A Programme of Archaeological Assessment of the Unauthorised Groundworks at Delapre Golf Course Northampton April 2015

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Illustrations: James Ladocha, Izabela Jurkiewicz

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Site Code: ENN107952
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No: molanort1-210509**	
Project title	A Programme of Archaeological Assessment of the Unauthorised Groundworks at Delapre Golf Course, Northampton	
Short description	MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological assessment on unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Course in April 2014. The groundworks comprised the removal of shrubs and trees and the stripping of topsoil with a mechanical excavator over a 0.106ha area. The excavated area had been reduced by no more than 0.30m, exposing the subsoil, or some patches of natural substrate. In some areas topsoil remained in situ. The near edge of the topsoil bank at the north of the site was removed. Archaeological assessment included the cleaning of stripped surfaces by hand, the scanning of spoilheaps and the stripped surfaces with a metal detector, the retrieval of finds, and a full programme of recording. Twentieth-century golfing earthworks were uncovered, as well as trenches for service pipes and a former tree line. A bank surrounding the area was shown to be constructed of redeposited natural clays and modern building debris. A number of finds were recovered, including post-medieval lead shot, horse tack, and a 14th-century silver annular brooch.	
Project type	Assessment	
Site status	Unknown	
Previous work	None known	
Current land use	Golf Course	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/period	20th-century golf course earthworks and drains	
Significant finds	Late medieval brooch, lead shot assemblage	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Delapre Golf Centre, Eagle Drive, Northampton	
Postcode	NN4 7DU	
OS co-ordinates	SP 76482 58494	
Area	*c*0.106 ha	
Height aOD	*c*69m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project Brief originator	Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire; Tamara Roberts, Planning Enforcement Officer, Northampton Borough Council	
Project Design originator	Anthony Maull, MOLA	
Director/Supervisor	Anthony Maull	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	London Golf Management	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	20 April 2015	
End date	11 June 2015	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	MOLA Northampton Archive Store Acc no. ENN107952	Pottery
Paper		site records, background data, photographs, one section and one plan on permatrace
Digital		survey data, digital report, digital photographs
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A Programme of Archaeological Assessment of the Unauthorised Groundworks at Delapre Golf Course, Northampton April 2015

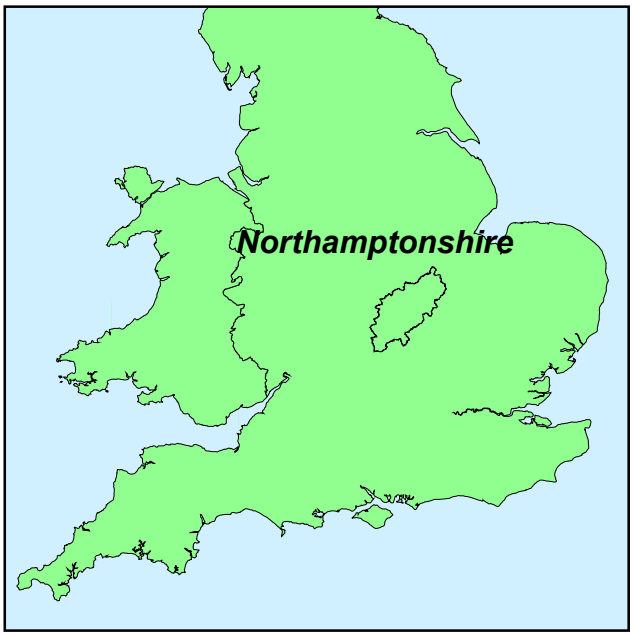
Abstract
MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological assessment on unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Course in April 2014. The groundworks comprised the removal of shrubs and trees and the stripping of topsoil with a mechanical excavator over a 0.106ha area. The excavated area had been reduced by no more than 0.30m, exposing the subsoil, or some patches of natural substrate. In some areas topsoil remained in situ. The near edge of the topsoil bank at the north of the site was removed. Archaeological assessment included the cleaning of stripped surfaces by hand, the scanning of spoilheaps and the stripped surfaces with a metal detector, the retrieval of finds, and a full programme of recording. Twentieth-century golfing earthworks were uncovered, as well as trenches for service pipes and a former tree line. A bank surrounding the area was shown to be constructed of redeposited natural clays and modern building debris. A number of finds were recovered, including post-medieval lead shot, horse tack, and a 14th-century silver annular brooch.

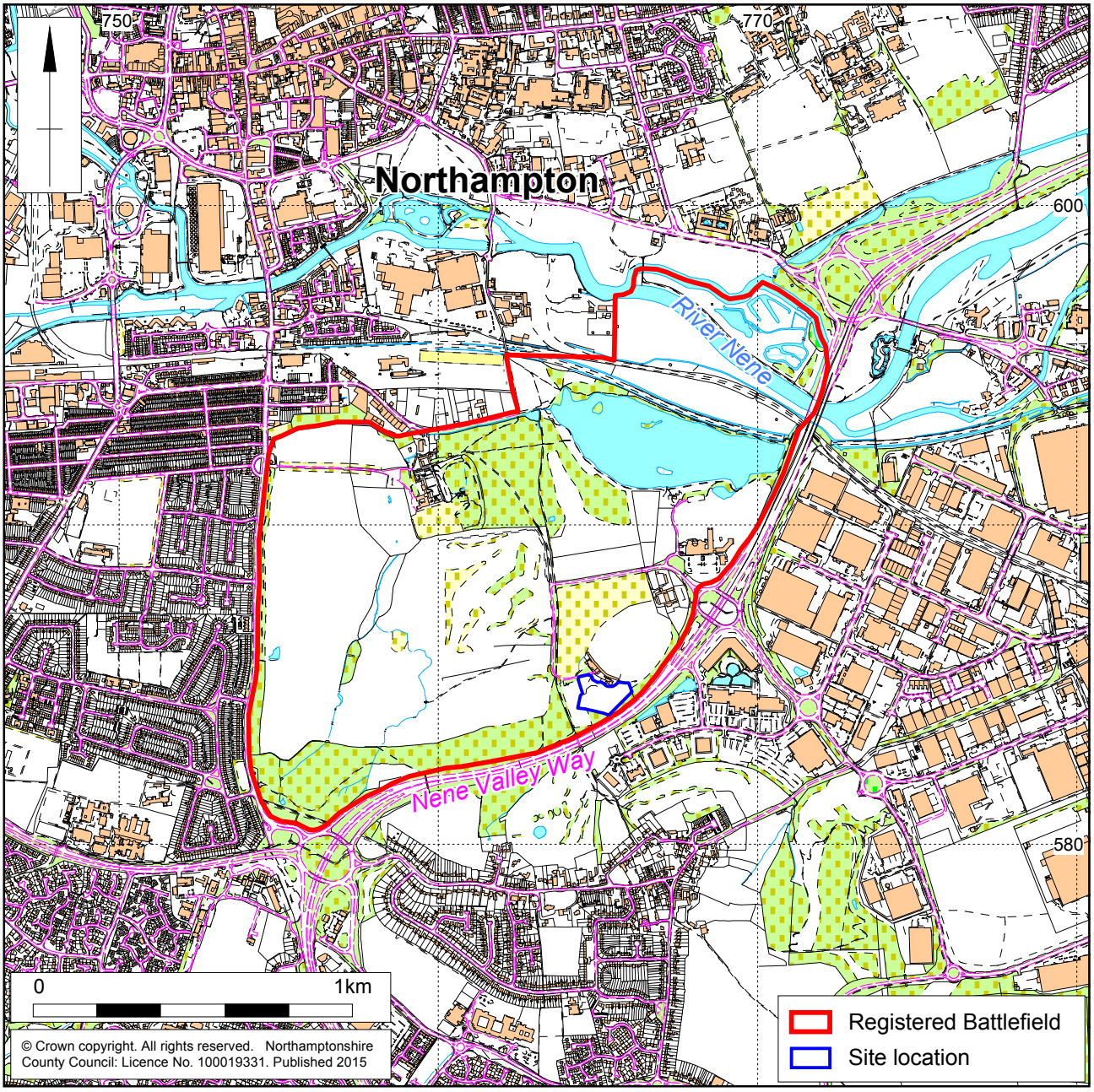
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by London Golf Management to assess the impact of the unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Centre part of the registered battlefield site of the Battle of Northampton (10 July 1460) (NGR SP 7648 5849, Fig 1). The assessment works, which took place between 20 and 24 April 2015, comprised metal detecting and site cleaning of the groundworks in order to form an impact assessment. This was followed between 4 to 11 June by reinstatement works, undertaken by the client, comprising the laying of Terram over the exposed surface. This was then covered over with the upcast of the excavation. Reinstatement works were also monitored by MOLA. The works were undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

The works aimed to fulfil the objectives of a request for archaeological assessment as required by Northampton Borough Council in an email dated 23 January 2015. The archaeological assessment and recording was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA and approved by the County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire and the Planning Enforcement Officer for Northampton Borough Council prior to the commencement of work (MOLA 2015). All works followed the guidelines suggested by the CIfA's *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a and b), and the MOLA Northampton *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014).





