



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
at Brockhall Road, Flore
Northamptonshire
October 2015**

Report No. 15/210

Authors: Chris Chinnock
and Luke Jarvis

Illustrators: James Ladocha
and Olly Dindol



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molarnort1 - 232184	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire, October 2015		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out pre-determination archaeological trial trenching at Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire. The trial trenching identified furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation. These match three distinct furlongs previously recorded in the area of proposed development. Four irregular linear and parallel ditches were present and contained post-medieval material. No other features of archaeological interest were present.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None		
Current Land use	Arable		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Medieval ridge and furrow, post-medieval ditches		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Medieval and post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe and brick/tile		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Land west of Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	2.1ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 64380 60750		
Height OD	c 100m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Luke Jarvis		
Project Manager	Mo Muldowney		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	26/10/2015 - 30/10/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	MOLA Northampton: ENN108170	Pottery animal bone and other finds	
Paper	MOLA Northampton: ENN108170	Site records	
Digital	MOLA Northampton: ENN108170	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire, October 2015		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Brockhall Road Flore Northamptonshire October 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out pre-determination archaeological trial trenching at Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire. The trial trenching identified furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation. These match three distinct furlongs previously recorded in the area of proposed development. Four irregular linear and parallel ditches were present and contained post-medieval material. No other features of archaeological interest were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Brockhall Road, Flore, Northamptonshire (SP 64380 60750, Fig 1). The works were required in response to a forthcoming planning application for residential development and associated infrastructure, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) 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 prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2015).

