



Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis on land off Club Lane, Woodford Northamptonshire

Author: Adam Reid

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis on land off Club Lane, Woodford Northamptonshire

Event number: TBC

Report No. 15/69

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	20.04.15	Pat Chapman	Mo Muldowney	Andy Chapman	Draft for planning archaeologist review

Author: Adam Reid

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

© MOLA Northampton 2015

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Liz Muldowney MA

Text: Adam Reid BSc MSc

Fieldwork: Yvonne Wolfram Murray BSc PhD
Adam Reid
Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

The pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

The animal bone: Adam Reid

Other finds: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort-209245	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis on land off Club Lane, Woodford April 2015		
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, and recording was carried out by MOLA during construction works on land off Club Lane, Woodford, Northamptonshire. A pit and a series of made-ground layers were observed in the stripped area containing finds of medieval to modern date.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Unused Ground		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval		
Significant finds	Pottery; Animal Bone; Glass, Clay Pipe		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Club Lane, Woodford		
Easting Northing	SP 9684 7687		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.3 ha		
Height aOD	55m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Adam Reid (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr M Nightingale		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	08/04/2015		
End date	10/04/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical		Watching brief forms, permatrace plans	
Paper			
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
	Unpublished client report		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis on land off Club Lane, Woodford, Northamptonshire April 2015		
Serial title & volume	15/69		
Author(s)	Adam Reid		
Page numbers	18		
Date	April 2015		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
2.1	Location and geology	1
2.2	Historical and archaeological background	3
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	4
3.1	Objectives	4
3.2	Methodology	4
4	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	7
5	THE FINDS	10
5.1	The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn	10
5.2	The animal bone by Adam Reid	12
5.3	The other finds by Tora Hylton	12
6	DISCUSSION	11
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	

Figures

Front Cover:	Stripping the site
Fig 1:	Site location
Fig 2:	The excavation area
Fig 3:	Section demonstrating the stratigraphic sequence, looking south-east
Fig 4:	Pit [105], looking north-east
Fig 5:	Western part of spread (106), looking north-east
Fig 6:	Section demonstrating extent of spread (106), looking south-west

Tables

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

Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis on land off

Club Lane, Woodford, Northamptonshire

April 2015

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out by MOLA during construction works on land off Club Lane, Woodford, Northamptonshire. A pit and a series of made-ground layers were observed in the stripped area containing a few sherds of residual medieval pottery and a larger quantity of pottery and other finds dating to the 17th and 18th century, with some more recent finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mr Mark Nightingale commissioned MOLA Northampton to carry out archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis on land off Club Lane, Woodford, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 9684 7687; Fig 1). Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a detached two storey dwelling and detached garage, with a footpath to Club Lane.

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).