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Site location Fig 1

1.2 The groundworks

Unauthorised groundworks took place on the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Northampton in advance of the proposed creation of a new staff and visitor parking area for Delapre Golf Centre. The groundworks comprised the removal of shrubs and trees and the stripping of topsoil with a mechanical excavator. The excavated area measured up to 48m by 31m north-south, with an area of 0.106ha (0.262 acres). After the works, the area lay between *c*64.0m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and *c*65.5m aOD. The actual depth was reduced by the groundworks by no more than 0.30m across the main area of the works, with cutting of the raised banks giving an appearance of greater soil removal. A medium yellow-brown loamy clay subsoil was exposed (Fig 2). In some areas topsoil remained *in situ*. The near edge of the topsoil bank at the north of the site was removed, exposing topsoil containing post-medieval building material. This, along with a brick manhole and drain aligned east to west through the centre of the site, were initially the only visible evidence of previous modern disruption to the site. Root disturbance appeared to be isolated to the area where the hedge line had been removed adjacent to the car park, with little evidence of rooting seen in the main exposed area.

The spoil generated by the stripping was placed in two distinct piles in the grass area to the south of the site (Fig 3, Fig 4). These heaps ranged from approximately 0.50m to 1.0m high and appeared to be primarily composed of topsoil with occasional areas of subsoil. Occasional modern debris was present in the spoil, and it was considered most likely that this derived from the bank edging the site to the north.

The excavated area before archaeological assessment Fig 2

Spoil heap 1, before archaeological assessment Fig 3

Spoil heap 2, before archaeological assessment Fig 4

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the Delapre Golf Complex on the south-west side of the clubhouse. The area is bounded by the Nene Valley Way (A45) to the south and east, by an existing car park to the west and by the golf clubhouse to the north-east. Beyond the car park and the clubhouse lies the wider golf complex (Fig 1; SP 76482 58494). The site lies on the south-central edge of the Northampton Battlefield. The 237ha area of the Registered Battlefield slopes gently from a height of 85m aOD at the south-western boundary to 60m aOD where it forms part of the flood plain for the River Nene to the north (Fig 1). The site of the groundworks lies within an area identified on the Battle of Northampton Conservation Management Plan as being subjected to earthmoving for the construction of the golf course (LUC 2014, fig 4.4, 32).

The superficial deposits comprise weathered light brown glacial sand and gravel, and the underlying bedrock geology is formed of micaceous mudstone of the Lower Jurassic Lias Group Whitby Mudstone formation (Critchley 23 April 2015, pers comm).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The area of groundworks lies within a prehistoric landscape. To the north-east, immediately beyond the area of ridge and furrow, there is evidence of a prehistoric settlement (Historic Environment Record number HER9626). Unstratified prehistoric flints have been found to the north (HER4961/0/0, 4962) and east (HER4963/0/0). Also to the east is a possible prehistoric pit alignment (HER9607) and the remains of a probable prehistoric funerary site in the form of a Bronze Age barrow (HER5022/0/2). Romano-British activity was also recognised near the barrow (HER5021), and further to the north-east, in the form of ditches (HER8083/0/2) and kilns (HER8083/0/1). A small Romano-British coin hoard was found to the south-west of the site on the far side of the Nene Valley Way (HER 4978/0/1), in an area which has a concentration of Roman-British activity including pottery kilns, enclosures and unstratified finds.

During the medieval period, the site lay *c*760m to the south-east of Delapre Abbey, just inside the township boundary of Hardingstone East End. It formed part of the open fields of Hardingstone village, which was situated just to the south. The site was previously cultivated with a ploughing regime aligned south-west by north-east, although no earthworks are extant (Partida, Hall and Foard 2013). An area of surviving ridge and furrow aligned north-south can be seen immediately to the north-east (HER5023/2/1), visible on satellite photographs, and through LiDAR survey (see figs 5.4 and 5.4a in LUC 2014). Other ridge and furrow earthworks survive over 600m to the north-west, *c*700m to the west and *c*200m to the south-west.

The site lies within the Registered Battlefield of the 1460 Battle of Northampton (RB29, HER5020/1) which is further discussed in section 2.3. Associated finds from the battlefield have been noted *c*580m to the north of the area of groundworks (HER5020/1/0).

2.3 The Battle of Northampton by Mary Ellen Crothers

The following account of the Battle of Northampton derives from *The Site of the Battle of Northampton, 1460 Conservation Management Plan* (LUC 2014) with additional information supplied by Dr Glenn Foard.

The Battle of Northampton was a key engagement during the Wars of the Roses, a dynastic struggle between the House of York and the House of Lancaster which took place in England between 1455 and 1487. Following the battle of Blore Heath in 1459 the Yorkist army was dispersed, with the Duke of York fleeing to Ireland and the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick to Calais. In June 1460 they returned to England with their supporters. Gathering forces where they went, they approached London where, in early July, they were joined by other Yorkist nobles with their troops. Leaving a small force under Salisbury to besiege the Tower which remained in Lancastrian hands, they marched north to confront King Henry VI before his supporters could muster their full strength.

King Henry VI marched with his army from Coventry to Northampton where they constructed a fortified camp to the south of the town, close to Delapre Abbey. On the 10th July 1460 the Yorkists arrived outside the town and when attempts at negotiation made by the Archbishop of Canterbury had failed, battle became inevitable.

The outcome was an important victory for the Yorkists because it placed the King under their control. The Duke of York returned to England and in October, was bestowed the right of succession by Henry VI in an Act of Settlement. However, Queen Margaret refused to accept an agreement that disinherited her son and thus Civil War inevitably continued.

Potential battle and Lancastrian camp locations

Concern has arisen as to whether the unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Course have disturbed potential evidence of the Battle of Northampton. There are a number of contemporary sources who describe the battle in greater or lesser detail with information on the positions of the armies, the Lancastrian camp and the style of warfare but some of them are conflicting statements. Political allegiance and observational viewpoint, both physical and conceptual, must be considered before making conclusions on the location of the Lancastrian encampment and the battle itself. Northampton is one of the better documented battles of the Wars of the Roses and a brief summary has been collated below.

The contemporary sources, although occasionally conflicting, essentially postulate three alternative locations for the Lancastrian camp, one of which falls outside the Registered Battlefield and none fall in the area of the recent groundworks beside the golf club. The potential camp locations lie at a distance of between 300m and 500m from the groundworks (Fig 5).

The Conservation Management Plan for the site of the Battle of Northampton, 1460 (LUC 2014) states that **Waurin** is exceptional in stating that the army was in the park outside the town by a little river (*'en ung parcq oultre la ville sue une petite riviere'*). The other accounts seem to imply that the defences were created specifically for the purpose. Just one source, **The English Chronicle**, places the camp in the meadows. In contrast, three others place it in a '*feld*', which is an area of open field furlongs rather than a meadow. **Benet's Chronicle** says the fortified camp was in the field between the village called Hardingstone and the monastic house called Delapre. In contrast, **A Short English Chronicle** places it '*besyde Northhampton in the Newfelde between Harsyngton (Hardingstone) and Sandyfforde*'. The **Chronicle of John Stone** provides even finer detail: '*And for the feldys name of then oon parte on the northest syde it is called Cowemedewe. And that other parte is I callyd Menthynfeld. And for the other part is I callyd of tyme Sandyngford bregge nexte the*

towne. On the est syde there is a water melle [that] is called Sandford melle'. Significantly he adds that the archbishop of Canterbury viewed the Battle from the Queen's or headless cross (Queen Eleanor's Cross).

In addition, the English Heritage Battlefield report (1995) expands these accounts and states that a pro-Yorkist London Chronicler whose work was published in 1856 as **An English Chronicle of the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI** recorded that *"The kyng at Northamtone...ordeyned there a strong and myghty feelde, in the medowys beside the Nonry [nunnery]…having the ryver at hys back "* This places the royal army south of the River Nene near Delapre Abbey (EH 1995; fig 2, location 2). The Battlefield Report also states that Benet's account mentions that 20,000 men were positioned between Hardingstone and Delapre Abbey (EH 1995).

Although the available documentary evidence appears to conflict, most sources place the Battle of Northampton and the Lancastrian camp in one of three locations (Fig 5). None of the recognised sources place either the camp or battlefield in the vicinity of the area of groundworks. However, the battle itself would have taken place over a far greater area and the recent groundworks could be within the battle zone. Additionally, evidence of overshot from weapons firing at a distance may also be present in the locality. The likelihood of the discovery of evidence of the Battle of Northampton,1460 on any part of the Registered Battlefield cannot be ruled out.

