



**Archaeological observation, investigation
recording and analysis of land at
15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire
May, June and November 2015**

Report No 15/225

Author: Tim Sharman

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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The clay-tobacco pipes: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-233803	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis of land at 15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire May, June and November 2015		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during construction work on land at 15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire. Two medieval ditches, one post-medieval ditch, two possible post-medieval quarry pits and the remains of a modern building were present within the development area.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	Trial trench evaluation. Muldowney 2014		
Current land use	Building plot on former garden		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	Medieval, post-medieval		
Significant finds	Medieval and modern pottery, post-medieval clay tobacco-pipe fragments		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	15, Guilsborough Road, West Haddon		
Easting Northing	SP 63214 71954		
Area (sq m/ha)	c 0.16ha		
Height aOD	c 175m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Managers	Liz Muldowney, Mo Muldowney (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	New Mears Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	06/05/2015		
End date	18/11/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	ENN107880	Finds, 15 sherds of pottery, 16 clay tobacco pipe fragments	
Paper		X sheets of paper	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Unpublished client report			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis of land at 15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire May, June and November 2015		
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**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording
and analysis of land at
15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon
Northamptonshire
May, June and November 2015**

Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during construction work on land at 15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire. Two medieval ditches, one post-medieval ditch, two post-medieval quarry pits and the remains of a post-medieval building were present within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

New Mears Homes commissioned MOLA Northampton to carry out archaeological observation, investigation, recording during groundworks for the construction of four new houses (Plots 1-4) on land at 15 Guilsborough Road, West Haddon, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 63214 71954, Fig 1). The work took place as a consequence of trial trenching work in December 2014 (Muldowney 2014).

