



**A strip, map and recording action
on land off Bridle Road
Old, Northamptonshire
May 2015**

Report No. 15/221

Author: David J Leigh

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS: molanort1- 233555	
Project name	A strip, map and record action on land off Bridle Road, Old, Northamptonshire		
Short description	A strip, map and record action was undertaken by MOLA Northampton, on behalf of Mr Mark Jones in May 2015 during the construction of a new cattle building on land off Bridle Road, Old, Northamptonshire. A relatively thin topsoil directly overlying the natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present.		
Project type	Strip, map and recording action		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Pasture field		
Future work	No		
Monument type/ period	-		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Land off Bridle Road, Old, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq metres)	c400m ²		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 78509 72848		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Mark Jones		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	May 2015		
End date	May 2015		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical		none	
Paper	MOLA (Northampton)	Watching brief forms (2) Photographic record sheets (2) Black and white photographs (10) Digital photographs (21)	
Digital		Report text and figures	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	A strip, map and recording action on land off Bridle Road, Old,, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 15/221		
Author	David J Leigh		
Date	December 2015		

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A strip, map and recording action on land off Bridle Road, Old Northamptonshire May 2015

Abstract

A strip, map and recording action was undertaken by MOLA Northampton on behalf of Mr Mark Jones prior to the construction of a new cattle building on land off Bridle Road, Old, Northamptonshire. A relatively thin topsoil, directly overlying the natural substratum, was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton in May 2015 prior to the construction of a new cattle building (Planning Ref: DA/2014/0888) on land off Bridle Road, Old, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 78509 72848; Figs 1 and 2). The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr Mark Jones, following a requirement for the undertaking of an archaeological Strip, Map and Recording Action as required by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.