Impact on the Heritage Assets

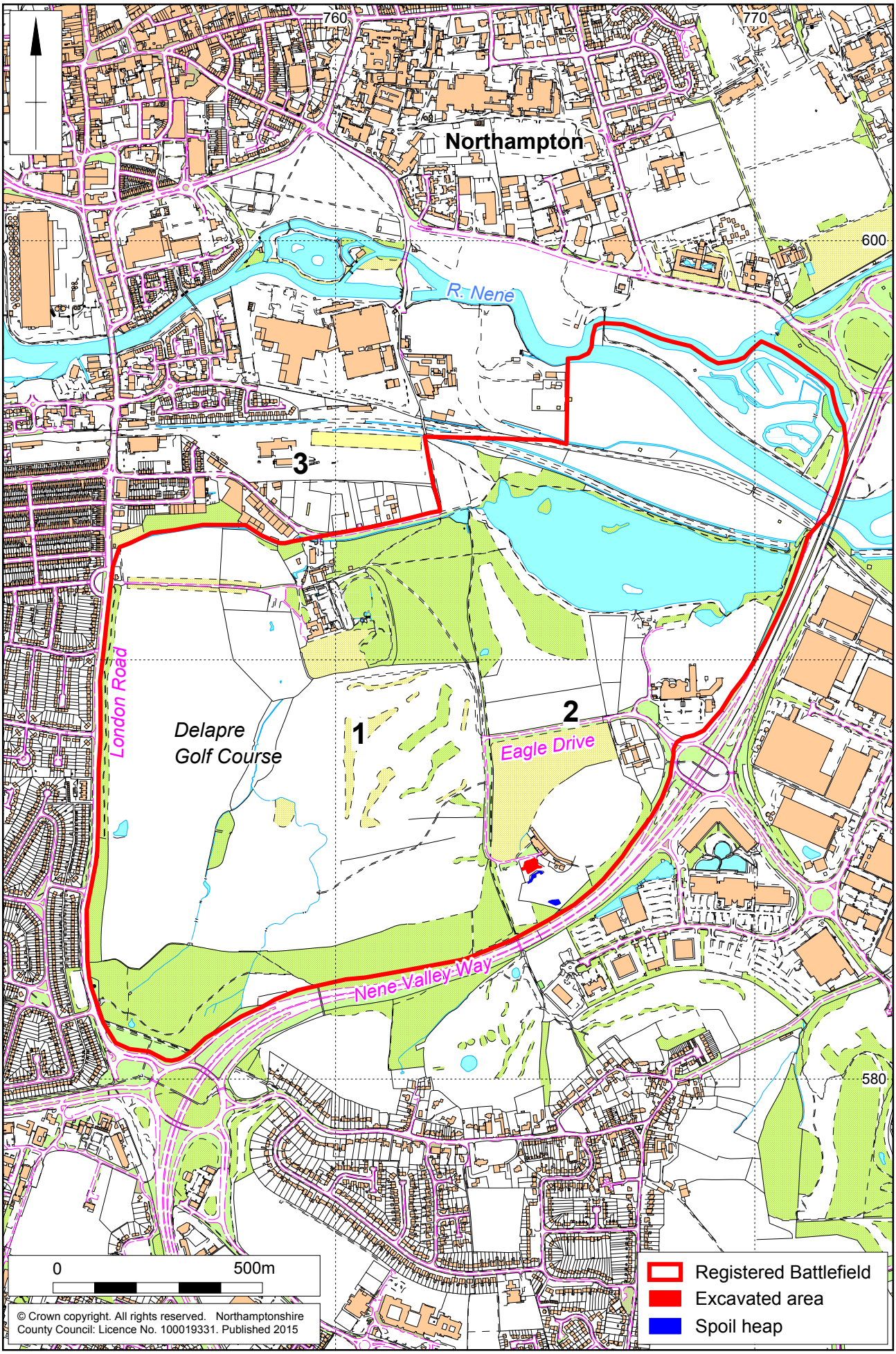
Northampton Registered Battlefield comprises 187ha of which 70ha have been destroyed or disturbed by a range of different activities in recent centuries. Within the golf course there appear to be significant areas which have not been disturbed and even where earthmoving has taken place to create the golf course landscape, the soil may not have moved far so useful data may still survive (LUC 2014).

2.4 Northampton Battlefield by Dr Glenn Foard

It is unclear whether the Lancastrian camp was placed behind a pre-existing boundary, like a park pale; whether they modified an existing feature or created a new defensive bank and ditch. Whether this feature is the same 'battle dyke' of the early modern terriers is also uncertain. It seems unlikely from the sequence in the terrier that the battle dyke will extend into the area of the present project because it ought not to cross to the east side of the Portway, i.e. the north-south footpath across the battlefield. It is conceivable that the Lancastrian camp did cross the Portway but the area of recent groundworks appears too far from the Abbey and too close to the steep scarp up to Hardingstone to be of practical military use in this case. It would be unlikely for this feature to have been revealed by the groundworks.

There is always the slim possibility of a single or mass grave anywhere on a battlefield. This battlefield is unusual in having a monastic church in close proximity and it is possible that the bodies of soldiers were buried in consecrated ground rather than the common practice of burying them out on the battlefield, close to where they fell.

Other features that might be expected are the shallow remnants of ridge and furrow and possibly evidence of a headland. The headland between a north-south furlong to the north and the near east-west furlong in the area of the present work might survive in the area of investigation. However, remnant furrows are more likely to be found.



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Extent of Registered Battlefield with three potential locations for the Fortified Encampment (1-3)

Fig 5

Identifying and characterising these is of high importance, particularly on medieval battlefields. This is due to the potential for such furrows to provide a reservoir of metal artefacts, especially ferrous objects such as arrowheads that may otherwise have decayed in the topsoil. Given that the terriers show that in the early modern period this area was part of Cow Leys makes this doubly important. It also means that it was under pasture from well before Inclosure.

Owing to the condition of an artefact found previously from the battle, it is unlikely that the soil chemistry would have caused significant decay in lead or copper alloy objects. The fact that the proposed development occupies an area of clay soils, whereas the northern part of the site is on gravels, may suggest better than average preservation of metal artefacts. If there are remnant furrows it is recommended that these should be intensively metal detected in all-metal mode to recover all artefacts.

The most likely evidence from this area is in the form of unstratified metal artefacts from the topsoil. It is therefore important that all of the topsoil that has been removed from the area should be spread out to give a sufficiently shallow depth to be able to effectively detect all of it for battle-related artefacts.

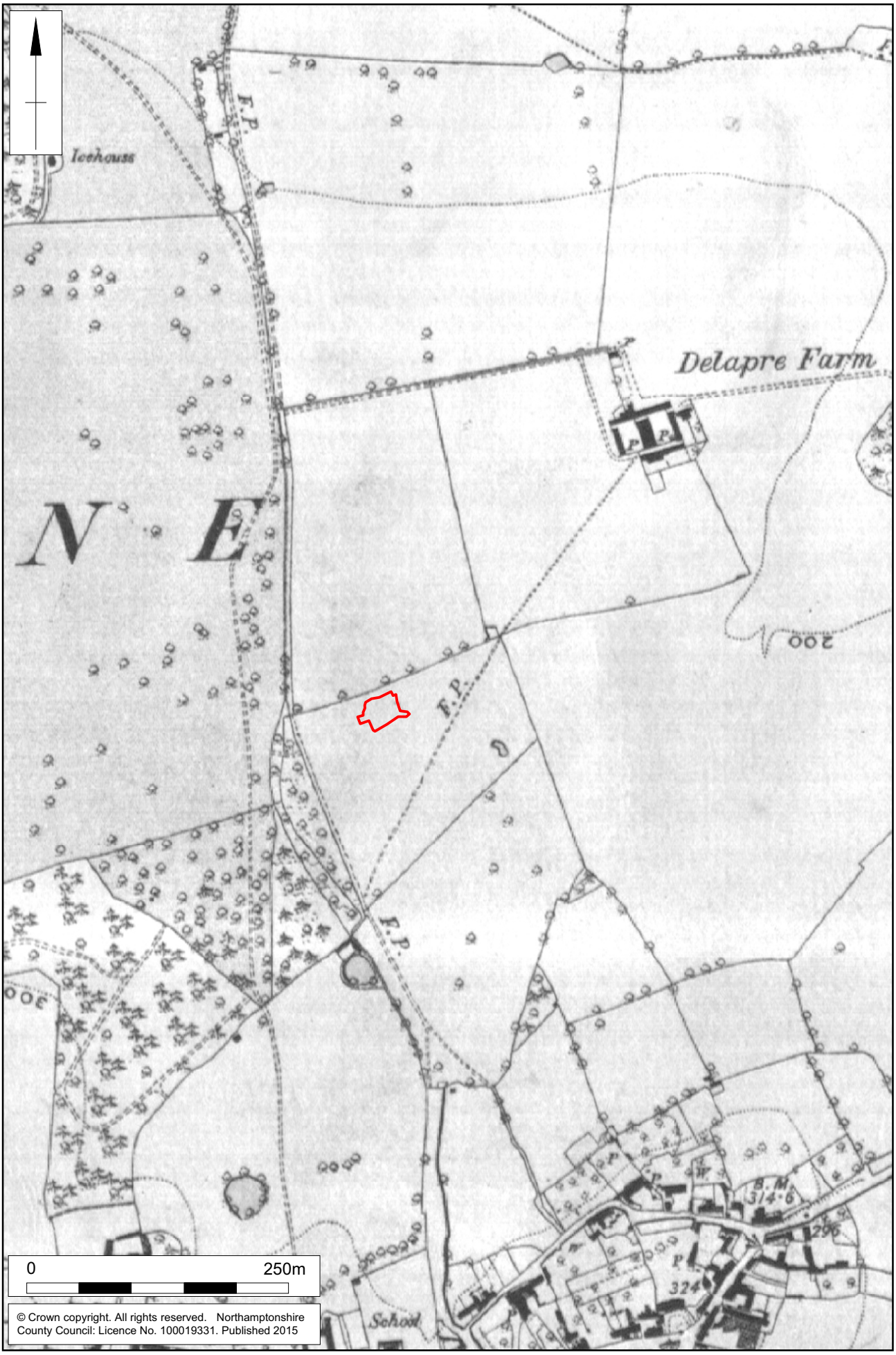
The most common and easily identifiable artefact is likely to be lead or lead composite shot. If the Lancastrian camp was anywhere between Delapre and Hardingstone as one account says, this location is well within the range of artillery. At Bosworth however, there was a low density of round shot so it is possible that at Northampton, little shot could be found even within the heart of the action.