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

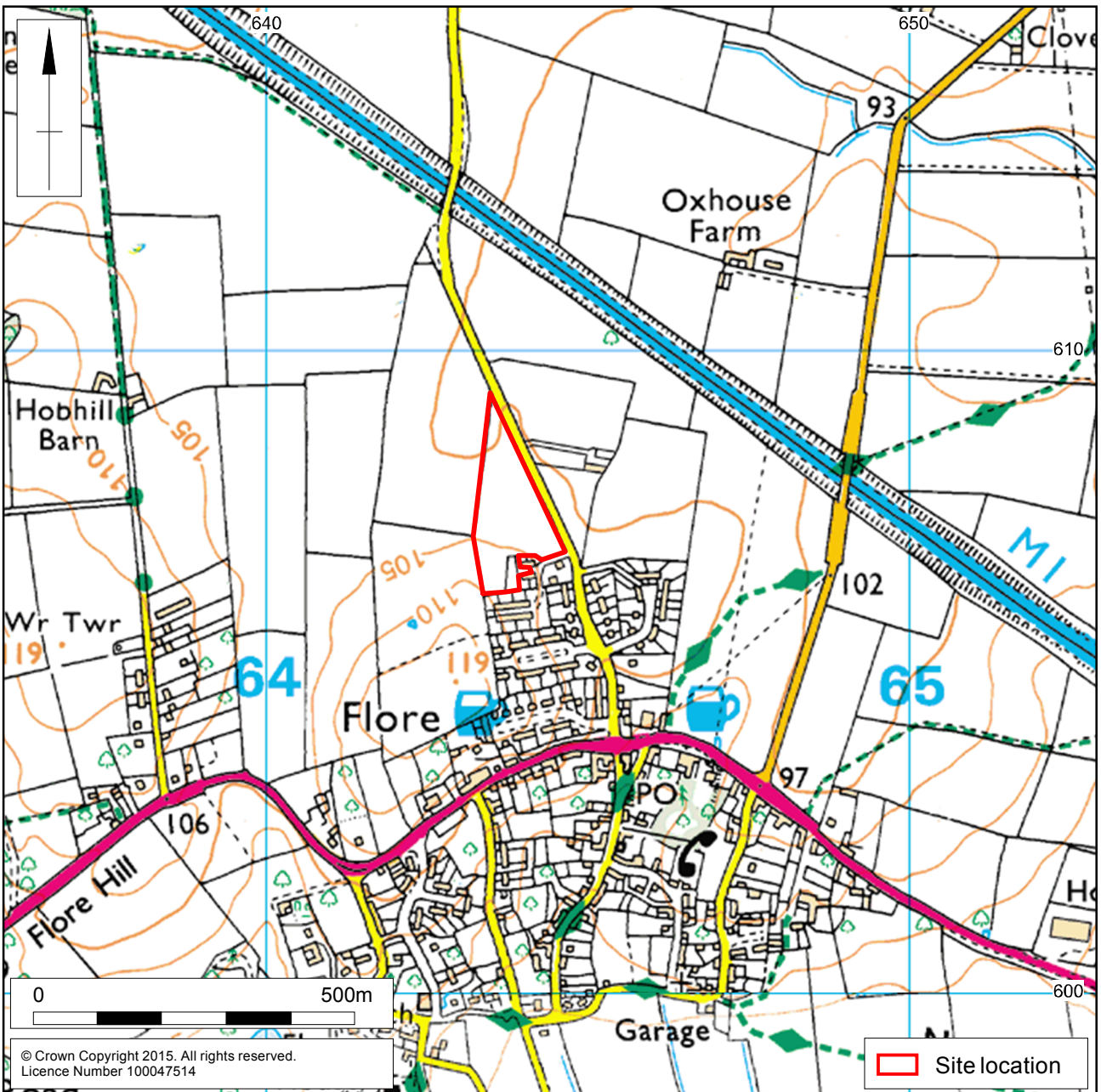
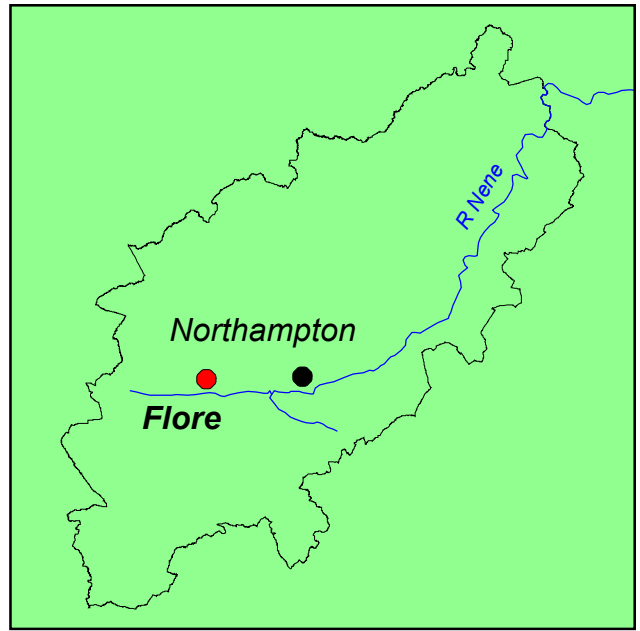
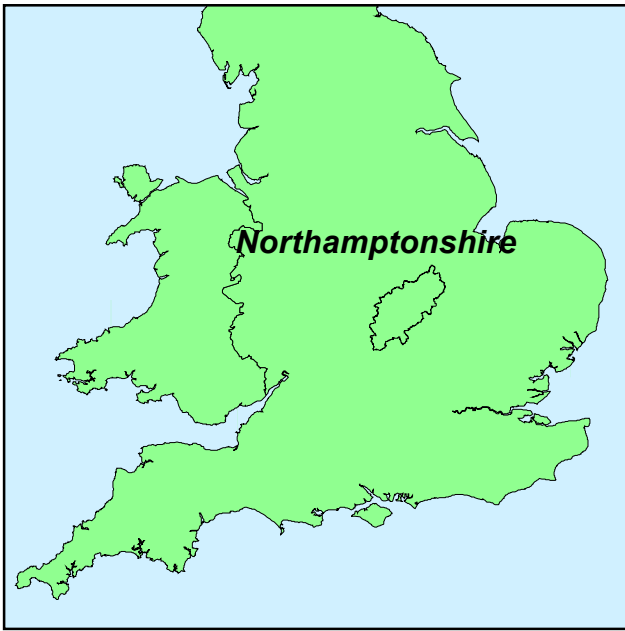
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