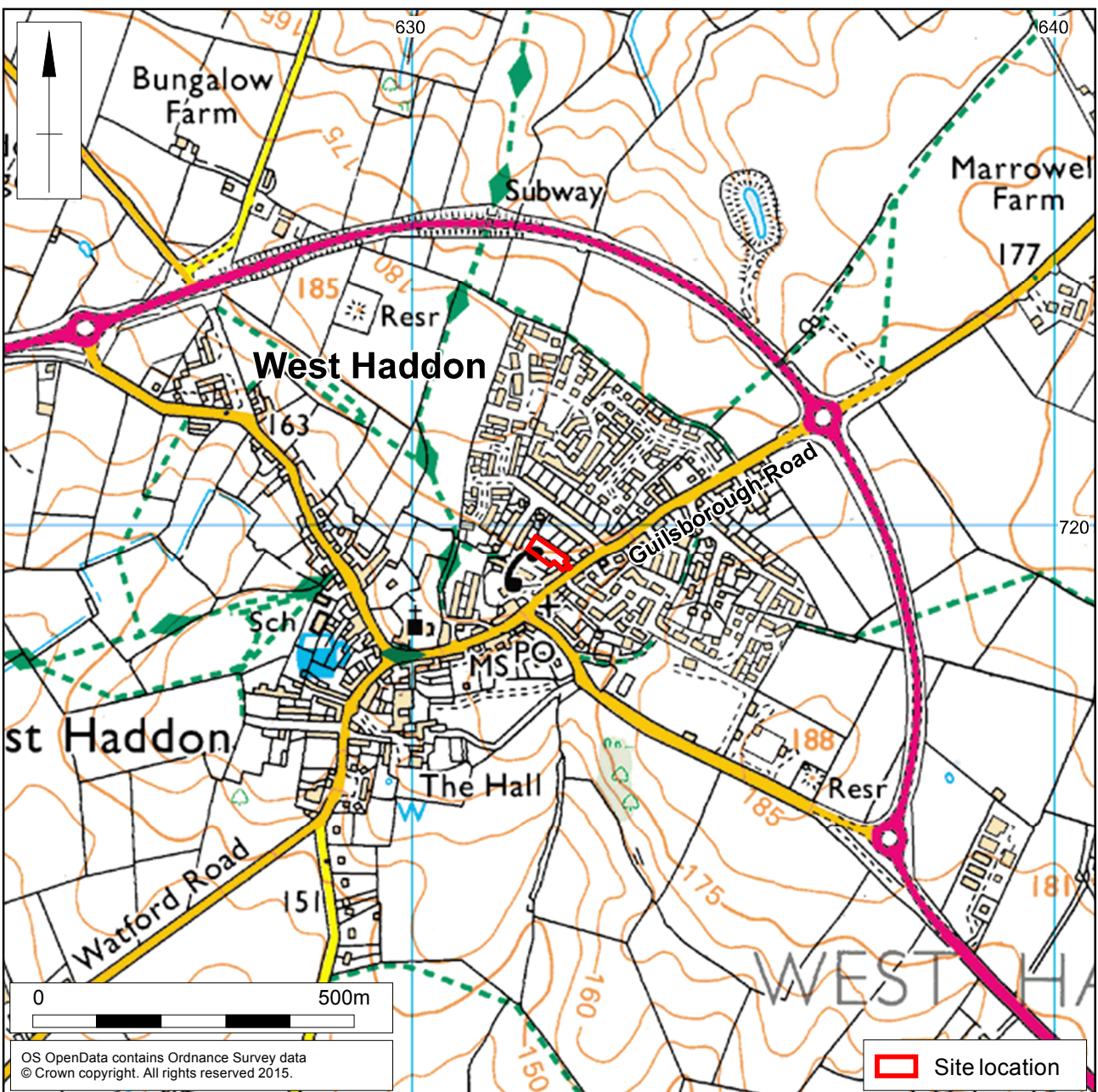
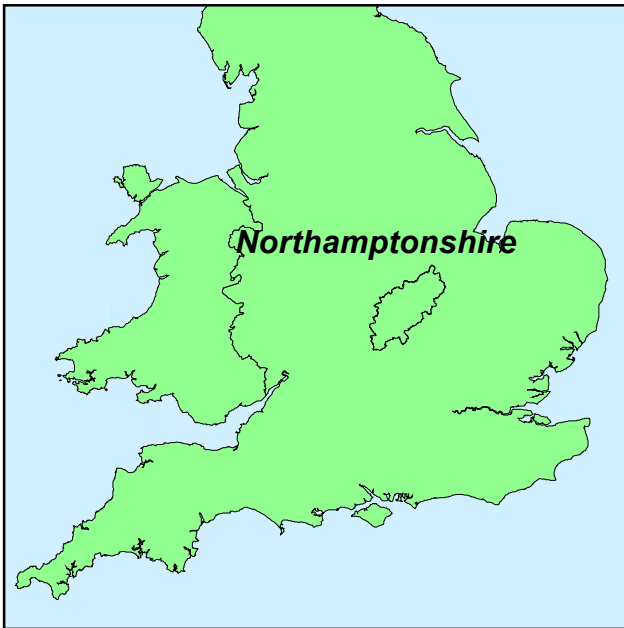
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation. This report has been prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a), the *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b) and the Historic England (HE) procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015a).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

