



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at
Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park
Milton Keynes
October 2015**

Report No. 15/194

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Illustrator: James Ladocha



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-229609	
Project name	Trial trench evaluation on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, prior to proposed development. Five trenches were excavated with successive layers of made ground and rubble being encountered. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.		
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Turf		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Buckinghamshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes.		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c 0.8 ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 8852 3770		
Height OD	c 65m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Milton Keynes Development Partnership		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke		
Project Manager	Adam Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	12/10/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (EMK1262)	Content	
Physical	None	None	
Paper	AYBCM.2015.138	Site documents – context sheets et al	
Digital	AYBCM.2015.138	Mapinfo plans, Word report, dxf data, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Trial trench evaluation on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes.		
Serial title & volume	15/194		
Authors	Jim Burke		
Page numbers	7 pages including text and illustrations		
Date	23/10/2015		

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Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park Milton Keynes October 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes, prior to proposed development. Five trenches were excavated through successive layers of made ground and rubble. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2015, MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 8852 3770, Fig 1).

Milton Keynes Development Partnership had advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area. The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs (Clark 2015).

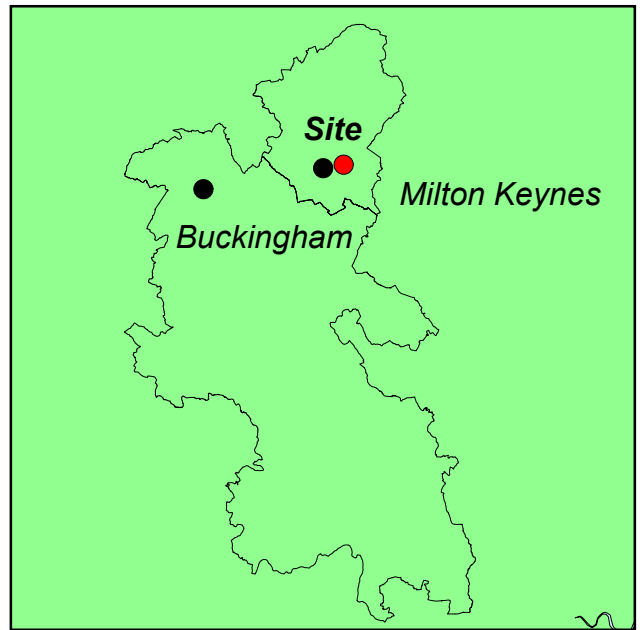
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that would allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

The following information was required to allow the development of a strategy for further investigation of the site:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.

The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance; archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014).



Scale 1:20,000 (A4)

Site Location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The site is located within Monkston Park, Milton Keynes on relatively flat ground at around 65m aOD. It comprises approximately 0.8 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference SP 8852 3770. The site is bounded to the south-east by Standing Way (H8), to the north-east by Ladbroke Grove, to the north by Goldhawk Road, to the north-west by allotments and to the south-west by Ouzel Valley Linear Park (Fig 1).

The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the solid geology of the study site as mudstone belonging to the Peterborough member, overlain by superficial head deposits, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS GeoIndex 2015).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site is located to the south and west of a series of Iron Age/Roman features, including a Late Iron Age field system and a cremation cemetery, with Iron Age funerary traditions continuing into the post-conquest period. Roman evidence includes field systems, timber structures, enclosures and corn driers/malting ovens (Clark 2015, 3).

