



**A programme of archaeological observation
investigation and recording of works at
1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston
Northamptonshire
May 2015**

Report No. 15/91

Author: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molarnort1-211561	
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton in May 2015 for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their client MAT Applications Rushden, at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire. A shallow rubble-filled trench was uncovered during the groundworks for the new house. Otherwise no pre-modern archaeological features or finds were recovered.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None		
Current Land use	Previous garden - grass		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	None		
Monument type/ period	-		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	144m ²		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 99215 69581		
Height OD	-		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting for MAT Applications Rushden		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	05/05/2015 – 06/05/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	Northampton ENN107941	-	
Paper		Site file, drawings, photographs	
Digital		Mapinfo plans, Word report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire, May 2015		
Serial title & volume	15/91		
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A programme of archaeological observation investigation and recording of works at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire May 2015

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton in May 2015 for CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their client MAT Applications Rushden, at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire. A shallow rubble-filled trench was uncovered during the groundworks for the new house. Otherwise no pre-modern archaeological features or finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of their client MAT Applications Rushden, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling at 1 Kimbolton Road, Chelveston, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 99215 69581; Fig 1). Accession number: ENN107965

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council advised that a programme of archaeological mitigation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the site (Mordue 2014). This was carried out in order to inform decisions regarding the potential impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by MOLA Northampton (Leigh 2015).

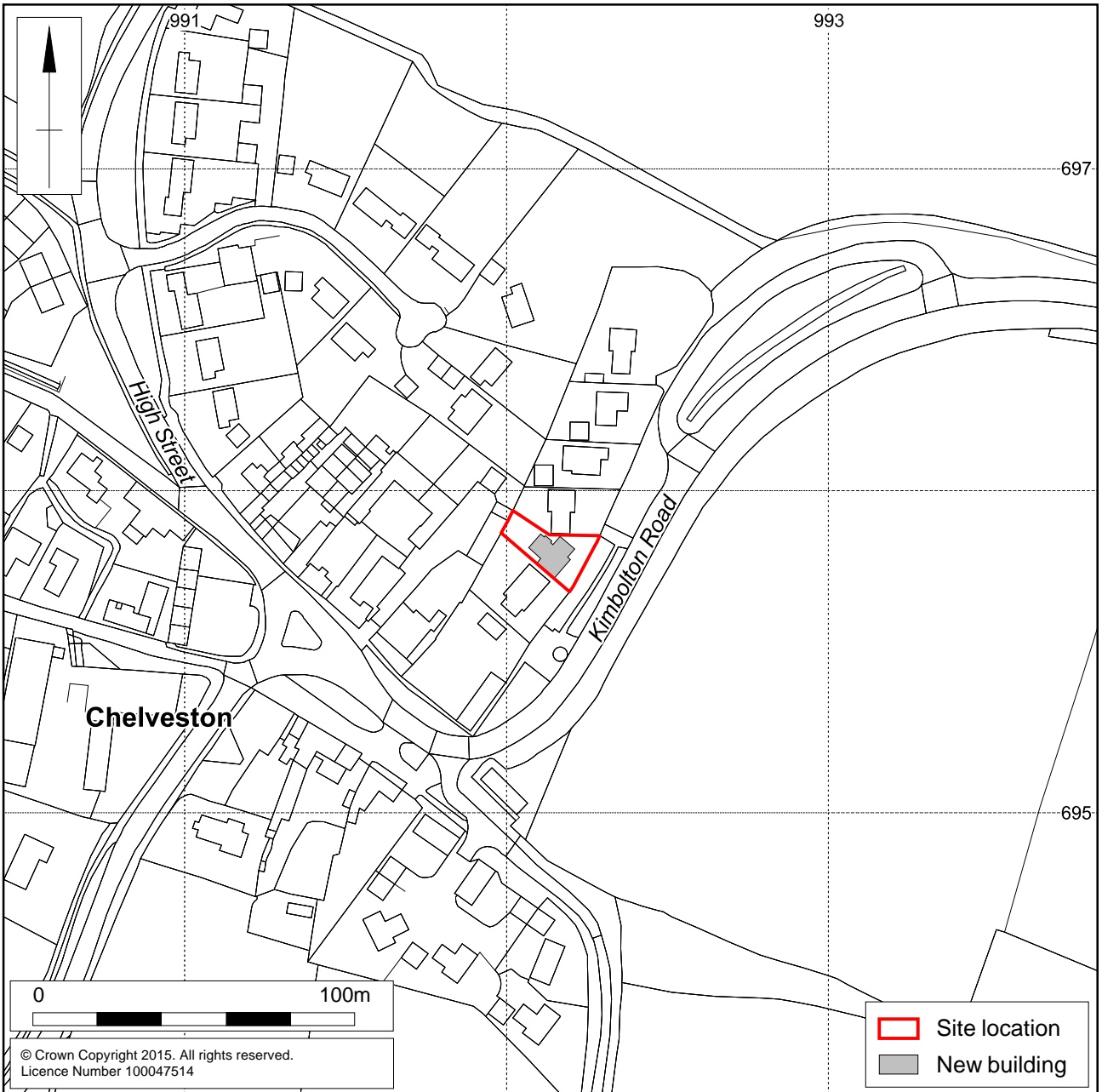
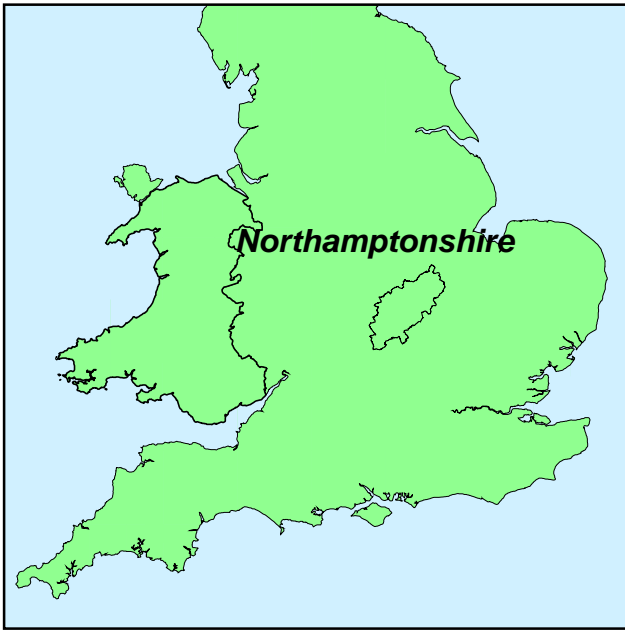
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014) and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