Stone shot was also used in the War of the Roses in significant number, but the problem of how to survey for this has not yet been resolved. Cast iron shot was not used but it is possible that wrought iron rounds may be present.

The Site of the Battle of Northampton, 1460 Conservation Management Plan (LUC 2014) states that the area of proposed development has already been subject to ground disturbance in the form of golf course hazards and landscaping prior to the unauthorised groundworks having taken place (LUC 2014, fig 4.4, 32). This previous earthmoving is likely to have affected the preservation and distribution of archaeological evidence. However, it is not certain whether the soils moved during these processes were relocated at a great distance, so it is possible that finds from the battle still lie in the vicinity and that a crude distribution pattern may be retrievable from the recovery of artefacts (LUC 2014 4.25, 33).

2.5 Post-medieval to modern

The area of groundworks continued to form part of the open field system of Hardingstone East End Field into the early modern period, with early enclosure around the village of Hardingstone reaching to the southern boundary of the field in which the site lay (Partida, Hall and Foard 2013). By 1539, the site was one of several furlongs in Moore Field which were grass-grown and used for unenclosed cow pasture, an area known as Cow Leys (Hall 1980, fig 2 124, 131; LUC 2014, fig 5.3, 42). Parliamentary enclosure in 1765 brought about the end of the two independent field systems, although the former township boundary, the Portway, formed the eastern edge of Delapre Park, laid out in 1767 after the purchase of the area by Edward Bouverie (LUC 2014, 37, 43). Plans of the park and early Ordnance Survey maps show that the site lay just outside the boundaries of Delapre Park at this time, in an area of small fields (LUC 2014, fig 5.8, 45). The area remained agricultural throughout the 19th century, with the addition of dividing field boundaries and a footpath aligned north-east by south-west to Delapre Farm having appeared by the end of the century (Fig 6).



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1880s 1st edition Ordnance Survey map Fig 6

The field boundaries, footpaths and trees around the site remained relatively static, as seen on aerial photographs of 1945 (Fig 7). The linear feature to the north-east of the site which appears in Fig 7 is marked on an OS map of 1927 as a sewage farm. This feature is preserved in field boundaries until the construction of the golf course. Around the middle of the 20th century, the estate of Delapre Park and surrounding land was sold. The parkland and abbey were purchased by Northampton Corporation in 1946, and various parts of the battlefield site were used for gravel quarrying and tree felling. The A45 bypass, which bounds the area of groundworks to the south-east, was constructed in the 1970s in order to improve access for a proposed leisure complex. The 260-acre golf course, which was one aspect of this development, was opened in 1976 (LUC 2014, 46-49).

Area of groundworks marked on an aerial photograph 1945, ©Google Earth Fig 7

In 2005, significant earthmoving was undertaken in the field to the east of the site, behind the Club House and alongside the A45 for the construction of a driving range. Large quantities of earth were brought in from elsewhere, and Google Earth satellite images suggest that a large area was levelled and then built up with the imported soil (Fig 8). The result of the works was a large earthwork truncating extant ridge and furrow (as seen on the LiDAR survey and Fig 8). Satellite imagery also indicates the removal of at least one large tree just to the south of the area sometime between 2005 and 2009.

Driving range under construction in 2005, also showing former treeline within assessment area ©Google Earth Fig 8

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to assess the archaeological resource within the area of unauthorised groundworks and the related spoil heaps, and to assess the impact of those works, the objectives of the investigation were to:

- identify and record all archaeological deposits exposed as a consequence of the unauthorised groundworks and any associated groundworks;
- determine and record the extent, character and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits and to establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover artefacts from the displaced soil through metal detector survey to assist in the assessment of the impact of the unauthorised groundworks on the battlefield and the wider landscape;
- recover artefacts from exposed surfaces by metal detector survey;
- create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents, including English Heritage documents (EH 1991 and 1997), and *East Midlands Heritage, an updated research agenda and strategy for the historic environment of the East Midlands,* particularly Research Objective 7H: *To investigate the location and character of medieval battlefields* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). Consultation was made at all stages of the work with the Battle of Northampton *Conservation Management Plan* (LUC 2014), and with Dr Glenn Foard, Battlefield Specialist.

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

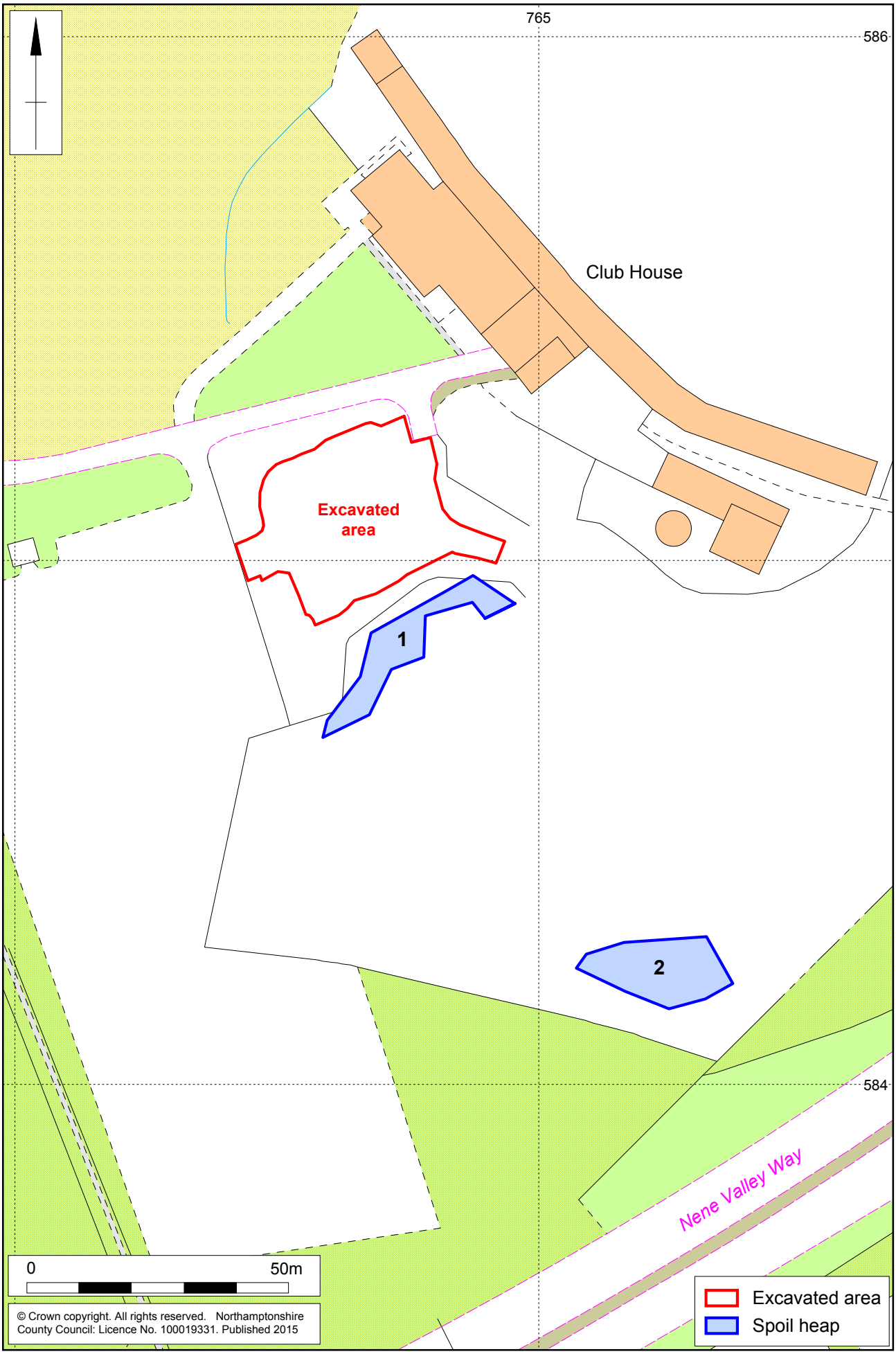
All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), and standard MOLA investigation and recording procedures (MOLA 2014).