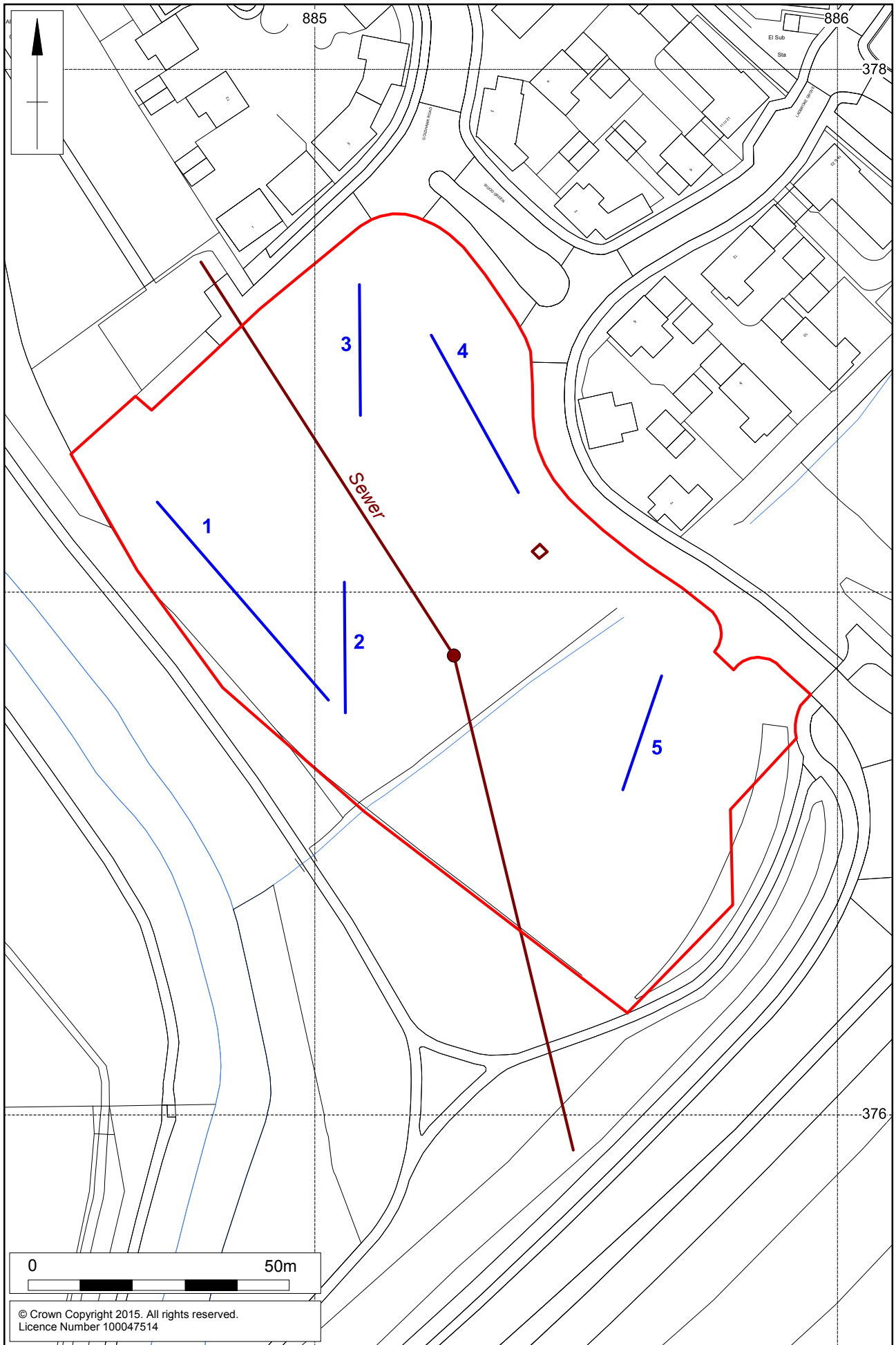
4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Five trenches, one at 50m long, one at 35m long and three at 25m long, were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8 m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). This equates to a 5% sample of the site. The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate.

The location of the trenches were surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and digital images was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

All trenches were cleaned sufficiently to define any archaeological features. All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA Northampton procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, relationships and interpretation. On completion, all trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (Clark 2015).



Scale 1: 1000

Excavated trenches Fig 2

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate was encountered at 0.60m below the modern ground surface and comprised mid yellow-brown sand and gravel. Overlying the natural sands was a series of modern deposits comprising dark grey-brown sandy-clay, from which fragments of modern building debris including bricks, concrete, and plastic was recovered, but not retained. The topsoil was consistent across the site comprising dark grey-brown sandy-clay (Figs 3 and 4).

No archaeological features were identified in the evaluation. A full list of deposits by trench can be found in the Context Inventory (Appendix).



Trench 2, section through modern deposits, looking east Fig 3



Trench 4, modern debris and pipe, looking north-east Fig 4

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation identified no archaeological features or finds. Extant bunds of spoil around the site indicated potential modern disturbance and this appears to have been confirmed by the trenching.

Across the site deposits containing modern building debris overlie the natural sands and gravels indicating that the overburden has previously been removed and that this area has been highly disturbed and potentially truncated. This would suggest that any potential archaeological features have been removed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- CIfA 2014a *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute of Archaeologists
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- CIfA 2014c *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, Heritage England
- MOLA 2014 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, MOLA Northampton
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WEBSITES

BGS GeoIndex, www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html, accessed 2015

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SP88485 37699	63.14m aOD	62.54m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil/Pasture	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	-
102	Layer	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	-
103	Layer	Mid yellow-brown sand-clay	0.20	-
104	Natural	Mottled light orange-grey and light grey silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	24m x 1.80m N-S	SP88506 37690	62.40m aOD	61.85aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil/Pasture	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.35m thick	-
202	Layer	Re-deposited natural, dark brown clay and gravel	0.20m thick	Modern concrete, brick
203	Natural	Orange-yellow sand and gravel	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	24m x 1.80m N-S	SP88509 37744	63.10m aOD	62.20m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil/pasture	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	-
302	Layer	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.35m thick	-
303	Layer	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	
304	Natural	Mid orange-yellow sand and gravel	-	

LADBROKE GROVE, MONKSTON PARK, MILTON KEYNES

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	35m x 1.80m NW-SE	SP88527 37740	63.33maOD	62.43m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil/pasture	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m thick	-
402	Layer	Deposit of gravel and sand	0.10m thick	-
403	Layer	Mid grey-brown sand	0.30m thick	Modern tape, metal fragments
404	Layer/possible natural	Mid yellow sandy-clay with small gravels	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	23m x 1.80m NE-SW	SP88558 37663	63.19m aOD	62.04m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil/Pasture	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.50m thick	Modern brick, concrete
502	Layer	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	Bricks
503	Layer	Mid yellow sand-clay	0.40m	-



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