



# Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis at Bridge House, Badby Northamptonshire July – November 2015

Report No. 15/204

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## OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molarnort1-231257</b>	
Project name	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire, July – November 2015		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Steve Holton Builders to carry out an archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire, prior to the proposed development of the site. Two service trenches were identified; both containing modern out of use services.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Watching brief		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None		
Current Land use	Garden		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	No		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Pinfold Green, Badby, Daventry, NN11 3AE		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c 685 sq		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 55907 59380		
Height OD	118m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Gemma Hewitt		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney		
Sponsor or funding body	Steve Holton Builders		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date/End date	07/07/15 – 17/11/2015		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>	
Physical	MOLA Northampton Archive store ENN108029	None	
Paper		Site file, drawings, photographs	
Digital		Mapinfo plans, Word report, photographs, survey data	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire. July – November 2015		
Serial title & volume	15/204		
Author(s)	Gemma Hewitt, Adam Reid		
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Location and geology</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Historical and archaeological background</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Methodology</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>
	<b>APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY</b>

## **Figures**

- Front cover: House plot area, facing south-east.  
Fig 1: Site location  
Fig 2: Areas of investigation  
Fig 3: The stratigraphic sequence  
Fig 4: House plot area, looking north

# Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire July - November 2015

## Abstract

*MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Steve Holton Builders to carry out archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire prior to the proposed development of the site. Two service trenches were identified; both contained out of use services.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Steve Holton Builders on behalf of their clients, to carry out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis of c 685sq m of land at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 55907 59380, Fig 1).