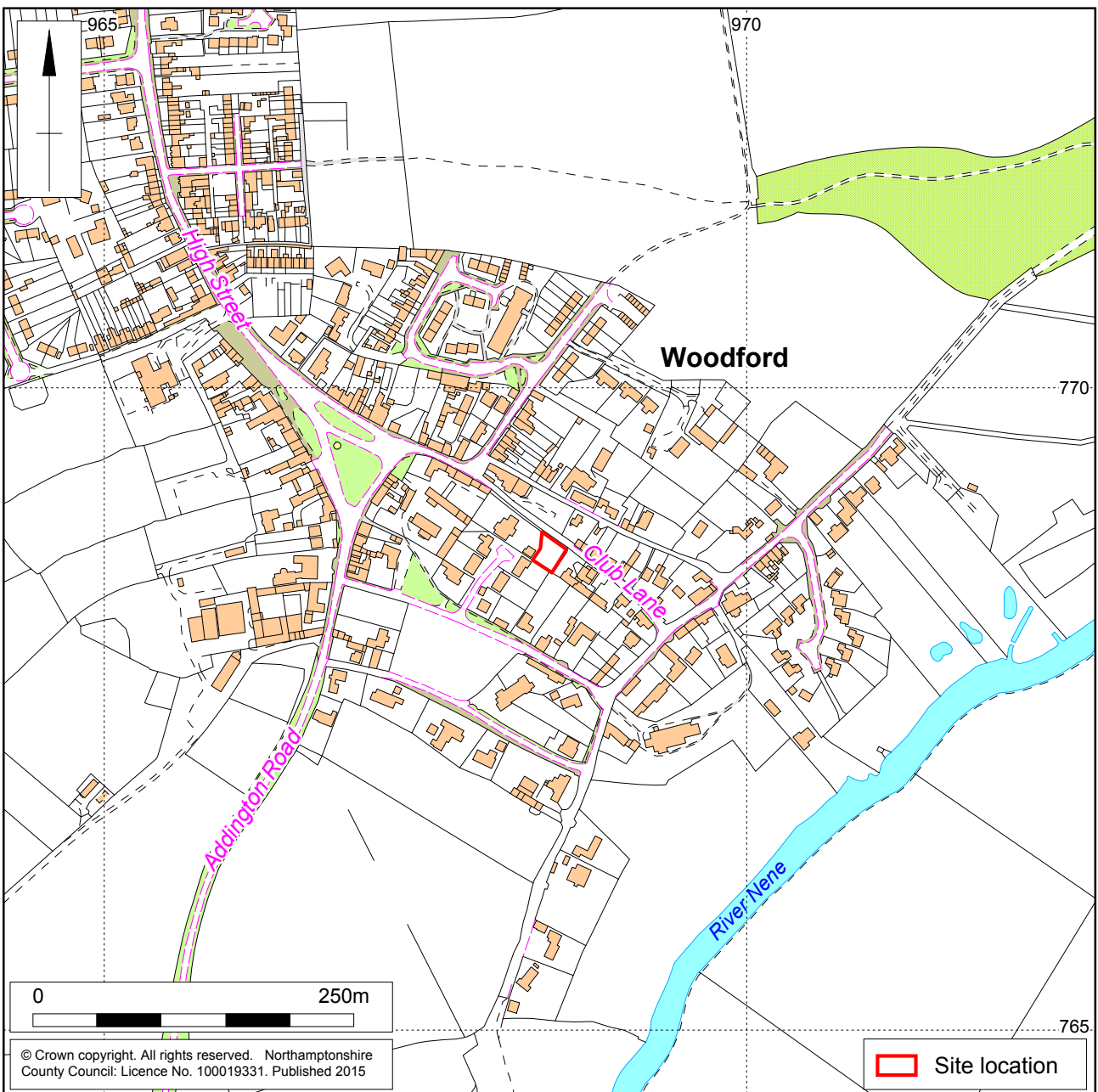
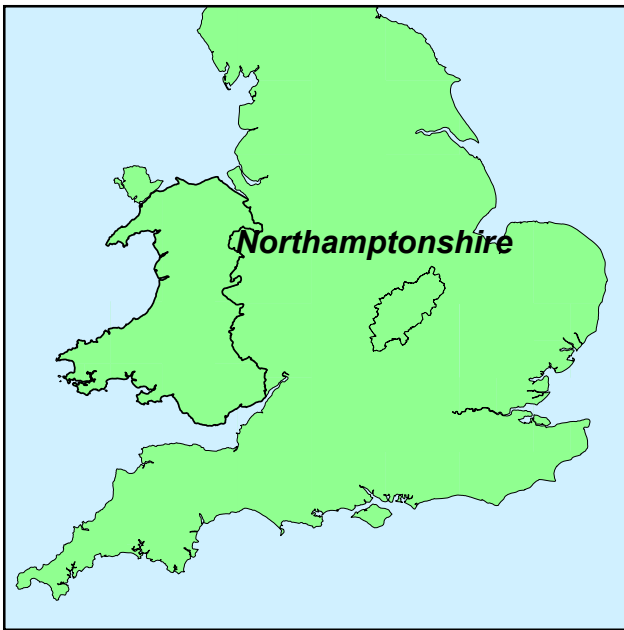
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation. This document has been prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The site is located in the village of Woodford, close to the historic core, about 280m north-west of the River Nene. It lies on sloping ground following the hill of Club Lane, falling away from 55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the south-west edge. The site is currently unused rough ground.

