Grey loam with a few small limestone inclusions	0.2m thick	—
802	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.25m thick	—
803	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam with a few small limestone inclusions	0.2m thick	—
804	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	—

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
9	4m x 0.6m NE - SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
901	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.25m thick	—
902	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy clay loam	0.25m thick	—
903	Fill	Grey-brown sandy clay with a few small limestone and coal inclusions	0.5m thick	1 fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco-pipe
904	Ditch	Ditch with sloping sides, possibly a V-shaped bottom	1.5m wide 0.6m deep	—

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
10	5m x 0.6m NE - SW			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1001	Layer	Dark grey loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.25m thick	—
1002	Layer	Loose red brick and tile with some sand and mortar inclusions	0.35m thick	—
1003	Layer	Yellowish- brown sandy clay loam with some small limestone inclusions	0.3m thick	—
1004	Layer	Greenish-brown sandy clay with some small chalk, flint and limestone inclusions	0.15m thick	—



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