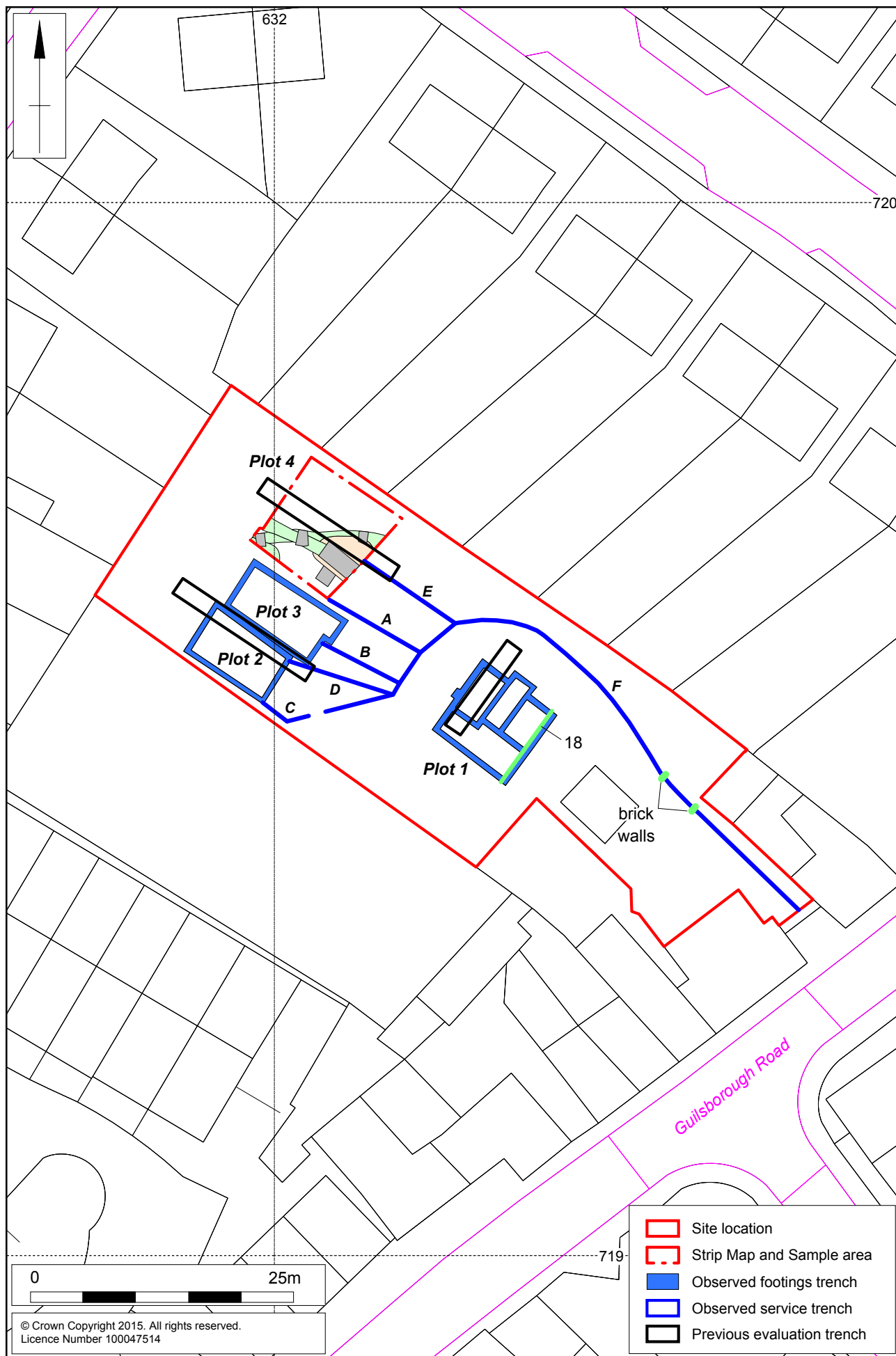
The site is located on the east side of the village of West Haddon. It comprises a rectangular parcel of land fronting onto Guilsborough Road and is mostly set to grass. The site is bounded on the south, west and north sides by the gardens of surrounding properties and is accessed from Guilsborough Road.

The bedrock geology is recorded as Northampton Sand Formation - Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone, superficial geology is recorded as glaciofluvial sands and gravels (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 01/04/15). The site is situated at 175m above Ordnance Datum.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Archaeological investigation areas Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The village and wider landscape around the development area are known to contain a small amount of multi-period activity from the Iron Age through to the medieval/post-medieval period. The earliest activity was located 520m to the north-north-west of the site and comprised evidence for a possible Iron Age/Romano-British settlement (MNN7640). An area around the High Street and West End, 250m to the west contains evidence for possible Romano-British settlement or funerary activity (MNN3891).

The presumed extent of the medieval village (MNN6938) encompasses the site as well as an area around the core of the modern settlement including the Church of All Saints, the High Street, West End and Station Road. Ridge and furrow cultivation features that are likely to date from the medieval to post-medieval period, survive to the south (MNN133773) and north-west (MNN132968) of the site and also within the grounds of West Haddon Hall Park, approximately 500m to the south-south-west (MNN3081 and 133774).

A geophysical survey of a parcel of land on the north-east edge of the village and within the ring road was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Clements 2013). The survey identified a series of linear anomalies indicating the presence of a possible Bronze Age barrow, two sub-square enclosures of possible Iron Age date, a series of ditches that may relate to a known Roman settlement (Mason 2006), and furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Another geophysical survey was undertaken on land north-west of West Haddon and again, within the ring road. This work identified roads and enclosures of a Roman settlement. Medieval ridge and furrow was also identified (Fisher 2013).

A trial trench evaluation on the development area identified four ditches of uncertain date and two post-medieval sand-extraction pits, as well as a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery (Muldowney 2014).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

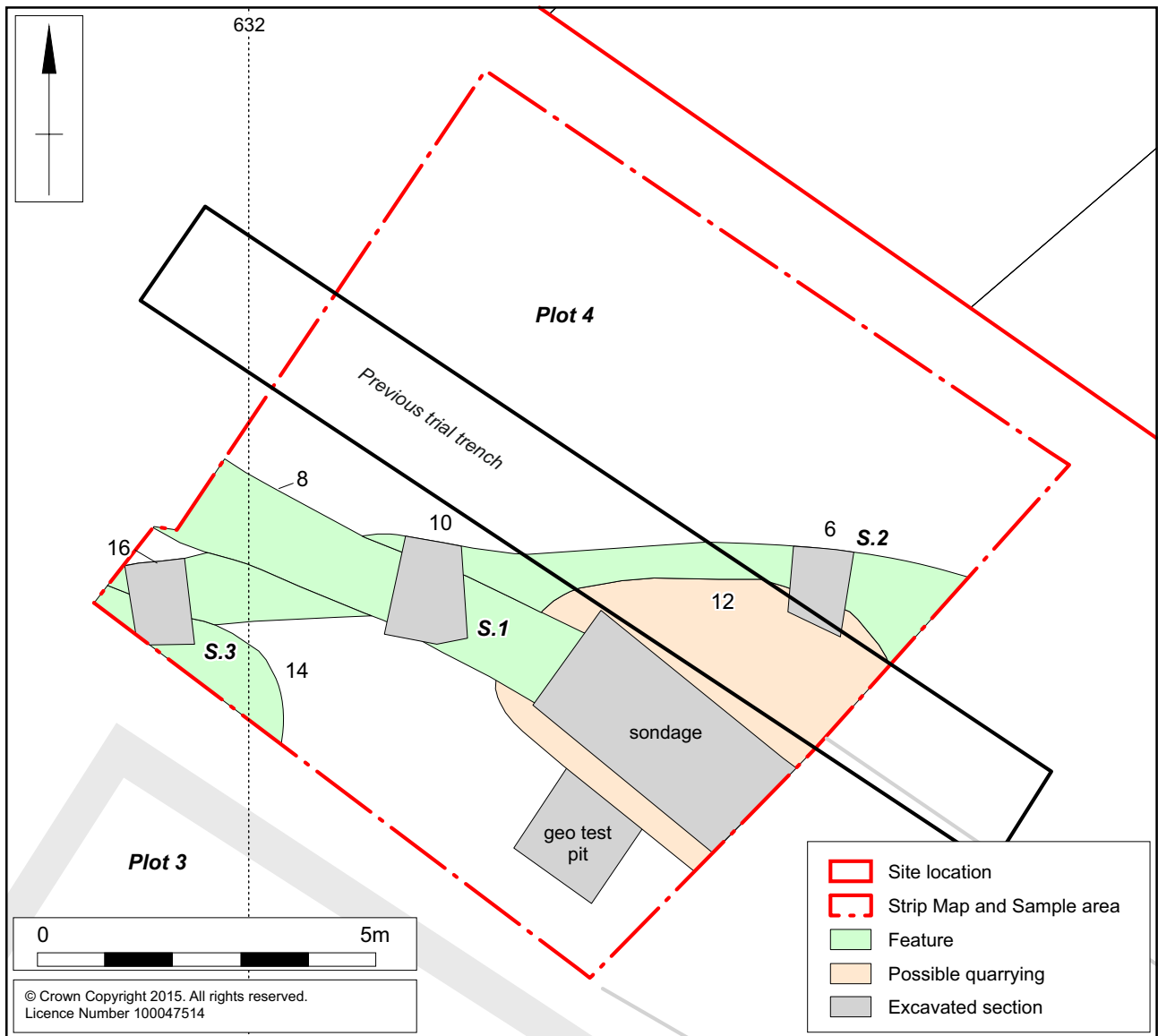
3.1 Objectives

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the main objectives of the investigation were to determine and understand the nature, function, and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting. More specifically, the work:

- Identified, investigated and recorded all archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of the house footings;
- Determined and recorded the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Created a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

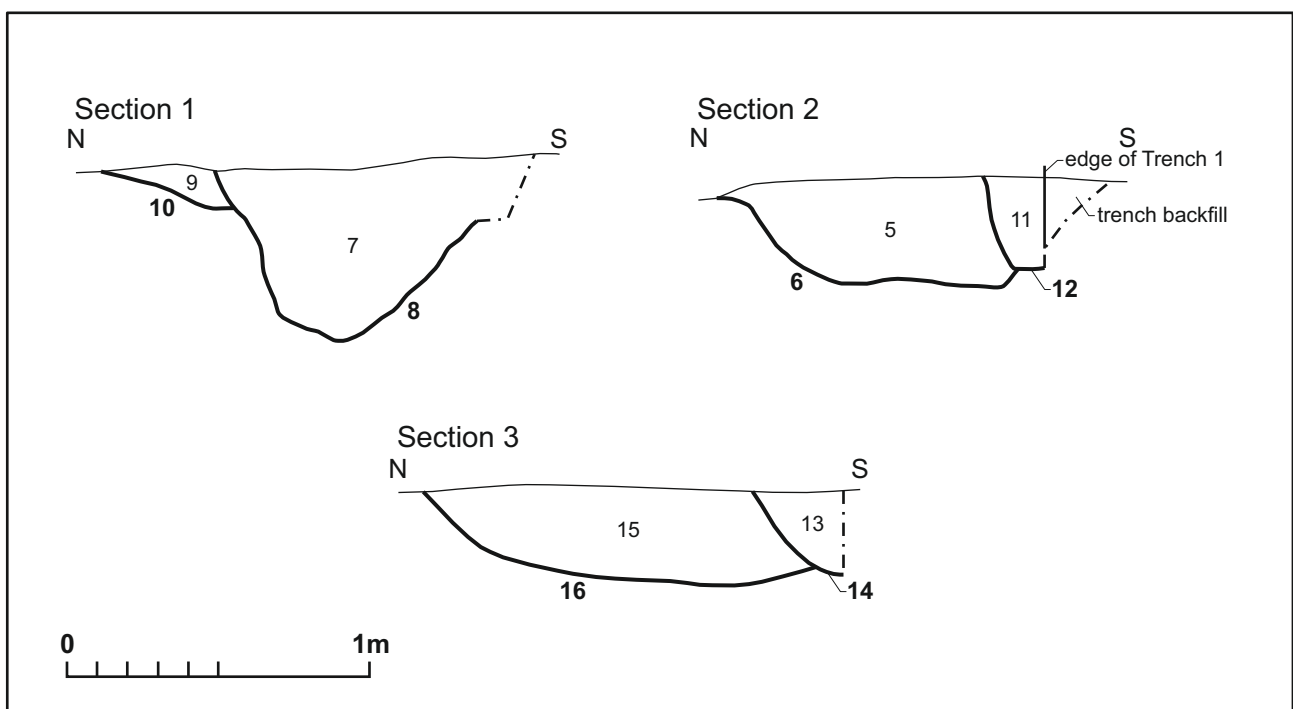
3.2 Methodology

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014b). Where appropriate the research frameworks were borne in mind (Cooper 2006) (Knight *et al* 2012).



Scale 1:100

Plot 4, excavated features Fig 3



Scale 1:1:25

Plot 4, ditch sections Fig 4

The groundwork areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features, where present.

The fieldwork took place in generally good weather conditions on nine separate occasions in May, June and November.

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, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. The photographic record comprised 35mm black and white film and digital images at 12 megapixels.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the NARC 2014 *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard*, Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (2014)

In the footprint of Plot 4 (Fig 3), a strip, map and sample recording action took place involving machine stripping down to the natural substrate using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m bladed bucket with the subsequent features revealed, being further defined by hand.

Subsequent fieldwork involved the observation of footings trenches in Plot 1 (Fig 2), using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket. Further observation work involved the excavation of service trenches (Trenches A-F) using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.3m or 0.6m bladed bucket (Fig 2).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Within the footprints of Plots 1 and 4, the natural substrate (21) and (4) respectively, occurred at c 0.85 below the surface and consisted of mixed yellow and orange sand with occasional small fragments of limestone and ironstone. Overlying this was a 0.35m deep layer of dark orange-brown sandy loam subsoil with frequent large limestone and ironstone fragments (20) and (2) respectively. The topsoil (19) and (1) respectively, consisted of a 0.35m deep layer of dark grey-brown loam which was heavily contaminated with frequent inclusions of stone and modern building rubble. In Plot 4 an extra layer (3) consisting of a dark orange-brown sandy loam with frequent gravel inclusions occurred immediately above the natural substrate.

In Plot 1, one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (2) and twelve sherds of modern pottery were recovered from the topsoil (19).

Six service trenches (Trenches A-F) were excavated (Figs 2, 3). Five of the service trenches (Trenches A-E) were 10.0m long and 0.9m deep with no natural substrate visible. No pre-modern archaeological features were noted within the service trenches.

One large service trench (Trench F) was excavated from a point just to the west of Plot 1 as far as the site entrance for a distance of c 50m and was 1.1m deep (Fig 2). Within Trench F, the natural substrate was visible in two locations: At a point c 20m to the west of the site entrance, a clean yellow sand (Fig 12) occurred at 0.9m below the surface and was overlain by a 0.3m deep yellowish-brown sandy loam subsoil with a few pebble inclusions above which was a heavily contaminated dark grey-brown loam topsoil. In the eastern 10.0m of the trench the natural substrate consisted of ironstone brash (Fig 13), which was overlain by a modern layer of gravel, all previous overlying layers having been removed.



Plot 4, showing ditch [8] (left) and trial trench 1 (right) looking west Fig 5



Plot 4, Ditch [6] and possible quarry pit [12] in section, looking east Fig 6

4.1 The ditches

All the ditches lay in the western half of the development area. A previous trial trench evaluation (Fig 3) had recorded four ditches within the same area (Muldowney 2014).

Close to the eastern side of the Plot 4 area, a ditch [6] (Figs 2, 3, 4, section 2 and 6) aligned east-west, was 1m wide by 0.35 deep with a gently sloping north side and a flat bottom. The fill (5) consisted of a dark yellow-brown sandy loam with a few small ironstone and limestone pebble inclusions. One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. The southern side of the ditch had been cut away by a possible quarry pit [12].

Ditch [10] was aligned east to west, its width and depth were unknown as its profile had been largely truncated by ditch [8] however, as its northern edge appeared to share the same alignment as ditch [6], it is possible that it may be the same feature and consequently would have had similar dimensions. The fill (9) consisted of an orange-brown sandy loam with a few small stone inclusions from which one sherd of medieval pot was recovered. Ten metres to the west of ditch [6], ditches [8] and [10] were recorded. Ditch [8] was aligned north-west to south-east and was 1.05m wide by 0.55m deep with a V-shaped profile (Figs 2, 4, section 1, 5, 7 and 8). Its fill (7) consisted of an orange-brown sandy loam with occasional small ironstone inclusions plus some sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of brick. An earlier ditch [10] was identified in the same location (Figs 2, 4, section 1 and 8); much of it had been cut by ditch [8].

In the south-western corner of Plot 4 ditch [16] was aligned east to west and 1.3m wide by 0.3m deep with a gently sloping northern side and a flat base (Fig 4, section 3). The fill (15) consisted of a mid-orange sandy clay loam. The southern side of the ditch had been truncated by a quarry pit [14]. As the northern side of ditch [16] appeared to share the same alignment as ditches [6] and [10], it is possible that all three ditches are the same feature.

Along the easternmost footing trench of Plot 1, ditch [18], possibly medieval in date, was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2, 9, 10). It was at least 0.5m deep and appeared to have a possible V-shaped profile. Its fill (17) consisted of a yellow-brown sand with a few small pebble inclusions.

Three other features recorded in evaluation Trench 1 ([108], [110] and [112]), originally presumed to be ditches, did not continue southwards within the Plot 4 area. The three features would instead appear to be the result of quarrying activity.

4.2 The quarry pits

Cutting through ditch [6] was part of a quarry pit, [12]. It was 4.6m long by 3.5m wide by c 0.4m deep with near-vertical sides and a flat base (Figs 3, 6, 9). Three features ([108], [110] and [112]) found in evaluation Trench 1 were originally thought to be ditches, but are now interpreted as undulations within the base of the shallow quarry (Fig 9). The quarry fill (11) consisted of a dark orange-brown sandy loam with occasional small to medium-sized stone fragments. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the fill within Trench 1 of the previous evaluation.



Plot 4, Ditch [8] section, looking north-west Fig 7



Plot 4, Ditches [8] and [10], looking east Fig 8



Plot 4, Trial trench 1, quarry [12] looking south-west Fig 9



Plot 1 General view of footings trenches looking north Fig 10



Plot 1, ditch [18] looking north-east Fig 11



Trench E, looking north-west Fig 12



Trench F, section opposite plot 1, looking north Fig 13



Trench F, section at eastern end, looking north-east Fig 14

In the south western corner of Plot 4 a pit or shallow quarry [14], possibly post-medieval in date, was recorded cutting through the southern side of ditch [16]. The feature was at least 5m long by 2m wide and at least 0.3m deep (Figs 3 and 4, section 3). Its fill (15) consisted of an orange-brown sandy loam with few inclusions.

4.3 The post-medieval building

Within Trench F, 20m to the north-west of the site entrance, the remains of a post-medieval or modern building were noted (Figs 2, 15). The building consisted of two parallel brick walls aligned north-east to south-west. The bricks appeared to be unfrogged and set within lime mortar and would appear to be of 19th century date. Between the two walls was a concrete floor c 0.15m thick.



Trench F, brick wall foundations, looking east Fig 15

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 15 sherds with a total weight of 104g. It comprised a mixture of earlier medieval and modern wares. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 1 sherd, 5g

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 22g

F415: Creamware, 1740 – 1820. 1 sherd, 4g.

F1000: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century Wares. 11 sherds, 73g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010). All the sherds of shelly coarseware (fabric F330) were missing their calcareous inclusions. This seems most likely due to burial conditions rather transportation and abrasion, as the sherds were otherwise in good condition.

The sherd from context (5) is a rimsherd from a cylindrical jar, a type of early medieval cooking-vessel which was widely used in the south-east midlands (ibid.). The other medieval sherds are plain bodysherds.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	F200		F330		F415		F1000		
Fill/cut	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	Date
5/ditch 6	-	-	1	16	-	-	-	-	12thc
7/ditch 8	-	-	-	-	1	4	9	63	19thc
9/ditch 10	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	12thc
19 topsoil	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	19thc
20 subsoil	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	11thc
Total	1	5	2	22	1	4	11	73	

5.2 The clay tobacco-pipes by Tora Hylton

A small group of 16 clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments were recovered. There are no bowls. The majority of fragments (x 14) were recovered from a post-medieval/modern ditch fill (7). Of the remainder, one stem was intrusive within the fill (9) of a medieval ditch [10] and the other was recovered from topsoil deposits. The stem fragments measure up to 63mm long and one fragment retains a spur from a bowl. Changes in manufacturing technique and the use of finer wire to make the bore ensured that there was a regular reduction in bore diameter between c1620 and 1800. The size of the bores are measured by 64's of an inch and the measurements suggest that all the stem fragments date to the 18th/19th centuries (4/64's - twelve examples, 5/64's – four examples).

6 DISCUSSION

The observation works identified two medieval ditches, one post-medieval ditch, two medieval quarry pits and a modern building. The ditches and quarry pits were located within the footprints of two house plots in the western part of the site. The modern building was located towards the eastern end of the site within the confines of a narrow service trench.

The medieval ditches

The site is located within the extent of the medieval village (MNN6938). The linear medieval features found within Plot 1 and Plot 4 are likely to have functioned as boundary ditches and may be associated with plots of land extending from a possible medieval street frontage along the western side of Guilsborough Road. The medieval ditches are a fortuitous survival as the extensive post-medieval quarrying activity within the site is likely to have removed all other archaeological features

The post-medieval ditches

The large post-medieval ditch in Plot 4 may be indicative of a northern boundary to quarrying activity within the site. The alignment of the ditch is broadly east to west and may associated with the boundary of a plot of land extending back from the Guilsborough Road street frontage much of which consists of post-medieval stone buildings.

The quarry pits

The quarry pits located within Plot 4, together with evidence from previous trial trenching on the site (Muldowney 2014), of an even larger area of quarrying further to the south, suggest that much of the western part of the site had been subjected to quarrying activity. Sherds of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco-pipe fragments found within Trench 2 of the previous evaluation provide evidence of post-medieval quarrying activity. However, the two smaller quarry pits within Plot 4, may represent an earlier, possibly medieval, phase of quarrying. It is likely that the quarries were used for the extraction of sand, though the existence of an ironstone natural substrate c 2m lower in the eastern part of the site, may also be indicative of possible ironstone extraction on the site.

The modern building

The two parallel brick walls of this building could be located within the backyard of the former "Compass" public house (pers comm N. Appleby), a stone built, post-medieval building which fronts Guilsborough Road. Evidence for this public house could not be confirmed from a search of available old Ordnance Survey maps.

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MOLA Northampton
9 December 2015

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Plot No	Length, width & alignment			
Plot 4	11m x 9m			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1	Layer	Dark brown loam topsoil with frequent fragments of stone brick and plastic	0.35m thick	-
2	Layer	Dark orange-brown sandy loam subsoil with frequent ironstone and sandstone fragments and some gravel	0.35m thick	-
3	Layer	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with frequent gravel inclusions	0.15m thick	-
4	Layer	Mixed yellow and orange sand natural with occasional ironstone and sandstone inclusions	At least 0.3m thick	-
5	Fill of 6	Dark yellow-brown sandy clay loam with a few small limestone and sandstone pebbles	0.38m thick	1 sherd of medieval pot
6	Ditch	Ditch aligned east-west with gently sloping sides and a flat base	At least 6m long by 1m wide by 0.38m deep	-
7	Fill of 8	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with occasional flecks of charcoal	0.55m thick	10 sherds, post-med pot. 14 fragments of clay tobacco-pipe
8	Ditch	Ditch aligned north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a V-shaped profile	At least 12m long by 1.05m wide by 0.55m deep	-
9	Fill of 10	Orange-brown sandy loam with occasional stone fragments	0.15m thick	1 sherd of medieval pot
10	Ditch	Truncated ditch aligned east-west with a gently sloping north side. Profile unknown	At least 4m long. Width and depth unknown	-
11	Fill of 11	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with occasional stone	c 0.4m thick	-
12	Pit?	Possible quarry pit with near vertical sides and a flat base	c 4.6m long by c 3.5m wide by 0.4m deep	-
13	Fill of 14	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with occasional small stones	0.3m thick	-

Plot No	Length, width & alignment			
Plot 4	11m x 9m			
14	Ditch? Pit?	Ditch or pit with incomplete profile	Length and width unknown. Depth c 0.3m	-
15	Fill of 16	Orange brown sandy loam	0.3m thick	-
16	Ditch	Ditch aligned east-west with gently sloping sides and flat base	c 5m long by 1.3m wide by 0.3m deep	-

Plot No	Length, width & alignment			
Plot 1	10 x 9m			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts</i>
17	Fill of 18	Yellow-brown sand with a few small ironstone pebbles	c 0.5m thick	-
18	Ditch?	Possible ditch aligned north-east to south-west, possibly with a V-shaped profile	c 8m long by unknown width by c 0.5m deep	-
19	Layer	Dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil with frequent modern building rubble inclusions	0.3m thick	2 19thc pot sherds
20	Layer	Yellow-brown sandy loam subsoil with a few small pebble inclusions	c 0.25m thick	1 sherd of medieval pot
21	Layer	Mixed yellow and orange sand natural with a few small pebble inclusions	At least 0.3m thick	-



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