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Chelveston lies approximately 15km east of Wellingborough and 3.6km north-east of Higham Ferrers in the County of Northamptonshire. The investigation area is located within the core of the present village on land on the west side of Kimbolton Road, situated between Storfield House and 1 Kimbolton Road, to the north-east of The Green.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Oxford Clay with Kellaway Beds of Jurassic date (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Celuestone*, belonging to William Peverel. Close by, to the west of the present village, lies the parish church of St John the Baptist, the earliest parts of which dates from the 13th century. The church was subject to later additions and alterations, with subsequent restoration in 1849. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks (Leigh 2004).

To the south of the development possible medieval activity was recorded (3251 and 9209), to the west are the earthworks of a late medieval earthworks. To the north-east are undated activity areas and enclosure cropmarks recorded (9347)

Further south lies the former RAF/USAAF airfield of RAF Chelveston which was operational during the Second World War through to the Cold War, now being in private ownership. Recent archaeological work at the airfield comprises desk-based assessment (Dawson 2013) and watching briefs (Dawson and Leigh 2013a, Dawson and Leigh 2013b, Wolframm-Murray 2013); no pre-modern archaeological remains were identified. Also building recording of Nissen huts has been undertaken (Upson-Smith 2012). A trial trench evaluation identified a series of ditches and a pit spanning the middle to late Iron Age to early Roman periods as well as traces of medieval ridge and furrow (Clarke and Muldowney 2013).

Up to the present application the investigation area has comprised an area of domestic garden. No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out within the investigation area.

The Ordnance Survey Maps dating between 1885 and 1973 show fields with a boundary just to the south-west of the site. Then the development area becomes part of a garden.