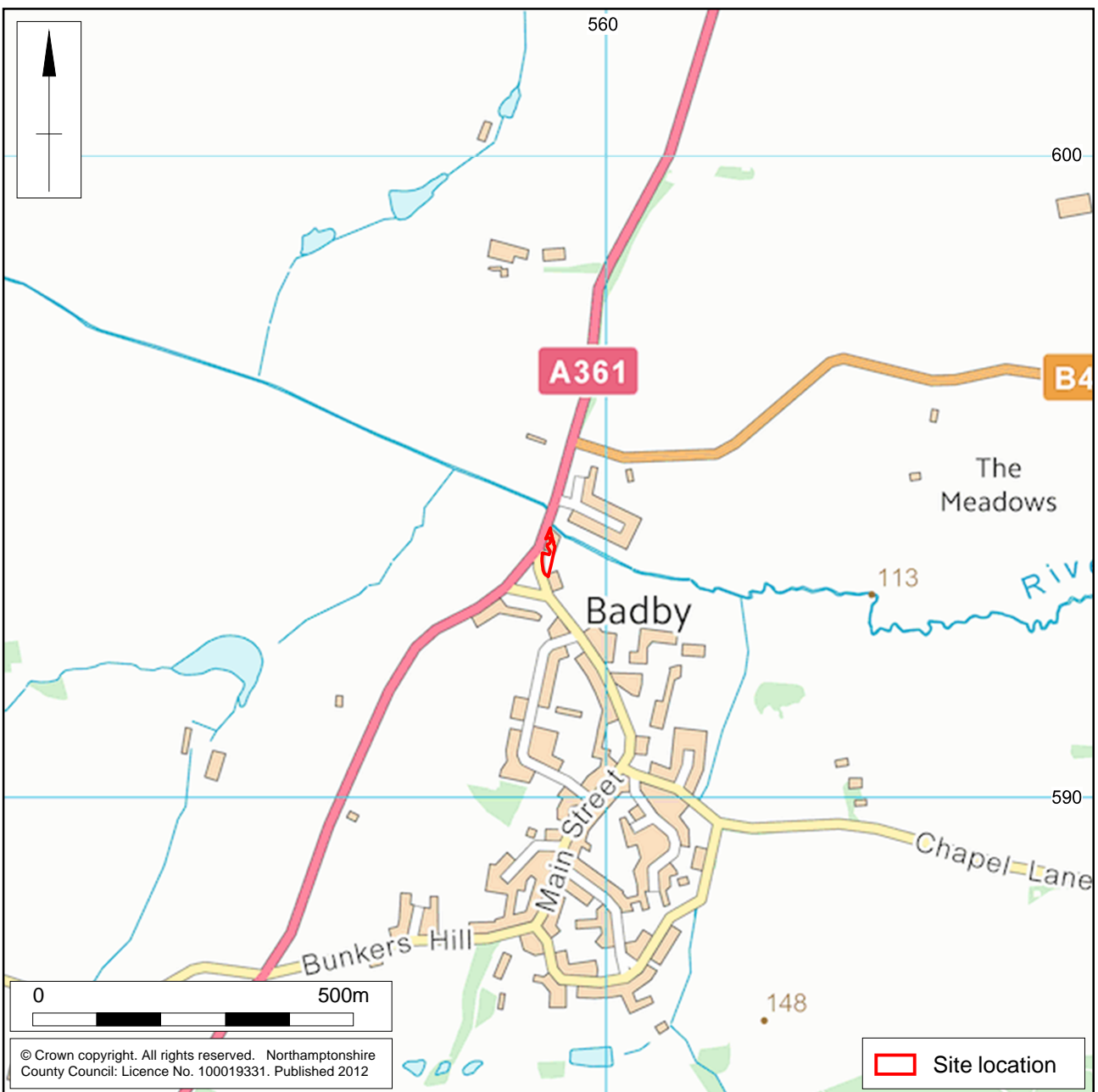
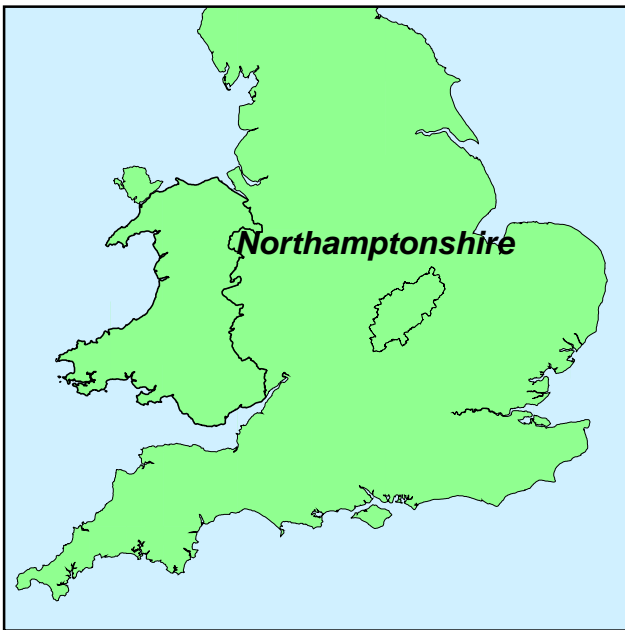
Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA) advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the house footprint and associated service trenches (Fig 2). The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (2015).