Archaeological site cleaning of the stripped area was carried out by hand. This area and the two spoil heaps of soil from the area were scanned with a metal detector by highly experienced detectorist Stephen Critchley using a VLF detector in all-metal mode to assist in the recovery of finds. No unauthorised metal-detecting was permitted anywhere within the development area. This is in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan, which calls for the application of a full range of techniques of battlefield archaeology, including metal detecting, in order to evaluate preservation, disturbance and contamination on areas of the site subject to disturbance (LUC 2014 4.32, 34).

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site, in line with procedures outlined in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected. All finds were cleaned, catalogued, marked and prepared for storage.

The area of groundworks and spoil heaps were surveyed by means of Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) operating using SMARTNET real-time corrections. The survey data was used to generate a series of line plans accurately locating the site in relation to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. A detailed plan at a scale of 1:200 recorded the archaeological horizon (Fig 9), supplemented by four section drawings at a scale of 1:20 indicating the make-up of the bank. A photographic record was maintained through elevated digital photography.

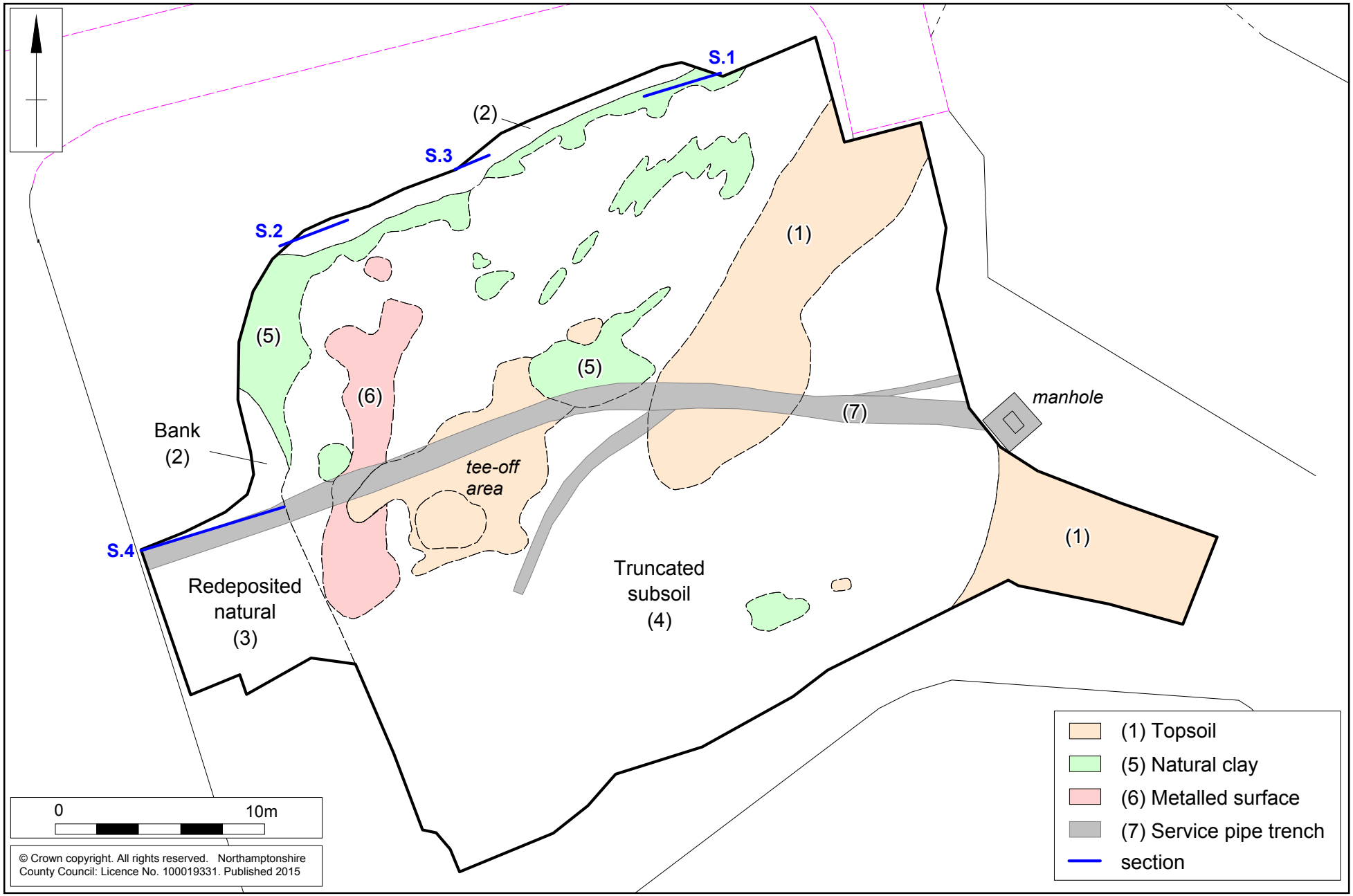
After the completion of the fieldwork, a programme of reinstatement was undertaken to return the area of unauthorised groundworks to a similar state prior to the disturbance, pending decisions about the future of the site. This will be discussed in section 8 of this report.



Scale 1:1000

Delapre Golf Complex excavation area Fig 9

Scale 1:250



Plan of the stripped area Fig 10

5 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The unauthorized groundworks exposed a series of truncated layers across the stripped area. Where observed, the natural geology comprised compact grey-blue and yellow-brown clay. In the bank at the north-east corner of the site, it survives up to a height of 0.90m, indicating it was truncated across most of the stripped area (5) (Fig 10). The surviving subsoil across the stripped area was a mid yellow-brown clayey loam only 0.06m thick, suggesting it also was truncated by previous and current landscaping activities (4) (Fig 11). The majority of the small finds (SF1-3, 6-9, 12-13, and 16-17), as well as flint, residual Romano-British and medieval pottery, and 17th-century pottery were all recovered from this layer.

The subsoil and features were overlain by topsoil comprising firm dark grey-brown sandy loam which was observed in the banks enclosing the area to the west and north, and the stripped area of the former golfing green (1) (Fig 12). On this flat area, where the topsoil survived it was only 0.03m thick, indicating only a layer of turf was laid directly onto the truncated subsoil (4) or natural clay (5) of the landscaped golf course. Topsoil produced finds of clay tobacco-pipe, glass, and one sherd of 18th-century pottery.

The features observed in the stripped area mainly relate to the use of the site as a golfing centre. A linear spread of sub-angular limestone and ironstone fragments mixed with broken concrete and ceramic building materials formed a *c*18m long section of metalled surface aligned north-east by south-west (6). Its purpose probably related to the former 'pitch and putt' golf course. The spread also contained SF11, an iron horseshoe. Other features of this date include a recognizable 'tee-off' area where a *c*10m by *c*6.5m area of topsoil and turf remained, containing plastic tees (not retained). Service trenches were also observed, aligned east-west, before turning north-east by south-west in the centre of the trench (7). The service trench forked around 15m from the edge of the trench, with one branch turning south-west before terminating. At its eastern end, (7) the service trench truncated a 5.0m section of post-medieval land drain. The service trench then passed beyond the eastern edge of the excavation before presumably terminating at a manhole which was observed there. The former line of trees in the north-east corner of the area (see Fig 8) was removed before the commencement of stripping. The former tree line is visible in the stripped area as a linear strip of disturbed topsoil around 19m long by 6m wide. Small finds SF4, SF5 and SF10 were recovered from this area of topsoil (1).

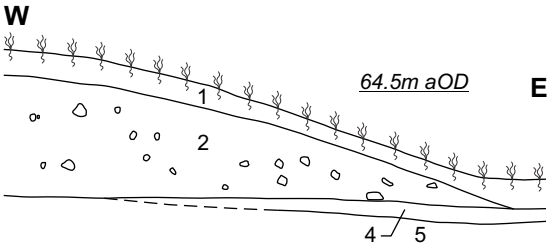
The stripped area was enclosed on its northern and western side by a curving bank overlying subsoil (4) and natural (5). At its southern end the bank was cut away to create an entranceway from the current car park (Fig 13, S.4). At its western end and across the cut-away area, the bank was made up of redeposited natural soil, a compact mixed yellow-brown clayey loam with blue-grey clay patches (3). The bank curved around the north-west corner of the area (Fig 13, S.2) and along the northern edge (Fig 13, S.3). Here the bank was formed of firm dark grey friable sandy loam, mixed with 20th-century building debris in the form of ceramic building materials, window and bottle glass, domestic and garden ceramics, roof slates and corrugated iron (2). This modern material represents introduced clearance debris forming the make-up layer for the bank. At its eastern terminal it stood *c*0.43m above the level of the ground at the Club House (Fig 13, S.1) (Fig 12).