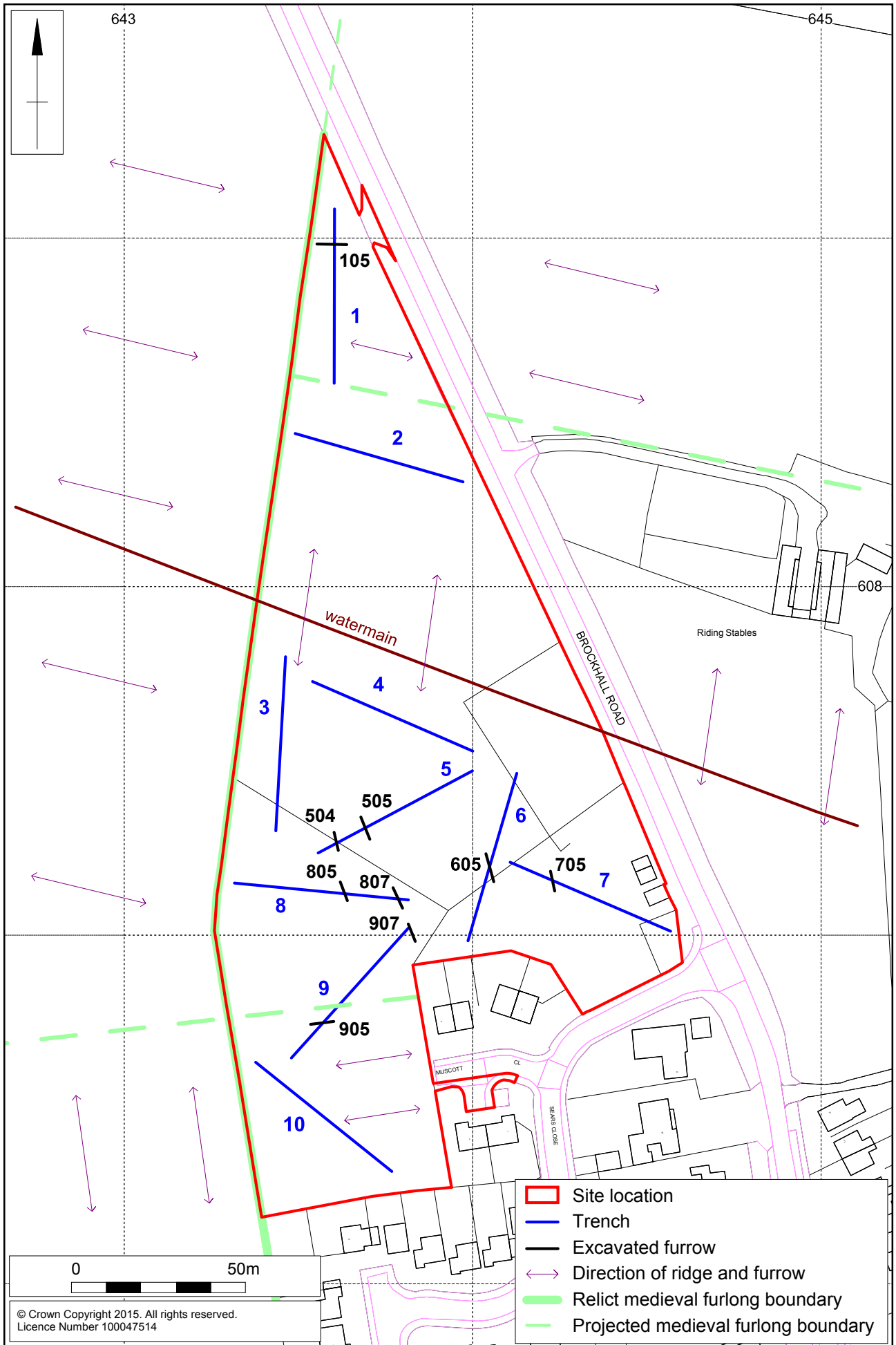
- Establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site.
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (EH 1991 and Knight *et al* 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 1,500

Excavated trenches with projected medieval agricultural landscape (Partida Hall Foard 2013)

Fig 2

2 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern edge of Flore. The site is bounded to the west by large arable fields, to the south by residential dwellings fronting Sears Close and to the east by Brockhall Road. Until recently it was subdivided into paddocks and used for grazing horses. It is currently in use as a single pasture field.