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location and geology

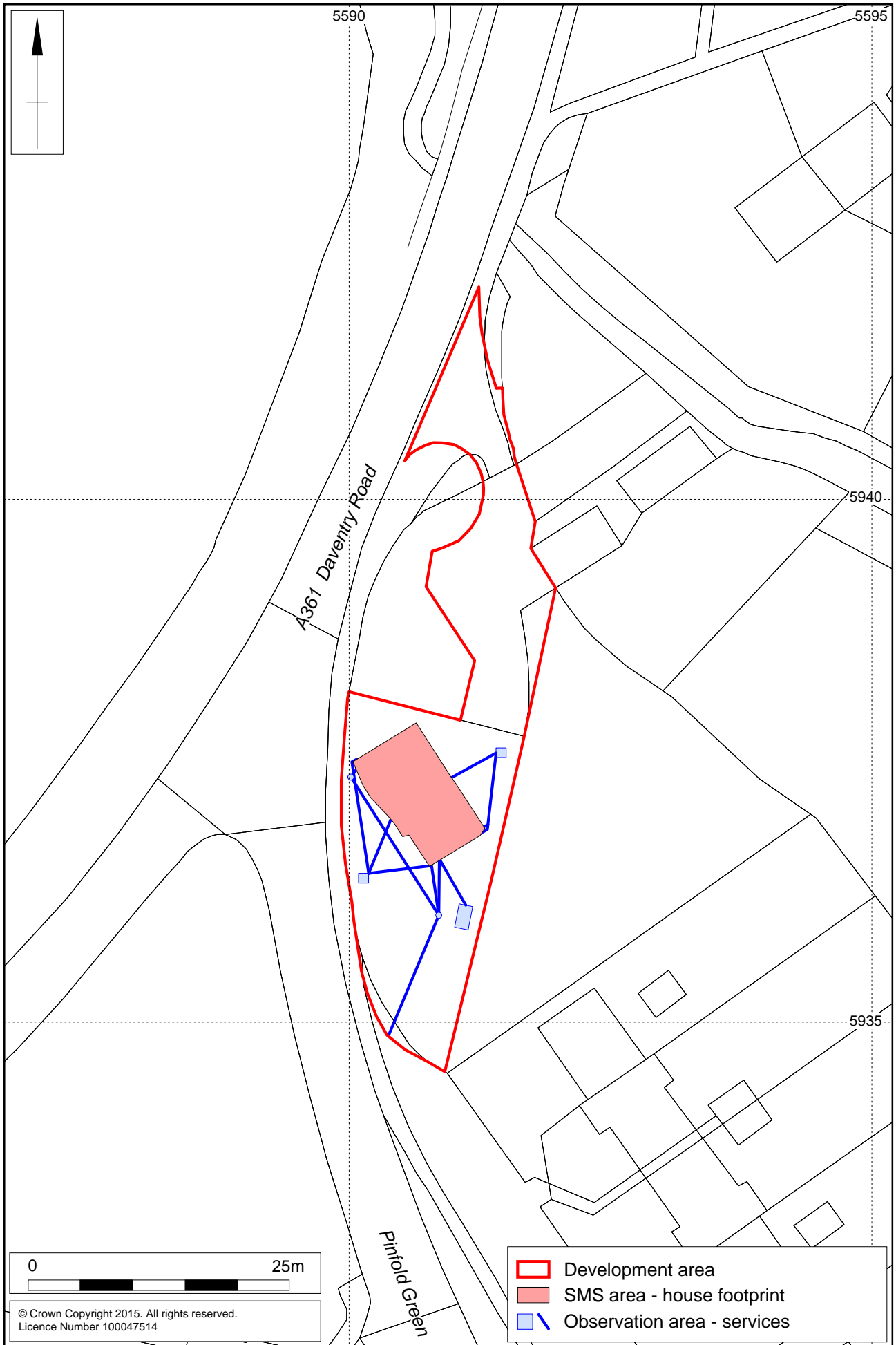
Badby village lies south of Daventry and west of Newnham. The site for development (henceforth: site) is located on the north side of the village. It comprises an approximately semicircular parcel of land, covering c 685sq m, immediately adjacent to the Daventry Road and Pinfold Green and to the west of the rear gardens of existing properties. The site had been cleared of vegetation prior to commencement of the archaeological works.

The bedrock geology is recorded as Charmouth Mudstone Formation and the superficial geology is recorded as alluvium, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravels (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 11/06/15). The site is situated at 118m above Ordnance Datum.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 500

Areas of observation Fig 2



## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

Badby is an historic settlement, with its core a designated Conservation Area (DNN12239) lying less than 150m south from the site. There are a small number of archaeological remains of all periods lying within an approximate 1km radius of the site.