The underlying geology of the site comprises Blisworth Clay Formation, a sedimentary Jurassic-period bedrock, lying in a narrow strip between Blisworth Limestone to the east and Cornbrash Limestone to the west (BGS 2015). The superficial deposits in this area are clayey brown calcareous Moreton type soils (Soils of Eastern England map, Sheet 4, 1980).



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2. Historical and archaeological background

No designated heritage assets are known from the proposed development site. One previous archaeological excavation is known to have taken place in the close vicinity on Club Lane in 1971 (ENN11479). The works located a 12th-century cesspit, which contained medieval, Neolithic and Roman material (NCC 2012). Observation surveys have previously taken place to the south of the site, on land to the rear of De Capell House (ENN100642), and another property (ENN101945), both on Rectory Lane, and to the north at the Old School House (ENN103528). An earthwork survey was made of the remains of the shrunken village (ENN11473). The following sites and monuments are drawn from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistoric

A Neolithic Axe head was found during works at the south end of Club Lane (HER 1857, 1857/0/0), and at least two enclosures have been identified c750m to the north of the site outside the village (HER 8154), and over 1km away to the west.

Iron Age pits and a gully have been located about 630m to the west (HER 5648/0/1, /2), and prehistoric round barrows are known from across the river to the east (HER 1823/0/1), south (SM 17139) and south-west (SM 13677). This latter site, Three Hills, also produced unstratified Roman and post-medieval finds, and lies just over 1km from the site. Earthworks and other features closer to the south of the village have been proposed as another round barrow (HER 1829/0/8) and a long barrow (1829/0/5).

Roman

A possible Roman tile was found during works at the south end of Club Lane (HER 1857, 1857/0/0). To the south of the village, a possible Romano-British building is suggested by finds of building rubble, roof tiles, and Roman pottery (HER 1859/0/1). However, Roman activity in the area is mainly concentrated further afield to the north-east and south-west of the town along the river in both directions, where settlement debris of plaster, tiles, tesserae and glass have been recovered (RCHME 1975, 112).

Saxon and medieval

A possible Saxon cemetery may be located to the south of Woodford village, where a Saxon cremation was reputedly found near the edge of the road (HER 1855/1/1).

The village of Woodford is a shrunken medieval village, and the remains of the medieval settlement are a Scheduled Monument. Earthworks from an area of settlement abandoned by 1731 are located c190m to the south of the site (SM NN189). A hollow-way and medieval watermill are located to the east near to the river (HER 1653/8). At the south end of Club Lane, a 12th-century cesspit was identified during works in 1971 (HER 1653/0/2).

Post-medieval and modern

A windmill mound can be found to the north of the village, about 310m from the site. A former manor house, which was occupied between the 17th and 19th centuries by the St John family, was demolished by about 1826 (RCHME 1975, 113). The

remains of the house, gardens, and earthworks of former constructions are to be found c400m to the east (SM 190, 1653/1).

During observation work in advance of construction at the Pumping Station and Holding Tank around 310m to the east of the site (ENN17993), a post-medieval yard and possible building of the same period were found (HER 1653/1/3, /4).

Grade II listed Daventry Farm farmhouse (HER 1653/5, 13/169) lies about 100m from the site to the north. Further to the south, numbers 4 and 5 'Olde Ways' on Club Lane are also Grade II listed (HER 13/160, 13/161). Grade I listed Glebe Farmhouse, formally Woodford Manor, lies 130 to the south-east on Church Street (HER 13/155, 1653/2). The Church of St Mary lies c30m further to the south (HER 13/156). A number of other grade II listed buildings can be found in the historic centre of the town.