The spoil heaps were scanned with a metal-detector in two exercises; the second following partial levelling of the spoil heaps. A small fragment of copper alloy sheet was found in SH1 (SF14), and a large copper alloy ring in SH2 (SF15).

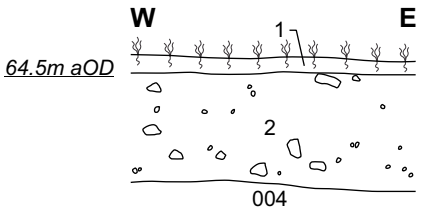
Overview of the stripped area, looking north-west Fig 11

The eastern end of the bank with building debris make up Fig 12

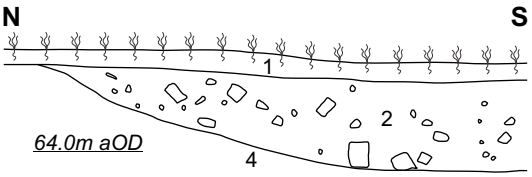
Section 1



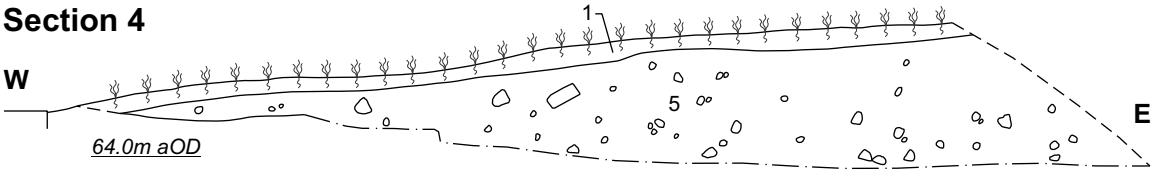
Section 3

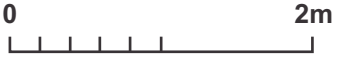


Section 2



Section 4





Scale 1:50

Sections of bank in stripped area Fig 13

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

One flake (SF17) is recorded from the subsoil layer (4). The raw material comprises mid grey-brown vitreous flint with a smooth mid brown cortex. The raw material was possibly acquired from local ground sources. The condition of the flint is good, and a cortical striking platform can be seen. The flake measures 29mm long by 20mm wide. The technological characteristics of the flake are not directly datable.

6.2 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprises 25 sherds with a total weight of 492g. It is mostly of post-medieval or modern date, apart from a few sherds of residual Romano-British and medieval material. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F1001: All Romano-British, 1 sherd, 9g

F330: Shelly Coarseware (AD1100-1400), 1 sherd, 4g

F329: Potterspury Ware (AD1250 – 1600), 1 sherd, 21g

F403: Midland Purple Ware (AD1450-1600, 1 sherd, 40g

F413: Manganese Glazed Ware (AD1680-1750, 2 sherds, 36g

F417: Nottingham/Derby Stoneware (AD1700 – 1900, 1 sherd, 56g

F1000: Misc. 19th and 20th-century wares, 18 sherds, 376g

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 Roman and medieval sherds are somewhat abraded, and appear to have been subject to considerable transportation since their original deposition. The Potterspury sherd is from a bowl rim, a typical product of the tradition. The sherd of Midland Purple Ware is relatively fine and high-fired, and appears post-medieval.

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

Context	**1**		**2**		**4**		**Totals**	
Fabrics	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**	**No**	**Wt (g)**
F1001 RB	-	-	-	-	1	9	1	9
F330	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	4
F329	-	-	-	-	1	21	1	21
F403	-	-	1	40	-	-	1	40
F413	-	-	-	-	2	36	2	36
F417	1	56	-	-	-	-	1	56
F1000	-	-	18	376	-	-	18	376
Totals	**1**	**56**	**19**	**416**	**5**	**70**	**25**	**492**
Date	**18th century**		**19th century**		**Late 17th century**			

6.3 Other finds by Tora Hylton

A medieval brooch (see 6.5 below), and 18 individually recorded post-medieval metal small finds were recovered (Fig 16). Twelve finds were recovered from the subsoil (4), while six came from the area of metalled surface (6), topsoil (1), or spoil heaps.

The finds from the earliest datable deposit, the subsoil (4), include five pieces of lead shot (SF 6-9, 20), a copper alloy buckle (SF 19) and a copper alloy suspension ring (SF 2). The lead shot ranges from 11-16mm in diameter and 7.6-18.4g in weight (Fig 15). The small size suggests that they would have been for use with pistols (Egan 2005, 202); only one piece preserves a possible impact mark (see section 6.4 below).

The buckle is small and has a rectangular frame with rounded corners, and a central spindle with single spike/tongue (Fig 17, SF19). Buckles of this type date to *c*1720-1790 and they may have been used for fastening garters. The suspension ring has been crudely manufactured (Fig 17, SF2); it has an irregular hexagonal cross-section and resembles excavated examples from late medieval deposits in Northampton (Williams 1979, fig 113, 111,112) and 16th and 17th-century deposits in Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 47, 523,524). Such objects could have had any number of uses.

Other finds include two complete iron horseshoes with toe-clips which date from the early 19th century, a small copper alloy stud and a copper alloy sheet disc with impressed motif (SF1, Fig 14). During reinstatement, metal detecting found fragment of medieval buckle, and a small horse-harness pendant, probably late post-medieval. See Table 2 for further details.

Copper alloy disc (SF 1) Fig 14

Lead shot assemblage and lead weight (scale 50mm) Fig 15

Table 2: Catalogue of other finds

SF No	Context	Description
SF 1	**4**	**Disc**, copper alloy. Thin sheet disc decorated a stamped motif (Fig 14). Radiating lines to an 8 pointed star, with 'B M' at the centre inside a circle. Dia: 15mm.
SF 2	**4**	**Ring**, copper alloy. Crudely manufactured ring with irregular hexagonal cross-section with filing marks evident on the outer circumference of the ring. It was probably used as a suspension ring and could have served many functions. Similar examples are recorded from 16th and 17th century deposits in Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 47, 523, 524). Ext. Diam: 26mm Int. diameter: 17mm, Fig 17
SF 3	**4**	**Stud**, copper alloy. Domed head with square-sectioned shank. Length: 10mm Head – Diam: 10mm
SF 4	**1**	**Button**, metal alloy. Plain disc with cone shank on underside. Date: pre 19th century. Diam: 15mm
SF 5	**1**	**?Weight**, lead. Ovoid with small recesses at the poles. Wgt: 24.6g, Fig 15
SF 6	**4**	**Shot**, lead. Diam: 12mm Wgt: 7.8g, Fig 15
SF 7	**4**	**Shot**, lead. Impact mark. Diam: 16mm Wgt: 18.4g, Fig 15
SF 8	**4**	**Shot**, lead. Diam: 11mm Wgt: 7.6 g, Fig 15
SF 9	**4**	**Shot**, lead. Diam: 14mm Wgt: 13.1g, Fig 15
SF 10	**1**	**Penny**. Edward VII dated 1903
SF 11	**6**	**Horseshoe**, iron. Complete shoe with toe clip, displays signs of wear. Length: 165mm Width: 172mm Web: 33mm
SF 12	**4**	**Horseshoe**, iron. Complete shoe with toe clip, displays minimal signs of wear. Branches almost parallel towards terminals, no nail holes visible. Length: 185mm Width: 172mm Web: 33mm
SF 13	**4**	**Object/fitting**, copper alloy. ? Circular ring made out of circular sectioned wire, integral nodule attached, Fig 17
SF 14	**Unstratified, Spoil Heap 2**	**Sheet fragment**, copper alloy. Sub-rectangular sheet fragment with perforation, one side straight with thickened wedge-shaped rim/edge and marginally placed 'semi-circular' recesses/notches below, presumably decoration. Reused fragment. 33 x 22mm
SF 15	**Unstratified, Spoil Heap 1**	**Ring**, copper alloy. Large annular suspension ring with circular cross-section. Ext. Diam: 49mm Int. Diam: 38mm
SF 16	**4**	**Disc**, copper alloy. Illegible. Diam: 21mm
SF 18	**4**	**Brooch**, silver metal alloy. Reported on by Lynn Blackmore (Section 6.5, this report). Ext Diam 28.8mm, int Diam 19.6mm, Th 2.4mm; L of pin 30mm, Fig 17, 18
SF 19	**4**	**Buckle**, copper alloy. Rectangular frame with rounded corners and a central spindle with single spike/tongue. May have been used for fastening garters etc. Date: *c*1720-1790, Fig 17
SF 20	**4**	**Shot**, lead. Dia: 12mm Wgt: 15.3g, Fig 15
SF21	**Unstratified**	**Harness mount**, copper alloy. Length: 36mm, Width: 17mm,
SF22	**Unstratified**	**Buckle**, copper alloy, fragment. Dia: 34mm

6.4 The lead projectiles by Glenn Foard

The bullets recovered during the current groundworks show thicker corrosion deposits than the round shot from the battlefield (Foard, forthcoming). This suggests a variation in soil chemistry across the site. However, as with the round shot, the lack of erosion on the bullets is likely to be to a large degree a result of the fact that the land has been under pasture for much of its history and lacking impact from modern agro-chemicals. Thus these bullets suggest that any projectiles from the battle present in this part of the battlefield are likely to be in fair to good condition, compared the excellent condition of the lead round shot.