The following information is taken from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

### ***Prehistoric to Romano-British***

Very little evidence dating to the prehistoric period has been identified within the Badby area. The closest known activity lies just less than 1km to the north, north of Bridge Hill Farm, and there is a 'tumulus' marked on the map that is either a Bronze Age burial mound or a post-medieval windmill mound (HER635/1).

There are a couple of records pertaining to the Romano-British period; one lies to the north near Bridge Hill Farm (HER454), and the other about 1km to the north-east, near Newnham (HER456). Both are settlement sites.

### ***Saxon and medieval***

The site lies within an area defined as the extent of the Saxon to present day village (HER400). It is most likely that the Saxon and medieval village lies within the Conservation Area, and outlying buildings or remains of this period may have lined Pinfold Green, the road that extends north-west from the historic core.

The majority of medieval records within the HER relate to the extant remains of ridge and furrow, which survive as earthworks in the fields all around the village (for example, HER476/0/1/4/5/7/14/15). The site may contain evidence for ridge and furrow as it lies on land likely to have been part of the cultivated open field system around the village.

To the east is a Scheduled Monument that comprises the remains of a monastic retreat house, manorial courthouse and inn complex (SM17152), parts of which were excavated over three seasons in the 1960s (Grey, undated).

The location of a transport and communication site or route thought to have medieval origins is located to the south-west (HER452).

### ***Post-medieval and modern***

Badby, like innumerable other settlements, expanded during the post-medieval and modern period. There are a number of post-medieval buildings to the south of the site, within the Conservation Area, some of which are Listed for example, Wayside, an early 18th-century ironstone, two-storey house (HER18/20, Grade II).

Passing the west side of the village is the Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike road (HER9401/1).

To the north-west there is an undated, presumed modern, transport and communications site (HER452).

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Objectives

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

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological features and deposits exposed during the excavation of the footprint of the house and any other associated below ground works, for example, service trenches;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

Further objectives included:

- Establishing the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recovering artefacts to assist in the development of the type series within the region;
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

#### 3.2 Methodology

The house plot was excavated using a rubber-tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The service trenches were excavated using the same machine fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal the natural substrate, and both were stacked separately at the side of the site. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation (Appendix). A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The watching brief conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014b). The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (2015).

#### 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The stratigraphic sequence (Fig 3) comprised natural light brown-orange sandy cornbrash with several medium to large pieces of ironstone (103). This was overlain by mid grey-brown silty sand subsoil which was between 0.15m and 0.20m thick (102). The uppermost topsoil layer comprised dark grey silty loam, overlain by a recently derived mid brown-grey topsoil 0.10m thick (101). No finds were recovered.

No archaeological features were encountered in the house plot area (Fig 4), or during the excavation of service trenches. Two previous service trenches were identified within the house plot area; both contained disused services and were aligned north-south. To the west of the area was an old electric cable and to the east was the old water main. Both had been redirected prior to excavation.



The stratigraphic sequence

Fig 3



House plot area, looking north

Fig 4

## **5 DISCUSSION**

The investigation located modern service trenches, but no archaeological features or pre-modern finds were present. This suggests that the site lies outside the main areas of Saxon and medieval occupation and the fact that the archaeological work did not provide any evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation also suggests that the land was not part of the open field system that has been identified further to the west.

While the absence of archaeological remains at this location does not preclude their presence nearby, it seems likely the site was not part of the Saxon and medieval village or its cultivated hinterland. Development of this part of Badby does not appear to have taken place until the post-medieval period, at the earliest.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA Northampton

MOLA 2015 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Bridge House Badby, Northamptonshire*, MOLA Northampton

## **WEBSITES**

<http://bgs.ac.uk/> (accessed 17th November 2015)

MOLA  
24th November 2015

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	Topsoil	Loose mid brown grey garden soil with frequent root intrusions.	0.08 – 0.10m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand	0.15 - 0.20m thick	-
103	Natural	Firm light brown-orange silty sand cornbrash with frequent medium and large sub-angular ironstone fragments.	0.12 – 0.16m thick	-



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