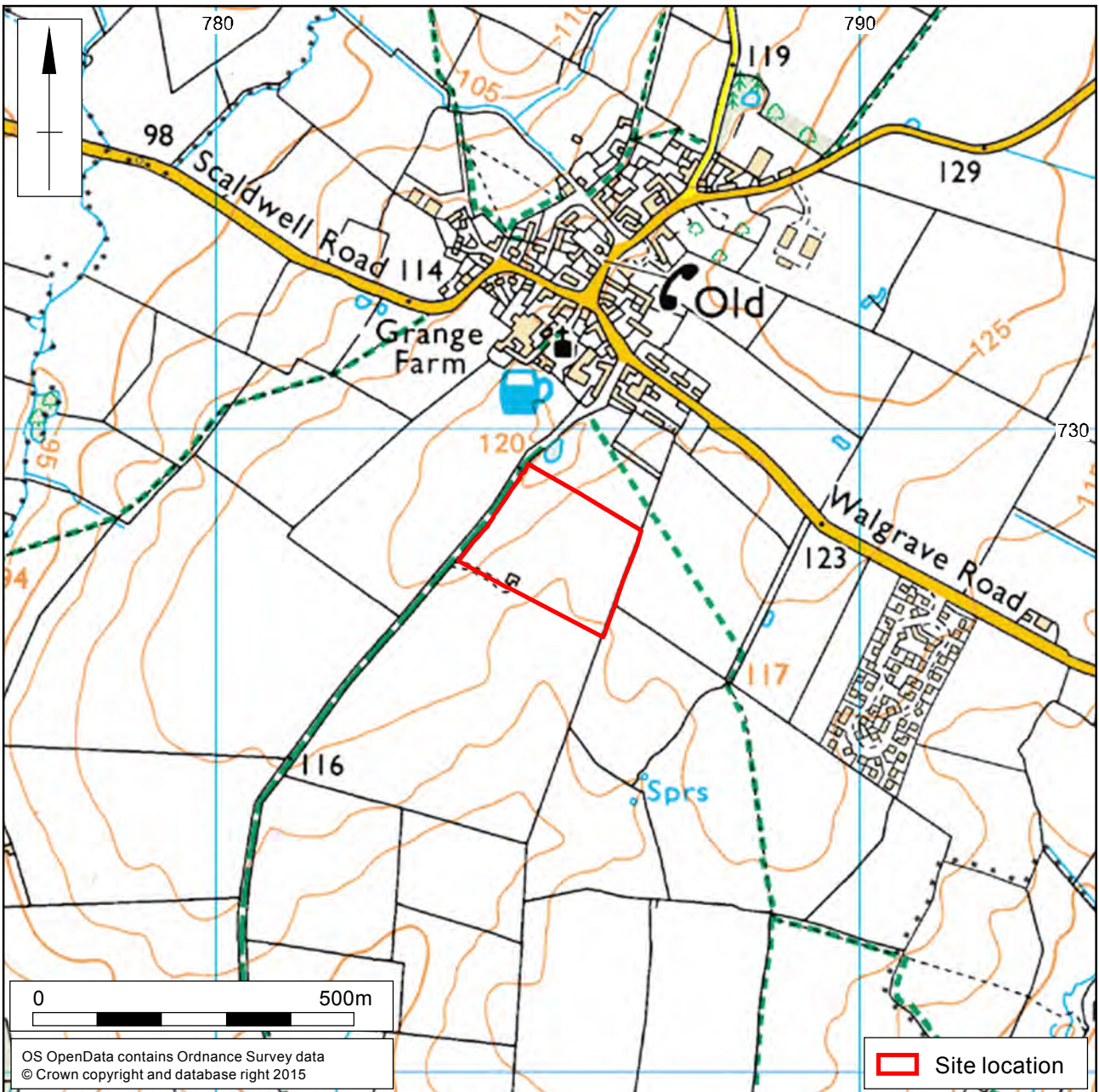
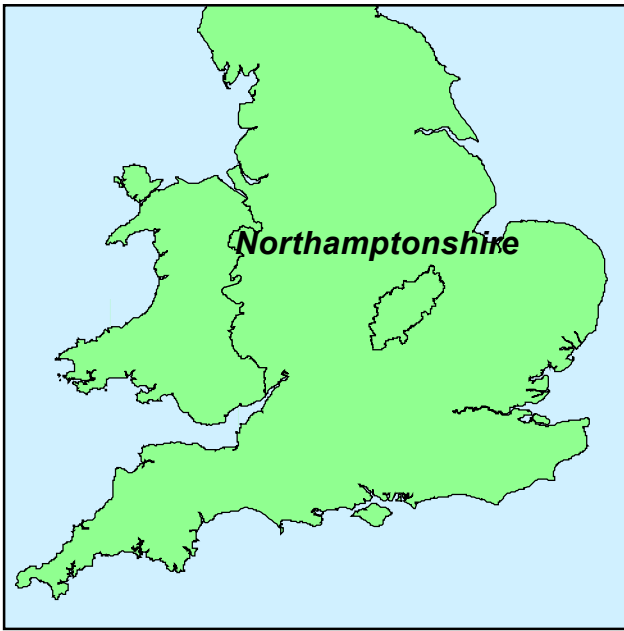
The work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by MOLA (2015) and adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage, now Historic England (HE 2015) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014 a and b).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Old lies approximately 18km north of Northampton in the County of Northamptonshire. The investigation area is located to the south of the present village on land on the south-east side of Bridle Road.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Whitby Mudstone Foundation (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical background

Cropmarks, identified by aerial photography, comprising a rectangular enclosure of possible prehistoric or Romano-British date, lie close-by to the south-east (Monument No: 962211).

The present village of Old lies on the site of a shrunken medieval village (Mon No: 343769), which formerly comprised closes flanking a broad hollow-way set on a north-south alignment. To the north of the investigation area, and within the present village, lies the parish church of St Andrew, the earliest parts of which date from the 13th century.

Up to the present application the site has been in agricultural usage. No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out within the investigation area.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Undertake a controlled soil strip within the footprint of the new cattle building and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

A photographic record in digital format and black and white negative was kept. The written record used MOLA pro-forma sheets (MOLA 2014). The programme of archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2008a).