The bedrock geology is recorded as Northampton Sands and Ironstone in the Northern part of the site, with Whitby Mudstone to the south. No superficial geology is recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 30/09/15).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

Flore is a large parish of over 1090 hectares and includes the deserted village of Glassthorpe to the north-west (RCHME 1981). The village of Flore comprises six lanes extending south in a rather irregular form from the main east-west High Street (the A45) with the church lying at the south-west corner of the village, suggesting that the village has moved gradually towards the main road away from the church, or that it has been deliberately planned anew.

It is likely that the development area formed part of the West Field of the medieval open fields of Flore. The date of the enclosure of the common fields took place in 1778 though no surviving Enclosure Map exists (RCHME 1981). Prehistoric and Roman finds have been reported from the parish and there are large areas of ridge and furrow cultivation within the wider area.

4 METHODOLOGY

In total, ten trenches, 40m long and 1.8m wide, were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate and were stacked separately at the side of the trench. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines (MOLA 2015).

All trench locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence assigned to each trench. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). 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 (Flitcroft 2015).

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast material and compacted by the mechanical excavator.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate was a mid brown-yellow to light grey clay with rare small sub-rounded stones throughout; it was present between 0.40m to 0.70m below the present ground surface. The subsoil comprised mid brown-yellow silty clay, c. 0.25m thick, overlain by a dark brown silty loam topsoil c. 0.25m thick.

Archaeological features, comprising ten ditches, were identified in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. No other features were identified in any of the excavated trenches.



Sample section of Trench 9, looking north-west Fig 3

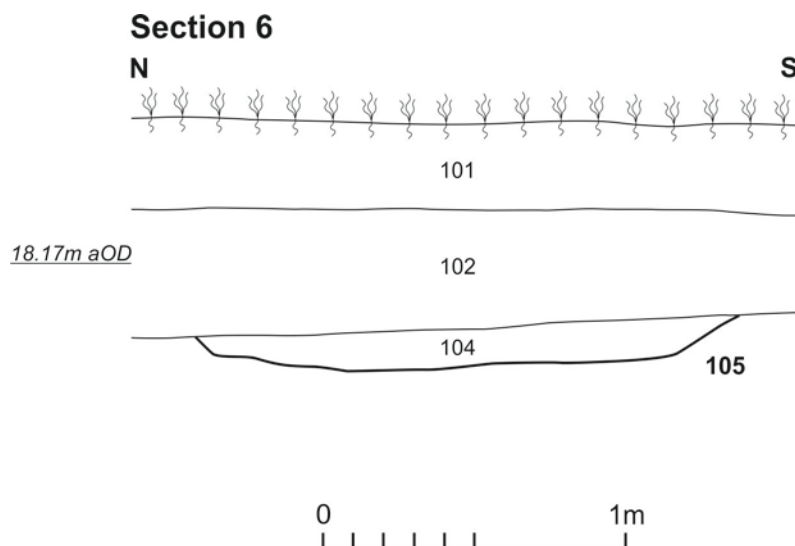
5.2 Ridge and furrow field systems

Three distinct alignments of furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation were present in the area of proposed development. These correlate well with the recorded medieval field systems in this area (Partida, Hall and Foard 2013). Prior to excavation it was noted that extant ridge and furrow earthworks were faintly visible throughout the field. The western boundary of the field can be matched with the medieval layout of the field systems to the north of Flore; the southern and eastern boundaries have been altered more recently to accommodate the expansion of Flore and the construction of the M1 (*ibid*).