The open fields of Woodford were enclosed in 1763. Some ridge and furrow is extant in the fields around the village, particularly to the south and west (RCHME 1975, 113). Historic maps indicate that the proposed development area was part of an area of open land dotted with trees between Club Lane and Church Green. By the 1885 Ordnance Survey map, the development area was edged to the south by a line of terrace buildings. Aerial photos show that by 1945, the road layouts of the town were much the same, but the in-building of modern properties had not yet taken place. By 1952, building to the south and west had infringed on the size of the open field, and between 1958 and 1973, the terrace of buildings to the south disappeared. This area is now the Priory Mews car park. Between 1986 and 1995, the construction of De Capel Close and its properties limited the size of the open area again to a narrow strip along Club Lane. Sometime after this 3A De Capel Close was constructed, and the fence between the garage for this property and the development site was erected between 2005 and 2009.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the works were to:

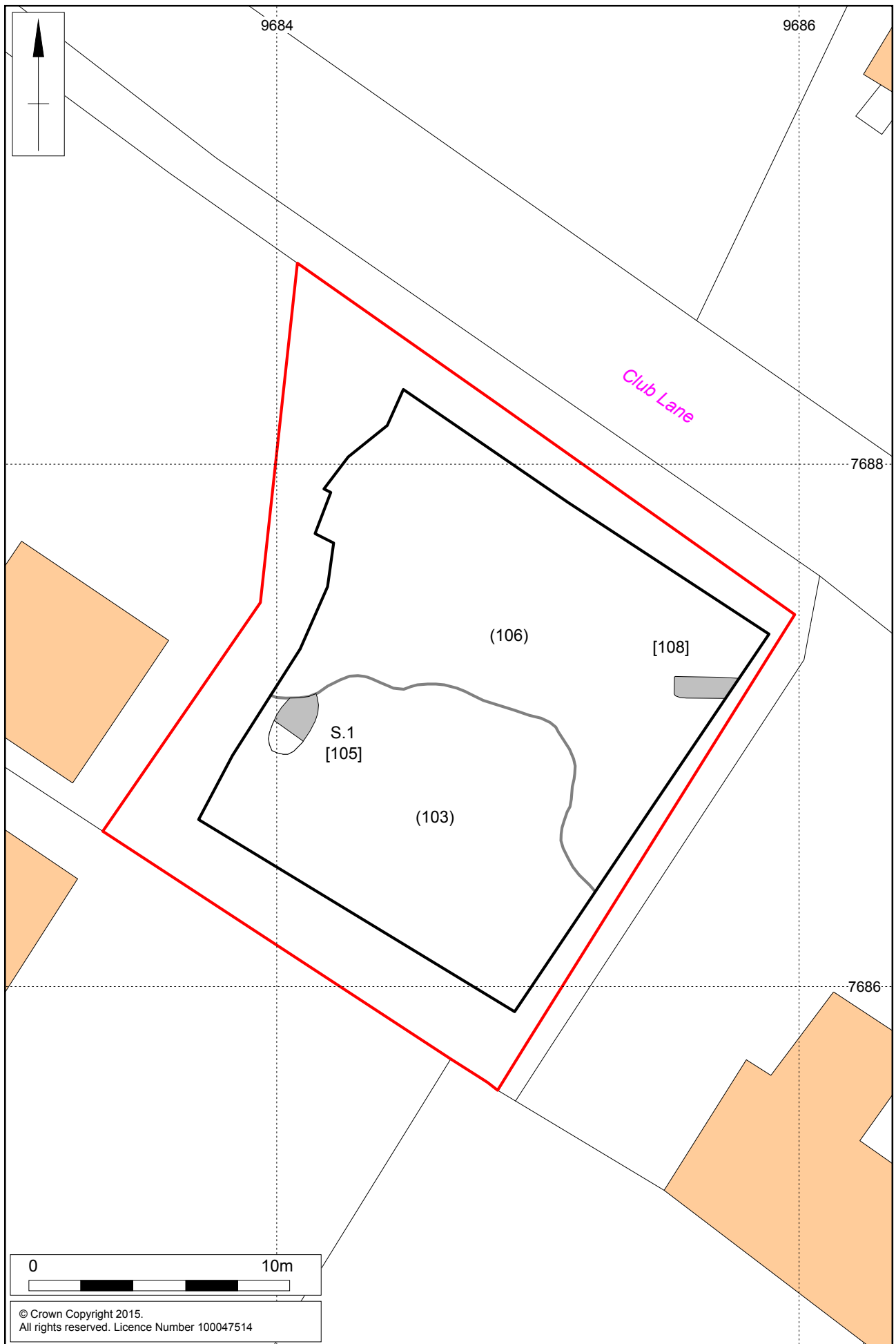
- Mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