These bullets are far too small for the early handguns or 'handcannon', which is the main type of handgun in use in the 15th century, at least until the last quarter of the century. The 14mm and 16mm bullets might be compatible with the bore of the early arquebus, but the chronology of the replacement of hand cannon by arquebus in field armies in Europe was probably not until around 1470. Moreover, it also appears that there was no significant battlefield use of handguns by English forces in the later 15th century. It is therefore highly unlikely that any of these bullets are battle-related, given the 1460 date of the Northampton battle. Even at Bosworth, which is after the probable transition to arquebus, there was no clear distributional association of such small calibre bullets with battle-related material, reinforcing the documentary evidence that handguns were not employed by English forces on the battlefield during the 15th century (Foard and Curry, 2013, 137-147). However, it is not impossible that future research on Wars of the Roses, particularly planned work on Barnet battlefield in 2015-17 where many continental handgunners were present, or on continental battlefields of this period, may demand a reassessment of this opinion when the exact range of calibres in use with the arquebus are examined.

Selected examples

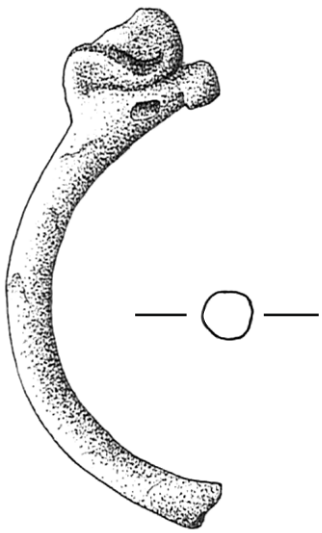
SF 7: Lead. 16mm/18.4g. Dark grey corrosion deposit in relatively poor condition showing deep decay and fragmentation around a deep impact, though other surface detail is visible suggesting the corrosion deposit is not thick. The impact appears to be post depositional, but confused by decay. A deep firing band is present, though again confused by corrosion. It is unclear why this bullet is so different in its condition from the other bullets. It may have been in reducing conditions in the ground. Alternatively bullet with a high tin content, which occurs on a very small percentage of bullets, can apparently result in accelerated, bimetal corrosion effects (Foard and Morris 2012, 152).

SF 9: Lead. 14mm/13.1g. Thick light grey/white corrosion deposit but with little or no erosion, indicating passivation. This corrosion deposit is obscuring or more likely has destroyed fine surface detail of impact and firing evidence. Larger features are visible though not clearly, notably a snipped down sprue with a small hole representing a bubble from casting, or possibly an incomplete fill of the mould. No other features visible.

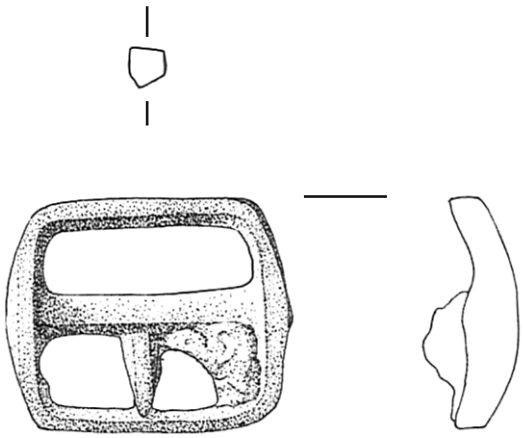
SF 20: Lead 12mm/15.3g. Thick white corrosion deposit but with no trace of erosion suggesting passivation, which has obscured or more likely destroyed finer surface detail. Gross features still visible though partly obscured, notably a raised sprue snip and a probable swaged flash on the mould line. No firing evidence visible.

Scale 1:250

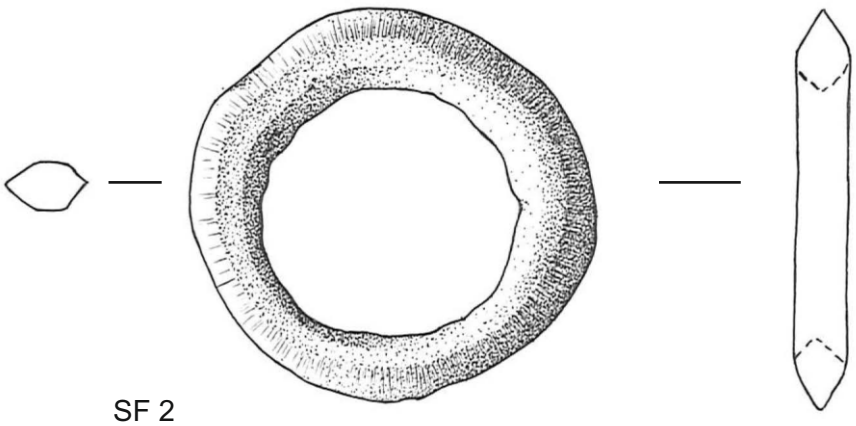
Location of recovered finds Fig 16



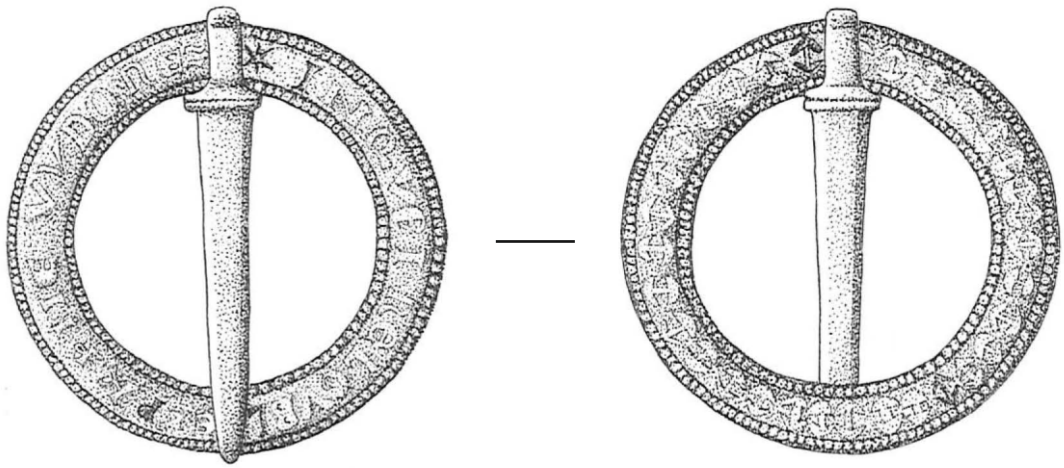
SF 13



SF 19



SF 2



SF 18

0 20mm

Scale 2:1

Copper alloy and silver finds Fig 17

6.5 Annular brooch (SF18) by Lyn Blackmore

A brooch was found in subsoil layer 4 (Figs 17, 18). It is formed of silver alloy, and has an external diameter of 28.8mm, internal diameter of 19.6mm and a thickness of 2.4mm. The find is a complete annular brooch with beaded inner and outer edges. There is an inscription in Lombardic lettering on the upper side, and a double axe motif on the reverse. The frame has a narrow recess for the sword-shaped pin, which would originally have been articulating but is now seized through soil or corrosion. Due to the nature of the local soil the brooch now has a reddish patina giving the appearance of brass. The inscription is worn.

This type of brooch is known as a *fermail,* a late medieval English or French brooch worn by both sexes to close a robe at the throat. In this case the double axe motif on the reverse may suggest a male user. Similar brooches can be seen on 13th-century and later statues, for example at Wells Cathedral. The Delapre brooch was cast, but the beaded rim on an example with foliate decoration from Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (finds.org.uk: LANCUM-285905) is described as delicately filed to create a cog wheel effect.