Furrow [105], looking east Fig 4

The northern part of the site historically formed part of a furlong much of which exists as extant earthworks immediately to the east of Brockhall Road. Furrow [0105], aligned east-west in Trench 1 was part of this furlong (Fig 2). The furrow was 1.80m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and flat base (Figs 4 and 5). The fill comprised light yellow-brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded stones throughout. The fill contained one sherd of medieval pottery and one iron nail.



Furrow [105], section drawing Fig 5

The southernmost part of the site was original part of a furlong, the majority of which has been destroyed by the modern housing estate surrounding Sears Close, east of Brockhall Road. A single furrow was observed in Trench 9, aligned east to west, which may have been more substantial and thus survived subsequent plough damage as it lay immediately adjacent to the furlong boundary (Fig 2). The furrow [905] was 2.70m wide and 0.30m deep with a wide and shallow U-shaped profile and flat base. The fill, (904), comprised mid brown-yellow clay.

The central and largest part of the proposed development area was part of a third furlong, aligned north to south, part of which can still be seen in the fields immediately east of Brockhall Road (Fig 2).

5.3 Post-medieval features

Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 contained a series of four parallel ditches, aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, in line with Brockhall Road. The ditches were 0.53m to 1.80m wide by 0.15m to 0.45m deep, though a number of the features were ephemeral and showed some root disturbance throughout. All of the ditches had similar fills which comprised mottled mid brown-yellow silty clay. Ditches [807] and [805] contained post-medieval pottery.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Tora Hylton

Four sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 15g were recovered from archaeological deposits in Trenches 1 and 8. The assemblage comprises mainly undiagnostic bodysherds, a range of fabrics is present including kitchen and tablewares spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Chronologically the earliest fabric type represented is an undiagnostic body sherd in a shelly coarseware fabric (CTS 330*) with dates to c.AD 1100-1400. Later wares include a small plain rim from a beaker or small cup in Midland Yellow Ware (CTS 406) and an undiagnostic sherd of Tin-Glazed Earthenware (CTS 410), both fabric types date to c.1550-1700. Finally there is a large body sherd in Iron glazed red earthenware (CTS 426) which dates to the late 18th/19th centuries and probably represents a pancheon of bowl.

Table 1: Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Fabric type	Fill/cut					
	104/105 furrow No/Wt (g)		804/805 ditch No/Wt (g)		806/807 ditch No/Wt(g)	
Medieval pottery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shelly Coarseware (CTS 330) c.AD1100-1400	1	2	-	-	-	-
Post-medieval Pottery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midland Yellow ware (CTS 406) c.AD 1550-1700	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tin-Glazed earthenware (CTS 410) c.AD 1550-1700	-	-	1	4	-	-
Iron glazed earthenware (CTS 426), c. late 18th/19th century	-	-	1	8	-	-
Total	1	2	2	12	1	1

6.2 Clay tobacco-pipe by Tora Hylton

Three ceramic fragments representing part of a clay tobacco-pipe bowl with a vestige of the foot were recovered from fill (806) of ditch/furrow [807]. Visible features suggest that the bowl is bulbous in form and that it tapers slightly towards the rim; set just below the rim there is a groove, a feature in use until c.1710. Typologically the bowl may represent an Oswald Type G6 bowl which dates to c.1640-1680 (1975, fig 3).

6.3 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Three roof tile sherds and a probable brick fragment, together weighing 25g, come from fill (806) of ditch/furrow [807]. Two tile sherds, 15mm thick, are made from fine sandy orange-brown clay, one with a dark grey reduced core, the other sherd is only a fragment made with red-brown sandy clay. The probable brick fragment is made with very hard fine buff and orange and is most likely handmade. These very fragmentary remains would be of late medieval to post-medieval date.

6.4 Animal bone by Adam Reid

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from post-medieval features in Trenches 8 and 9. Fill (804), from ditch [805], contained eight rib fragments of a large mammal size. Fill (906), from ditch [907], contained an intact sheep or goat calcaneus, an intact sheep/goat phalanx, nine fragments sheep/goat metacarpal and three other small fragments of indeterminate mammal bone. Two of the metacarpal fragments (a distal and a proximal epiphysis) exhibit signs of butchery in the form of heavy chop marks.