3.2 Methodology

An area 17.5m long by 17m wide was mechanically excavated to the archaeological horizon under the supervision of an archaeologist. The excavation area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features.

Recording followed standard MOLA 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. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and digital images.

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



Scale 1:200

The excavation area Fig 2

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The general stratigraphic sequence observed in the excavated area comprised light brownish-yellow sandy clay natural with frequent small chalk and flint pebble inclusions, and outcroppings of the limestone bedrock. Overlying this was 0.2m thick dark reddish-brown sandy clay subsoil above which was a layer of dark greyish-brown clayey-sandy silt topsoil 0.1m thick.

Unless otherwise stated, all features and deposits truncated or overlay the natural.

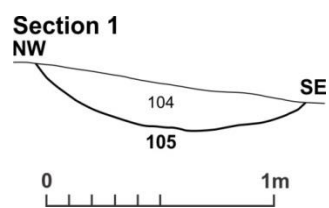


Section demonstrating the stratigraphic sequence, looking south-east

Fig 3

An elongated pit [105] (Fig 4) was identified in the south-western corner of the excavated area, approximately 1m from the north-west edge. It was 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep and was aligned roughly north-east to south-west. At least 3m of its length was visible, as it was overlain on its north-eastern extremity by layer (106). The fill (104) was a mid brownish-grey silty clay that contained several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery as well as glass, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone.

Layer (106) (Fig 5) was an irregular spread at least 17m wide and 12m long in the north half of the excavated area. It extended beyond the limits of excavation to the north, east and west. It was c0.50m thick and comprised a mixed dark brownish-grey silty clay with frequent patches of redeposited light brownish-yellow silty clay natural (Fig 6). It contained residual medieval and post-medieval pottery in addition to several glass fragments. Modern glass and plastic were also observed.



Pit 105, looking north-east Fig 4



Western part of spread (106), looking north-east Fig 5



Section demonstrating extent of spread (106), looking south-west Fig 6

Modern linear feature [108] had a roughly east-west orientation and extended 2m from the eastern limit of excavation. It was 0.8m wide, with a 2m length within the excavated area, similar proportions to a machine-cut geo-technical pit. It was cut through spread (106) and post-medieval pottery was noted in the upper fill.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 28 sherds with a total weight of 1128g. It was mostly of post-medieval and early modern date, although residual medieval material was also present. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F330: Shelly Coarseware (AD1100-1400),	1 sherd, 13g
F322: Lyveden/Stanion 'D' Ware (AD1400-?1500),	2 sherds, 19g
F401: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware (AD1450 – 1550),	1 sherd, 79g
F403: Midland Purple Ware (AD1450-1600),	4 sherds, 51g
F404: Cistercian Ware (AD1470 – 1600),	1 sherd, 3g
F407: Red Earthenwares (AD1450-1600),	2 sherds, 352g
F409: Staffordshire Slipwares (AD1680-1750),	2 sherds, 34g
F411: Midland Blackware (AD1550-1700),	1 sherd, 97g
F413: Manganese Glazed Ware (AD1680-1750),	2 sherds, 5g
F417: Nottingham/Derby Stoneware (AD1700 – 1900),	1 sherd, 20g
F426: Iron-Glazed Coarsewares (c. late 17th – 18th century),	10 sherds, 218g
F1000: Misc (19th and 20th century wares),	1 sherd, 137g