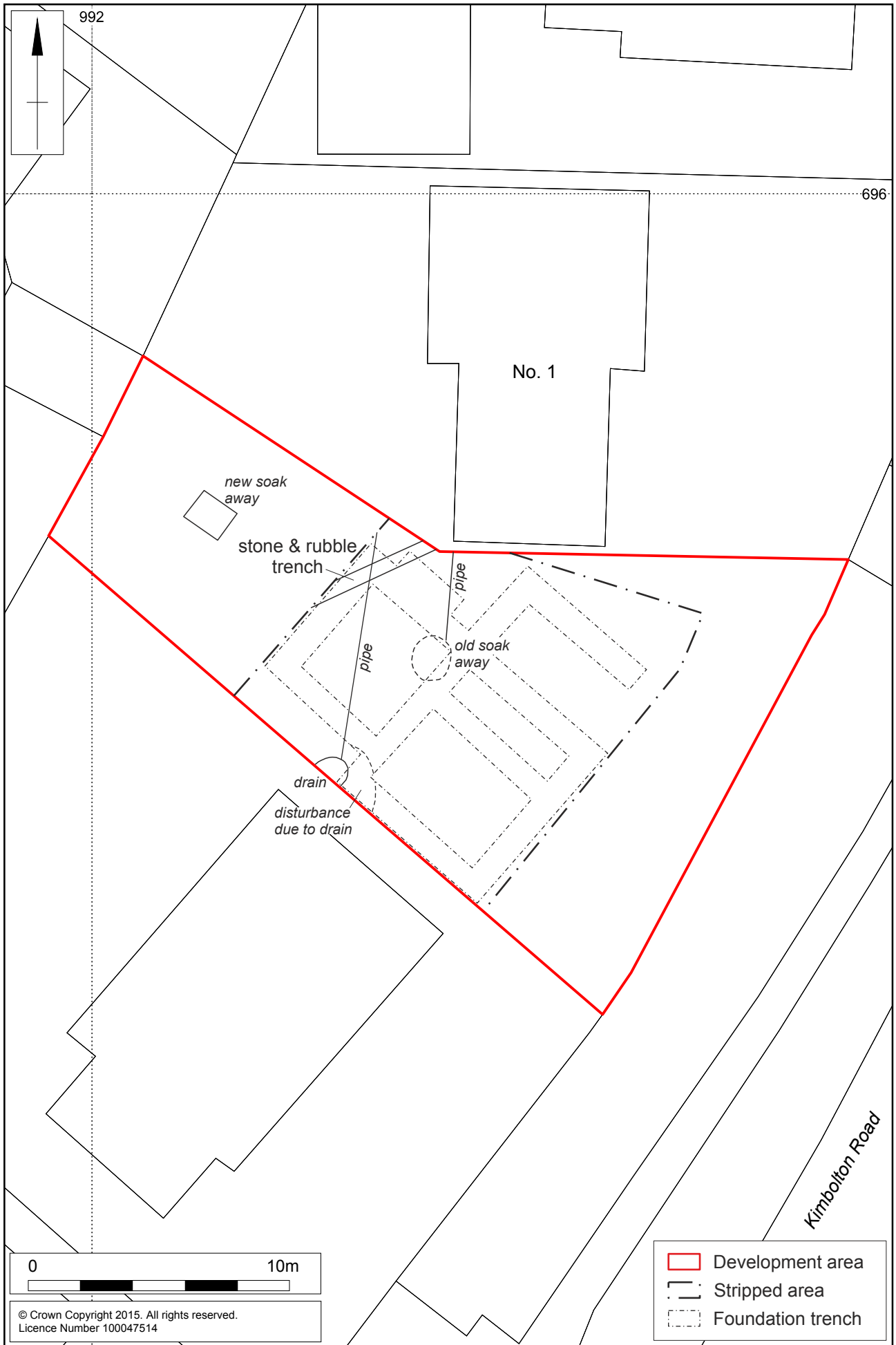
3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the investigation are to:

- identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the groundworks for the new development and any associated groundworks;
- determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits and to 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;
- create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on MOLA watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the *MOLA Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2014). A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images and black and white photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive.

The development site comprised a roughly rectangular area that fans out towards the road (Figs 2 and 3). A mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was used



Scale 1: 200

Plan of foundation trenches Fig 2

to initially reduce the ground of house footprint by 300mm. A 1.0m wide toothless bucket was used for the removal of soil and the natural substratum down to the required depth of c 1.20m.



Development area, looking north-west Fig 3

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate, 0.42m to 0.0.75m below the current ground level, was light blue and orange-brown clay; it becomes sandier towards the south-east of the site. This was overlain by mid grey-brown clay sand subsoil, 0.23m to 0.36m thick, and dark grey-brown loam topsoil, 0.19m to 0.39m thick



General stratigraphy on site, looking south-west Fig 4

The footprint of the house was stripped by 300mm, which only removed the topsoil leaving the subsoil exposed (Fig 5). There was some disturbance around the manhole with excess natural spread as a layer under the topsoil. In the northern corner a shallow, flat-based trench, aligned south-west to north-east, filled with building rubble was exposed. The ditch was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep (Figs 6 and 7). No dateable finds were recovered, but rubble content appeared modern.



Footprint of house stripped, looking south-east Fig 5



Rubble-filled trench, looking north Fig 6



Section through rubble-filled trench, looking north-east Fig 7

A soak-away was dug in the north-western part of the garden, 1.10m wide and 1.60m long. The exposed stratigraphy comprised 0.28m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil above natural (Fig 8).



Section of soak-away, looking north-west Fig 8

The formation level of the 1.0m wide foundation trenches was at 1.20m below current ground level. The topsoil and subsoil became deeper towards the north-western part of the site. Modern disturbances comprised land drains, foul drain and soak-away with drain (Fig 3). No pre-modern features or finds were noted in the trenches.



The north-western foundation trenches, looking south Fig 9



The southern trench foundations, looking south-west Fig 10



The north-eastern trench foundations, looking north Fig 11

5 DISCUSSION

During the observation of the groundworks general undisturbed ground was encountered with subsoil and topsoil present in the former garden. A shallow, flat-based trench of a short lived structure, filled with building rubble was uncovered in the northern corner of the building plot. The Ordnance Survey maps show the development area to have been in a field, near a boundary but no buildings are marked in the location.

The only disturbances comprised land drains, a foul drain with manhole, and a soak-away with pipe. No pre-modern archaeological features or finds were recovered.

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WEBSITES

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