Such a small assemblage adds little to the overall interpretation of the site, other than to demonstrate that domestic animals were utilised during the post-medieval period.

7 DISCUSSION

The results of the trial trench evaluation have confirmed the presence of furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation practices, which can be seen in aerial photography and as extant earthworks in the surrounding fields. The alignment of the furrows correlates well with recent mapping of the medieval furlongs to the north of Flore and confirms the presence of three distinct furlongs within the development area.

Parallel linear ditches observed in the central part of the area, may be furrows, part of a medieval or early-modern furlong. However, the alignment and irregular profile of the features coupled with the presence of much later pottery suggests that they may relate to a later agricultural process such as drainage or sub-divisions of land.

No other features of archaeological interest were present.

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MOLA Northampton
09 December 2015

APPENDIX: TRENCH TABLES

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural aOD
1	50m x 1.8m E-W		98.54m	97.94m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.30m thick	-
103	Natural	Brown yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
104	Fill of [0105]	Light yellow-brown silty clay, rare sub-rounded stones at base	W = 1.80m D = 0.15m	Pottery, Iron nail
105	Furrow	Linear E-W aligned, gentle concave sides, flat base	W = 1.80m D = 0.15m	



Trench 1, general view, looking south Fig 6

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
02	50m x 1.8m E-W		102.04m	101.49m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.25m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-



Trench 2, general view, looking south-east Fig 7

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
03	50m x 1.8m N-S		103.12m	102.57m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.30m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.25m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-



Trench 3, general view, looking south Fig 8

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
04	50m x 1.8m SE-NW		103.42m	102.82m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.30m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.30m thick	-
403	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-



Trench 4, general view, looking north-west Fig 9

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
05	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		103.52m	103.07m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.25m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.20m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
504	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, unexcavated	W = 1.00m	
505	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, unexcavated	W = 1.00m	



Trench 5, general view, looking south-west Fig 10

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
06	50m x 1.8m N-S		103.65m	102.95m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.30m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.40m thick	-
603	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
604	Fill of [605]	Mid brown silty loam	W = 0.53m D = 0.13m	-
605	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, concave edges, flat base	W = 0.53m D = 0.13m	-



Trench 6, general view, looking north-east Fig 11

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
07	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		104.39m	104.09m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
701	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.10m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.20m thick	-
703	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
704	Fill of [705]	Mid brown-yellow clay, occasional small stones	W = 0.70m D = 0.15m	-
705	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, steep sides, flat base	W = 0.70m D = 0.15m	-



Trench 7, general view, looking south-east Fig 12

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
08	50m, 1.8m & E-W		104.83m	
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.20m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.20m thick	-
803	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
804	Fill of [805]	Mid brown-yellow silty clay	W = 1.80m D = 0.45m	Pottery, animal bone
805	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, V profile, concave base	W = 1.80m D = 0.45m	-
806	Fill of [807]	Mid brown-yellow silty clay	W = 1.40m D = 0.45m	Pottery, animal bone
807	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, U profile, concave base	W = 1.40m D = 0.45m	-



Trench 8, general view, looking west Fig 13

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
09	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		104.92m	104.36m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.26m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.30m thick	-
903	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-
904	Fill of [905]	Mid brown-yellow clay	W = 2.70m D = 0.30m	Pottery
905	Furrow	Linear NW-SE aligned, concave sides, undulating base	W = 2.70m D = 0.30m	-
906	Fill of [907]	Mid brown-grey-orange clay, occasional small stones	0.30m thick	Animal bone
907	Ditch/Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE aligned, steep sides, irregular base	W = 1.20m D = 0.30m	-



Trench 9, general view, looking north-east Fig 14

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural
10	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		107.49m	107.09m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty clay, rare stone/flint	0.15m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silty clay, rare small stones	0.25m thick	-
1003	Natural	Mid brown-yellow/light grey clay, rare small sub-rounded stones	-	-



Trench 10, general view, looking north-west Fig 15



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