Brooches with inscriptions are high status objects, mainly of silver or gold and of 14th-century date. The mottos are usually religious (e.g. containing phrases such as JESUS NAZARENUS, or AVE MARIA) or seek to protect the wearer. Such brooches are not common, but there is at least one in the Museum of London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 254-5, no. 1337) and a number are held by the British Museum, including a French example in gold from Writtle, Essex (Tait 1976, 60, no 263; Cherry, in Alexander and Binski 1987,484, no. 644) and by the National Museum of Scotland (Callander 1924). Others can be found on the Portable Antiquities website: https://finds.org.uk. The above evidence suggests that the Delapre brooch was made in the 14th century. However, it is well worn and could have been carefully curated, and it is not impossible that it was lost at the time of the battle of Northampton in 1460.

Silver annular brooch with engraving, 14th century Fig 18

Comments from the Portable Antiquities Scheme

The brooch was determined to be treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act by Julie Cassidy, Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire. The Treasure Number for the find is 2015 T468. The inscription was identified by Ben Paites, Finds Liaison Officer for Essex, as medieval French and followed the religious motifs often found on brooches of this period.

IN QUEI NE LE VBLIE PAS IHESV ADORE

en qui ne l'oublie pas, Jesus adoré = in whom do not forget, beloved Jesus.

7 DISCUSSION

The unauthorised groundworks at Delapre Golf Course were assessed by MOLA Northampton between April and June 2015. Although the site of the groundworks is from an area of known prehistoric and Roman sites, no evidence for activity of this period was identified. During the medieval period, the site formed part of the open fields of Hardingstone village East End. Partida, Hall and Foard (2013) have identified that former ridge and furrow cultivation strips of this period were aligned south-west by north-east across the site. Cultivation earthworks do not survive within the site itself, although extant ridge and furrow can be observed immediately to the north-east on both satellite photographs and LiDAR survey (see figs 5.4 and 5.4a in LUC 2014), and to the north-west, west and south-west.

In 1460, the Battle of Northampton was fought in the vicinity, and the site of the unauthorised groundworks lies within the Registered Battlefield (RB29, HER5020/1). Concerns were raised that the unauthorised groundworks may have disturbed potential evidence from the battlefield. A key aspect in determining the significance of the site to the preservation of the battlefield lies in the placement of the Lancastrian encampment, and in the location of the conflict within the battlefield. Through contemporary sources, three potential locations for the encampment have been identified. One falls outside the Registered Battlefield entirely. The remaining two potential locations lie between 300 and 500m from the site of the groundworks. The site of the battle itself has also been in dispute, although finds probably associated with the conflict have been noted *c*580m to the north, in the area of the lake. None of the recognised sources place the encampment in the vicinity of the present groundworks, although this does not preclude the likelihood that the conflict and artillery fire from the battle may have spread over a wide area which possibly may include the site of the groundworks.

After the battle, the site of the groundworks continued to form part of the open field system of Hardingstone into the early modern period. By 1539 the site lay within Cow Leys; several furlongs in Moore Field used as unenclosed cow pasture (Hall 1980, fig 2 124, 131; LUC 2014, fig 5.3, 42). Full parliamentary enclosure, including the area of the site, took place in 1765. Two years later Delapre Park was laid out, with the former township boundary of the Portway forming its eastern edge (LUC 2014, 37, 43). Plans of the park and early Ordnance Survey maps show that the site of the groundworks lay to the east of the Portway and therefore outside the boundaries of Delapre Park, in an area of small fields (LUC 2014, fig 5.8, 45). The site remained agricultural until at least the sale of the abbey and parkland in the mid-20th century, and is therefore likely to have been extensively ploughed for many years.

During the later 20th century, substantial earthmoving was undertaken in the immediate area of the groundworks. The A45 bypass, which bounds the area to the south-east, was constructed in the 1970s, and the 260-acre golf course was opened in 1976 (LUC 2014, 46-49). The *Battle of Northampton Conservation Management Plan* identified the site of the groundworks as being subject to earthmoving for the construction of the golf course, for hazards and landscaping, as well as the

construction of the club house and car park (LUC 2014, fig 4.4, 32). In 2005, significant earthmoving took place in the field to the east of the site, behind the Club House and alongside the A45, for the construction of a driving range. Large quantities of earth were brought in from elsewhere, and an area of extant ridge and furrow was covered or levelled (Fig 8).

During the current groundworks, an area of 0.106ha, intended for a car park extension, was cleared of shrubs and trees and a depth of 0.30m of soil was stripped by a mechanical excavator.

8 CONCLUSION

All of the features identified through the assessment were of modern date and related to the use of the site as a golf course. This includes the metalled surface, tee-off area, service pipe trenches, manhole, and the bank construction. No other archaeological features were identified.

The distribution of the recovered finds can be seen in Figure 16. Two finds were recovered from the spoil heap. The annular brooch (SF18), which may possibly have still been in use during the period of the battle, was recovered from the truncated subsoil (4) on the margin of the removed tree line. It is possible that rooting action caused the find to have moved into the current subsoil. However, the soil was particularly deep around the find and one hypothesis for this suggests the brooch lay in a furrow of the former ridge and furrow field system which no longer survive as visible soil features in this area, but are known to have previously run parallel to the former tree line (Partida, Hall and Foard 2013). This might indicate that the find was located very close to where it was originally deposited. However, this cannot be ascertained with any certainty, and the brooch may date from as much as a century earlier than the battle. It has been demonstrated that none of the lead projectiles or other finds are contemporary with the battle; although the paucity of finds from the period of the battle does not necessarily preclude the site having been used during the conflict (Foard, see section 2.4 above). Historic evidence suggests that the site of the groundworks is very unlikely to have been within the area of the Lancastrian encampment.

There remains the possibility of single or mass burials being located within the battlefield area. However, there is no indication that any burials were located within the area of unauthorised groundworks, and they are no more likely to have been located here than elsewhere on the battlefield. Foard suggests that the slain may have been interred in the consecrated ground of the Delapre monastic church due to its proximity (see section 2.4 above).

As well as the larger scale earthworks of ploughing construction and golf course landscaping mentioned previously, the site has also been subject to some local disturbance, with the insertion of the service trenches, the laying down of the metalled surface, the construction of the banks, and most recently, the removal of a line of trees and the upper soil layers. The assessment identified that an area of natural clay, 75.4m^2, had been uncovered during the groundworks, 7.1% of the total stripped area (Fig 10). No cut features, burials or otherwise, were found within this small area, but due to the survival of the subsoil and topsoil on the remainder of the stripped site, the presence of cut features elsewhere in the area cannot be ruled out.

In conclusion, there is no evidence that finds or features relating to the Battle of Northampton have been disturbed by the unauthorised groundworks.

9 REINSTATEMENT WORKS

Following the completion of the archaeological assessment, a programme of reinstatement was undertaken, commencing 04/06/2015, to return the area of unauthorised groundworks to a similar state prior to the disturbance pending decisions about the future of the site. The reinstatement works, which proceeded under MOLA supervision, comprised the laying down of a permeable terram membrane across the cleaned surface. The terram was then covered with the upcast soil from the spoil heaps by machine from one side of the area to the other in a controlled manner, and was then lightly compacted (Figs 19-22). Care was taken to avoid rutting along the route between the spoil heaps and the site, and to prevent any further damage to the open area. Monitoring visits by MOLA personnel were made on 4th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th of June. Two separate metal-detecting surveys were undertaken by Stephen Critchley during the reinstatement to examine the soil from the spoil heaps as it was spread across the terram surface, on 5th and 12th June. Two further copper-alloy finds were identified; a fragment of medieval buckle and a small post-medieval horse harness fitting. Modern tin cans and foil were not retained.

The reinstated site has been protected by the placement of large wooden beams across the gap in the bank to prevent vehicles and persons entering the area from the car park (Fig 24).

Reinstatement works under progress Fig 19

Reinstatement works under progress Fig 20

Completed reinstatement works, looking north Fig 21

Completed reinstatement works, looking south Fig 22

Completed reinstatement works, looking south-east Fig 23

Blocked entrance to area Fig 24

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context Number	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts	Finds	Dating
1	Layer	Topsoil/turf	>0.12m deep	Penny, metal finds	14, 15, 10	20th century
2	Layer	Dark grey sandy loam make-up in north bank, with building debris	6.0-9.0m wide, 0.50-0.90m deep	Pottery, glass, clay tobacco-pipe, brick/tile		20th century
3	Layer	Yellow-brown clayey loam, redeposited natural	7.0m wide, 0.80-0.90m deep	Pottery, brick/tile		20th century
4	Layer	Subsoil of green brown clayey loam	>0.06m deep	Pottery, flint	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17	Medieval/Post-medieval
5	Natural	Natural clay formed of grey blue and yellow-brown areas of clay		Brooch, lead shot, copper alloy		
6	Layer	Metalled surface formed of ironstone and limestone fragments, concrete and ceramic building materials	*c*18m long, >4.m wide	Pottery, brick/tile	11	20th century
7	Cut	Service trenches and land drain	0.80- 1.00m wide			20th century

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