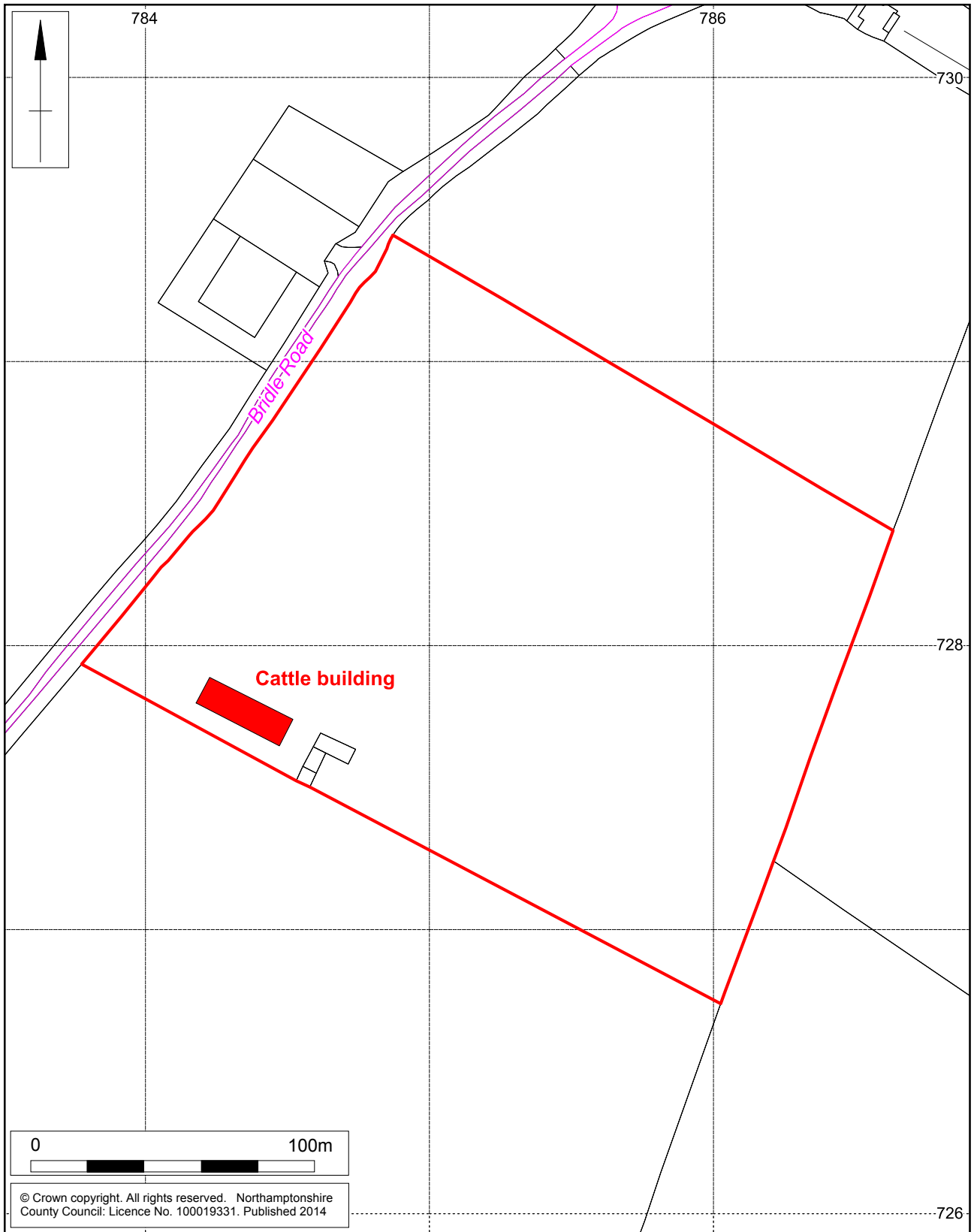
The fieldwork was undertaken in May 2015 prior to construction of the new cattle building. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator and comprised the removal of soils under archaeological control to expose the natural substratum (Figs 3 and 4) within the footprint of the new building.



The investigation area, looking south-east Fig 2



The groundworks in progress Fig 3



Scale 1: 2000

Area of archaeological investigation Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of up to 0.20m below present ground level and comprised compact orange-brown ironstone and sand. This was overlain by mid brown sandy loam, up to 0.20m thick decreasing to 0.10m thick in parts, containing occasional irregular stones.



The investigation area during the soil strip, looking south-east Fig 5

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Photographic record sheets	2
Black and white photographs	10
Digital photographs	21

The project archive will be retained by MOLA Northampton for deposition in a future Northamptonshire archive.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological investigation recorded shallow topsoil directly overlying the natural substratum, no subsoil layer was apparent.

The shallow nature of the overlying topsoil and the absence of any subsoil would appear to indicate that the investigation area has been subject to some disturbance. However, it is not possible to determine whether this activity has resulted in any truncation of the natural substratum, nor the nature of the disturbance.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The absence of any artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits lie in the immediate vicinity of the investigation area.

The strip, map and recording action was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered reliable.

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8 December 2015



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