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*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The assemblage is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified. The medieval pottery is, in the main, of post-14th century date, and suggests that there was little activity at the site previous to then. It all appears to be entirely domestic, with the post-medieval material comprising a typical range of utilitarian and table-ware.

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

	F330		F322		F401		F403		F404		F407		
Fill/cut	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	Date
104/pit 105	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	89	17th century
106 layer	-	-	2	19	1	79	4	51	1	3	1	263	19th century
107/pit 108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18th century
Total	1	13	2	19	1	79	4	51	1	3	2	352	

	F409		F411		F413		F417		F426		F1000		
Fill/cut	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	Date
104/pit 105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	32	-	-	17th century
106 layer	1	7	1	97	2	5	-	-	8	186	1	137	19th century
107/pit 108	1	27	-	-	-	-	1	20	-	-	-	-	18th century
Total	2	34	1	97	2	5	1	20	10	218	1	137	

5.2 The animal bone by Adam Reid

Five fragments of animal bone weighing a total of 220g were recovered from pit [105]. Two of these are cattle – a complete calcaneus and the distal end of a tibia. Two of the fragments are likely to be long bone fragments from a large mammal (cattle or horse) and the other fragment is a rib bone fragment from a medium sized mammal (pig, sheep/goat). These fragments add little to the interpretation of the site but the fact that well preserved bone was recovered may indicate the potential for a larger faunal dataset should any further archaeological investigation take place in the area.

5.3 The other finds by Tora Hylton

Three clay tobacco-pipe stems are up to 38mm long. Two stem fragments from the fill of pit [105] have bores which measure 8/64inch suggesting a late 17th / early 18th century date, while a single stem fragment from pit [108] has a bore which measures 5/64inch suggesting an 18th century date.

There are two fragments of post-medieval vessel glass and a small bottle. The fragments include an undiagnostic shoulder and neck fragment in colourless glass from a small flask/bottle from (104) and a bodysherd from a mineral water bottle from layer (106). In addition a small cylindrical bottle (a possible ink bottle) was also recovered from layer (106).

6 DISCUSSION

The mitigation work identified an elongated pit and a series of layers. The function of the pit is uncertain but it may be associated with agricultural activity in this former open space on the edge of the post-medieval village. The pit was partly sealed by made-ground deposits, which raised the level of the north-eastern corner of the site behind the stone wall that bounded the site and ran parallel to Club Lane.

The gently sloping profile of the bedrock that underlies the made-ground deposits does not indicate quarrying, which is more likely to have a vertical-sided profile. It is also unlikely that such activity would take place so close to the centre of the village. The made-ground layers contained a variety of finds comprising some residual medieval pottery, quantities of pottery and other finds dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and some more recent material. It is likely that they accumulated during the post-medieval period and into the modern period, the most recent of which may have derived from the adjacent plot during its recent development.

Residual medieval pottery in the pit and in the made-ground is not surprising as the site lies close to the medieval core of the village. Eleventh century pottery has previously been found further away from the village core at the south end of Club Lane (see section 2.2). and provides support to previous suggestions that medieval activity took place in the area

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014b *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA Northampton

NARC 2014 *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard*, Northamptonshire County Council

RCHME 1975 *An inventory of the historical monuments in the County of Northampton Vol. 1: North-East*, Royal Commission Historical Monuments England

Websites

BGS 2013 www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk