

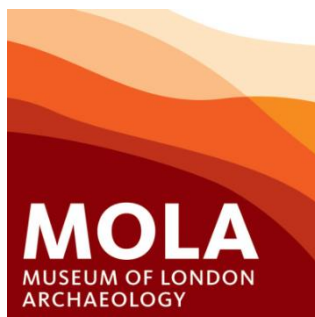


**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
on land south of Normanton Road
Packington
Leicestershire
November 2015**

Report No. 15/209

Author: Paul Clements

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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X.A129.2015

Report No. 15/209

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Author: Paul Clements

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch

Text Paul Clements BA

Fieldwork: Paul Clements
Laura Cogley BA
Esther Poulus

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BA

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS molanort1-231918	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Normanton Road, Packington, Leicestershire, November 2015		
Short description	In November 2015 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton, for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients Peveril Homes. The works identified no archaeological features pre-dating the furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation which were evident across the development area.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	-		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval to post-medieval		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Normanton Road, Packington		
Easting Northing	SK 3633 1440		
Area (sq m/ha)	1.6 ha		
Height aOD	c 110m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements		
Project Managers	Anthony Maull (MOLA Northampton) and Simon Mortimer (CgMs Consulting)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	23/11/2015		
End date	25/11/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location	Contents	
Physical	X.A129.2015	-	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Normanton Road, Packington, Leicestershire, November 2015		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Report 15/209		
Author(s)	Paul Clements		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Normanton Road Packington, Leicestershire November 2015

Abstract

In November 2015 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton, for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients Peveril Homes. The works identified no archaeological features pre-dating the furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation which were evident across the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in November 2015 by MOLA Northampton on land south of Normanton Road, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 3633 1440; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their clients Peveril Homes. The work fulfilled conditions 15 and 16 of planning consent (ref 13/01002/OUTM). The works were carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (2015).

The objectives of the evaluation were to:

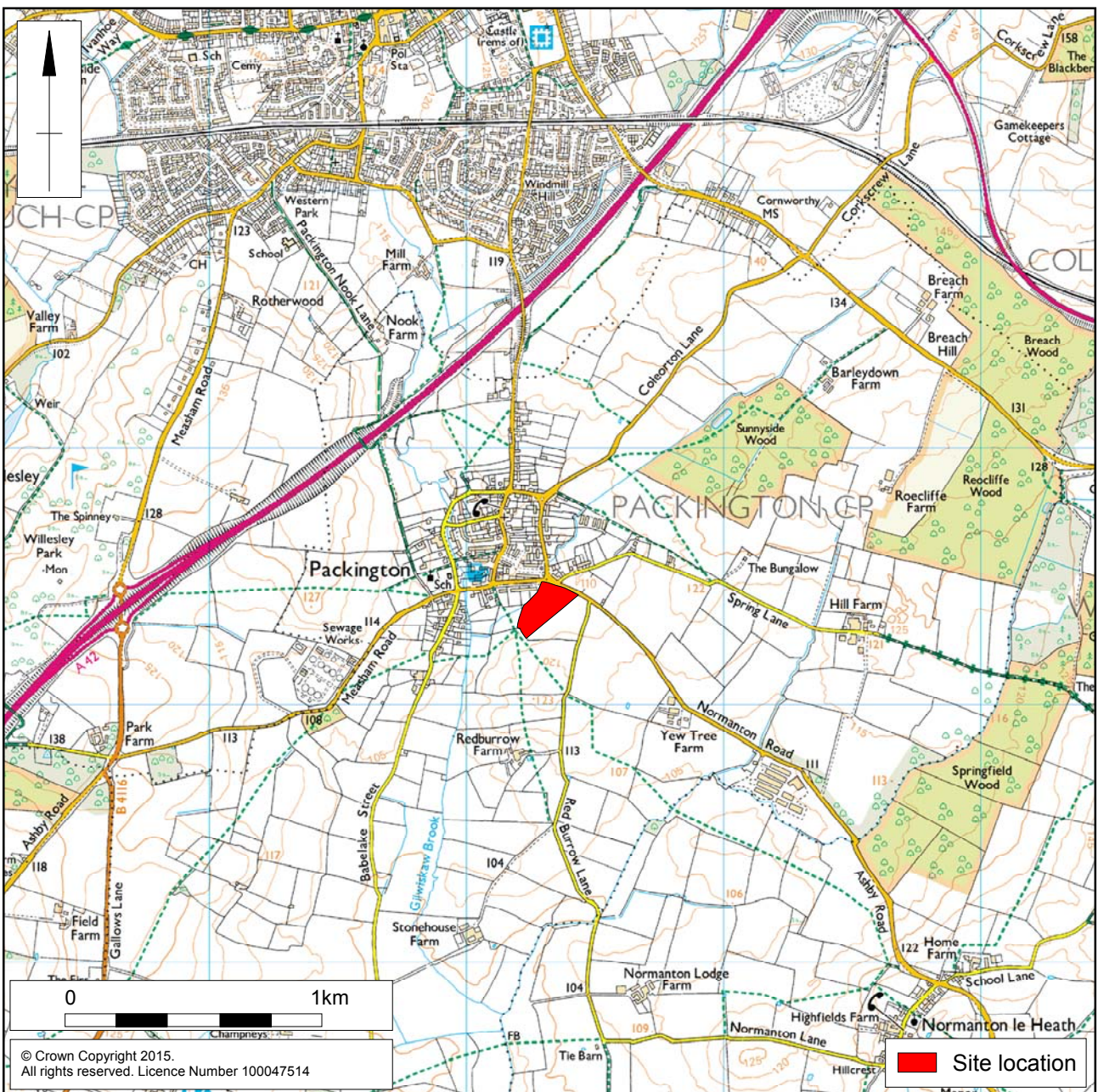
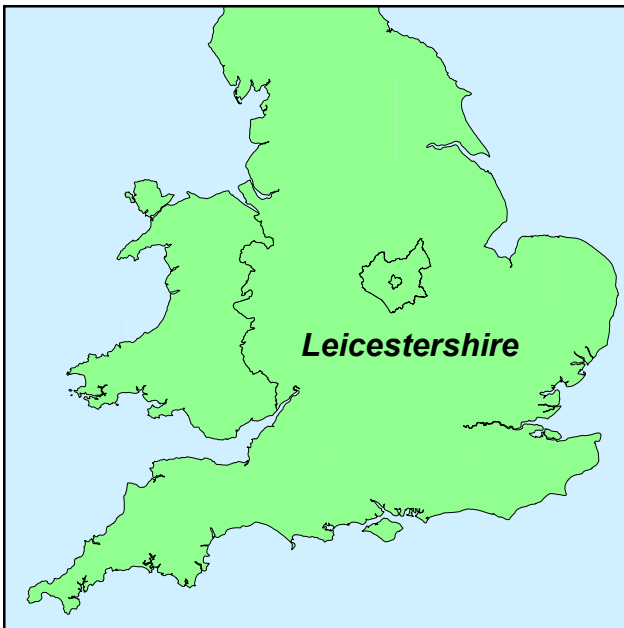
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significant and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site;
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- To inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

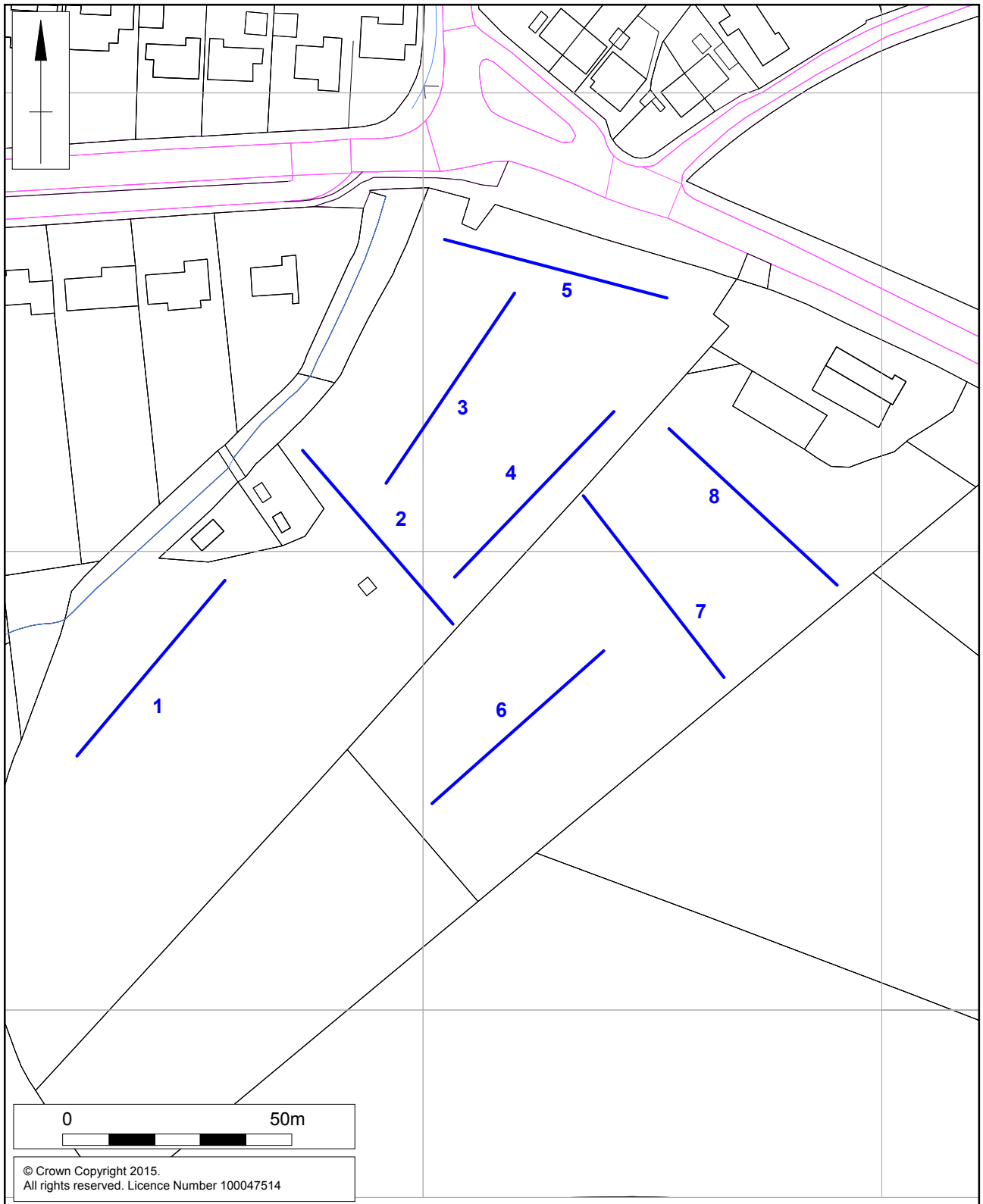
The site is located on the south-eastern edge of Packington at a height of c 110m aOD. The site is bounded by Normanton Road to the north and pasture fields to the east, south, and west. Extant remains of ridge and furrow are present within the south-eastern field visible as very shallow earthworks.

The site is underlain by mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal formation to the north and sedimentary rock of the Moira Formation to the south (BGS 2015). Soils across the site recorded as slowly permeable, loamy and clayey soils (Landis 2015).



Scale 1:25,000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:1250

Trench locations Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The following historical and archaeological background is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015).

No known archaeology or findspots are recorded within the development area. It lies immediately south-east of the historic settlement core of the village of Packington. The name of the village indicates an Anglo-Saxon origin. The earliest reference to Packington comes from the Domesday Survey (1086), when the village was in the possession of St Mary's Abbey, Coventry.

Aerial photographs show the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks within the site, indicating the site lies within the former extent of the Open Field system that would have surrounded Packington through much of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

3 METHODOLOGY

Eight trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by Richard Clark (Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire). The trench plan was designed to provide a general coverage of the development area (Fig 2). A total area of 720 square metres was excavated. All trenches were positioned using a Leica Viva RTK GPS.

A JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (MOLA 2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 1994, revised 2014).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology in the northern half of the site (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) was light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone. Within the southern half of the development the geology changed to mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone (Fig 3). It was encountered 0.50m below the modern ground surface. The subsoil was mid grey-brown clay-loam to the north and mid red-grey clay loam to the south, corresponding with the change of the natural, with an average depth of 0.25m. The topsoil was 0.25m deep mid grey-brown sandy-clay containing very infrequent small rounded stones and was consistent across the site.

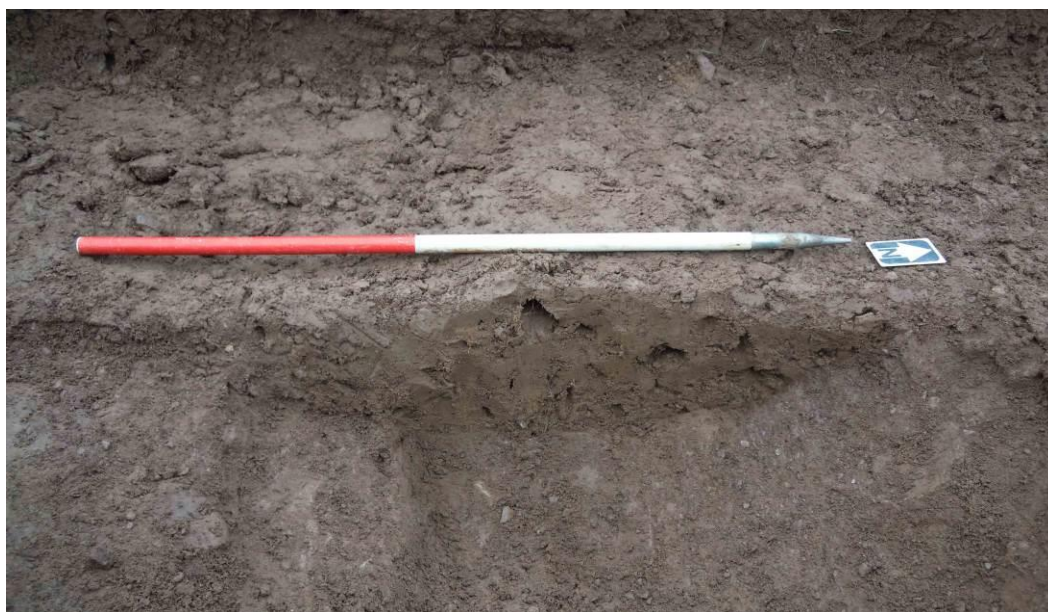


Trench 1 looking south-west and Trench 5 looking north-west, showing the two distinct geologies Fig 3

4.2 The trial trenches

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix.

Furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, aligned east-west, were identified in all trenches. Most furrows contained modern land drains. In the northern end of Trench 1, on the same alignment as the furrows, was a ditch-like feature [105], 1.30m wide and 0.25m with a wide bowl-shaped profile. Its fill, mid red-brown clay-loam, was very similar to the sub-soil and likely represents a deeper furrow rather than a ditch (Fig 4)



Trench 1, furrow [105], looking north-west Fig 4

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features were identified by the trial trench evaluation and no residual finds were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil. Furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation, evident across the development area on aerial photographs, were identified across the site in all trenches.

The lack of residual finds identified by the evaluation suggests that this area has primarily remained, relatively, undisturbed until its utilisation for ridge and furrow cultivation during the medieval to post-medieval periods. This tends to confirm that the development area lay outside of the Saxon and medieval village core, but within the medieval open field system surrounding Packington.

The archive has been prepared and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession code X.A129.2015. A site summary will be sent to 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society' for public dissemination.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CgMs 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trenching land south of Normanton Road, Packington, Leicestershire*, CgMs Consulting **PGC/SM/20939/01**
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute of Archaeologists
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- ClfA 2014c *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Institute for Archaeologists
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- EH 1991 *Management of archaeological projects, second edition (MAP2)*, English Heritage
- HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, Heritage England
- MOLA 2014 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, MOLA Northampton

Websites

- BGS 2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website
- Landis 2015 <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> Cranfield University National Soil Resources Institute

MOLA Northampton
V1 27 November 2015
V2 15 April 2016

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 36256 14393	109.30m aOD	108.80m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.25m thick	-
103	Natural	mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone		-
104	Fill of furrow	Mid red-grey clay loam	1.30m wide 0.25m thick	-
105	Furrow	Filled by (104)	1.30m wide 0.25m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SK 36273 14422	108.62m aOD	108.12m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.25m thick	-
203	Natural	mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 36319 14416	109.16m aOD	108.71m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.20m thick	-
303	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone to the north changing to mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone to the south		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 36341 14430	110.07m aOD	104.62m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.20m thick	-
403	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone to the north changing to mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone to the south		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	50m x 1.80m WNW-ESE	SK 36304 14467	108.77m aOD	108.27m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.25m thick	-
503	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	50m x 1.80m NE-SW	SK 36339 14378	111.76m aOD	111.26m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.25m thick	-
603	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone to the north changing to mid red-brown sandy-clay loam mixed with various-sized stone to the south		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SK 36334 14412	110.40m aOD	109.95m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.20m thick	-
703	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	50m x 1.80m NW-SE	SK 36353 14426	110.35m aOD	109.85m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy-clay	0.25m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid red-grey clay loam	0.25m thick	-
803	Natural	Light grey-brown and orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent rounded stone		-



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk