



**Trial trench evaluation on land at
56 Rugby Road, Barby
Northamptonshire
December 2015**

Report No. 15/228

Author: Ben Kidd

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-234471	
Project name	Trial trench evaluation on land at 56 Rugby Road, Barby, Northamptonshire		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at 56 Rugby Road, Barby prior to proposed development. Four trenches were excavated. One late post-medieval ditch was identified; no other archaeological features were present.		
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Rough ground/pasture		
Future work	No		
Monument type/ period	Ditch, post-medieval		
Significant finds	Brick, Tile, ceramics (Not retained)		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	56 Rugby Road, Barby, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c 2.1ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 54216 70700		
Height OD	c 144-146m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, NCC		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Ben Kidd		
Project Manager	Mo Muldowney		
Sponsor or funding body	Wilbraham Associates		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	07/12/2015 – 07/12/2015		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content	
Physical	ENN108201	Site documents – context sheets et al	
Paper		Mapinfo plans, Word report, dxf data, digital photographs	
Digital			
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Trial trench evaluation on land at 56 Rugby Road, Barby, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	15/228		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
3	BACKGROUND
	3.1 Topography and geology
	3.2 Historical and archaeological background
4	EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY
5	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
	5.1 General stratigraphy
	5.2 The archaeological features
6	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Figures

Front cover: General site view, looking north-west

Fig 1:	Site location
Fig 2:	Historic Environment Record (HER) data
Fig 3:	Trial Trench locations
Fig 4:	1886 Ordnance Survey map with ditch [205]
Fig 5:	Trench 1, looking north-west
Fig 6:	Trench 2, looking east
Fig 7:	Trench 3, looking west
Fig 8:	Trench 4, looking south

Trial trench evaluation on land at 56 Rugby Road Barby, Northamptonshire December 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates Ltd to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at 56 Rugby Road, Barby prior to proposed development. Four trenches were excavated. One late post medieval ditch was identified; no other archaeological features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2015, MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Wilbraham Associates to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at 56 Rugby Road, Barby Northamptonshire (NGR SP 54216 70700) (Fig 1).

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 (WSI) prepared by MOLA (2015).

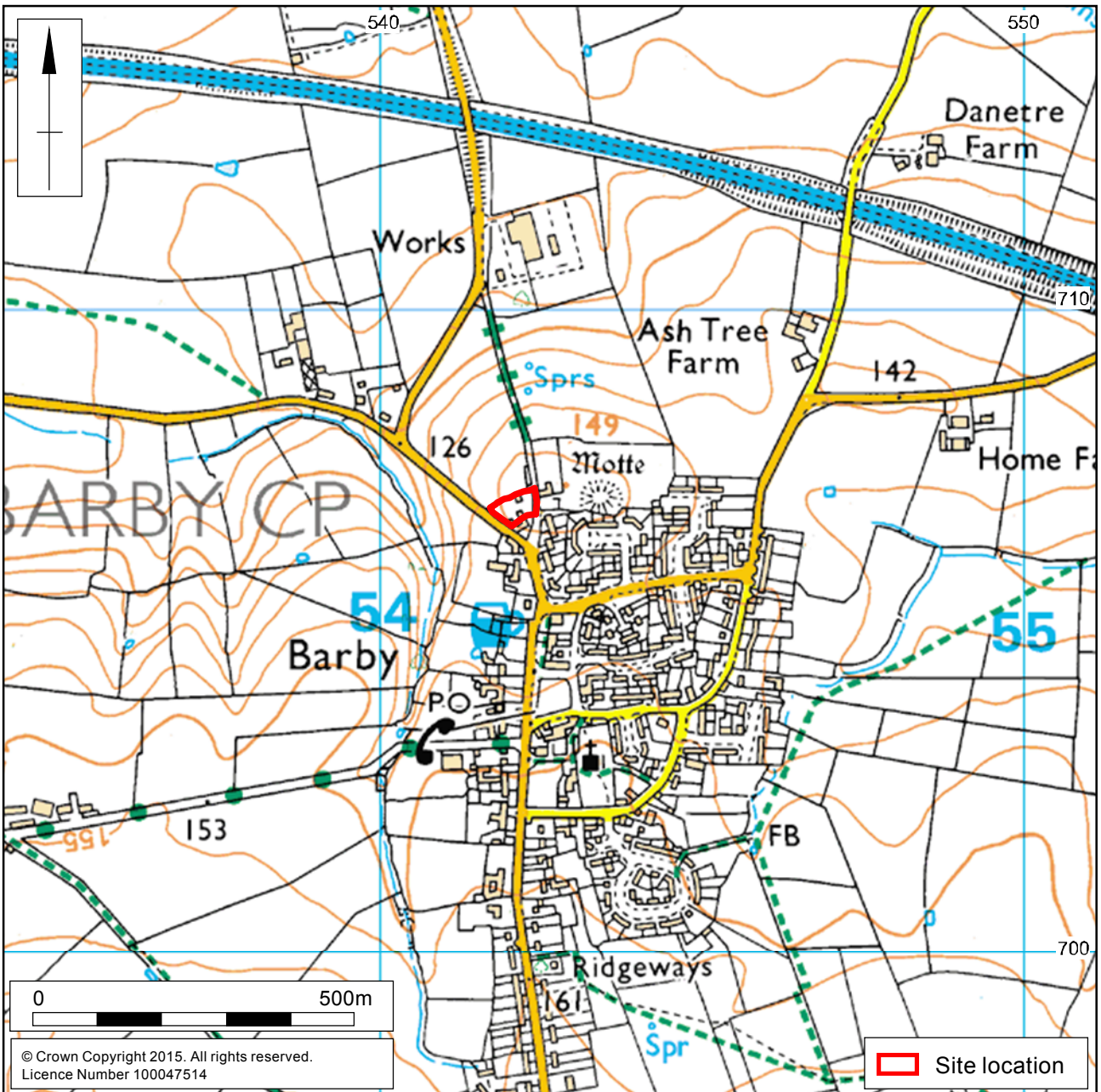
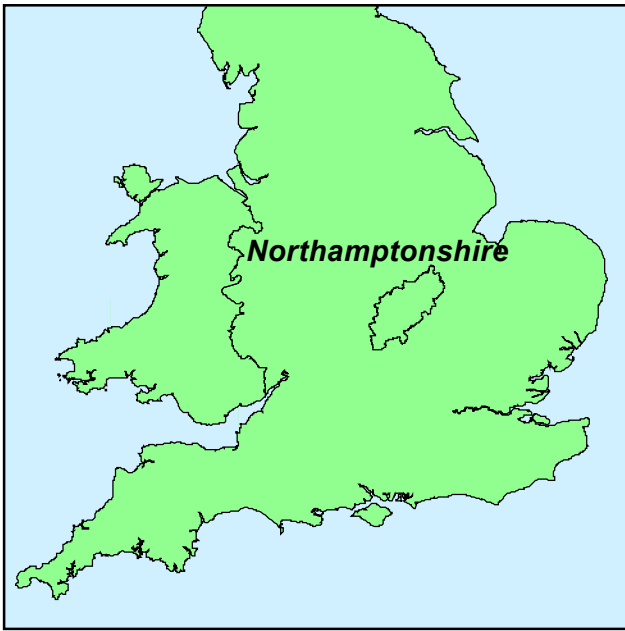
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation of the site was designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development.

The following information was required to allow the development of a strategy for further investigation of the site:

- Establish the date, nature and extent of 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.

The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), *code of conduct* (CIfA 2014b) as well as the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014) and the East Midlands regional framework (Knight *et al* 2012, Cooper 2006).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development area is located at the north-western edge of the village of Barby, to the north of Rugby Road. The site comprises a sub-rectangular area of land of c2.1ha in size. The site is bounded to the east by an un-named farm access track, to the west by Rugby Road, to the south by a two storey brick built property and to the north by a hedgerow beyond which lie paddocks. A number of dilapidated buildings also occupy the site.

The site lies on slightly sloping land which rises from c144m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the west of the site to c146m aOD to the east. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Society as comprising Dyrham Formation siltstone and mudstone (BGS 2015) (www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

Evidence for the archaeological background of the village has been drawn from a search of the Historic Environment Record for Northamptonshire (HER), the Royal Commission inventory of archaeological sites, and Historic England's PastScape resource (MOLA 2015) (Fig 3).

No prehistoric activity or findspots are known from the area of the site. Activity from the Roman period is known from Barby. A possible Romano-British settlement around 200m east of the site (MNN6664) has been suggested by spotfinds including a Roman coin (MNN1023) and a possible building (MNN25527). The route of a possible Romano-British roadway passes just under 1km to the south of the site (HER 406/1). Another area of possible activity from this period lies 480m south-east of the site (HER 7269).

The parish church of St Mary, which lies around 400m to the south, is a Grade II* Listed Building, primarily 13th century in date which contains Saxon elements including a window (Pevsner and Cherry) (MNN8335, MNN109972). Possible late Saxon graves have also been noted from the churchyard (MNN32096). Only 100m east of the site is Barby Castle, a mound structure built up to 145m aOD, previously thought to be a Norman motte with no bailey (Pevsner and Cherry, Scheduled Monument Number 13659). It is now thought that this structure probably represents an early fortified manor house (RCHME 1981) (MNN11403). A number of possible medieval ditches and linear earthworks representing a hollow-way in the area of the fortified manor have been identified from aerial photographs (MNN131506), the closest of which may lie as close as 50m east of the site. A spot find of a medieval coin (MNN32095), an undated section of metalled roadway (MNN26416), and other finds (MNN151016, MNN116856, MNN151016) might also relate to this settlement. The Old Manor, a post-medieval farmhouse which might also have originated as a medieval manor, lies further to the south in the village (HER 403/3). The village itself contains two areas of possible medieval and post-medieval closes, crofts and tofts to the south-east, around 150m from the site (MNN18506), and 420m (HER 403/0/4). A possible medieval or post-medieval windmill was situated around 480m east of the site (MNN131504); this feature is surrounded by an area of linear earthworks, possibly representing medieval tofts and buildings (MNN131502, MNN131501). Less than 200m to the south lies the site of a possible medieval farm (MNN143329).

The common fields of Barby were enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1778. Before that date there were three large open fields surrounding the village; Wood Field to the west, Brackleydale Field to the east, and Nether Field to the north (RCHME 1981). Areas of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks are noted from around the village, particularly to the east (MNN132846), and less extensively to the west (MNN132769, MNN132770, and MNN133688). The closest surviving area of ridge and furrow lies

around 130m to the north-east of the site (MNN133687). Further afield, around 2.7km due west of the site, is the deserted medieval village of Onley, which is particularly unusual as it was ploughed over after its abandonment (Scheduled Monument Number 110) (RCHME 1981).

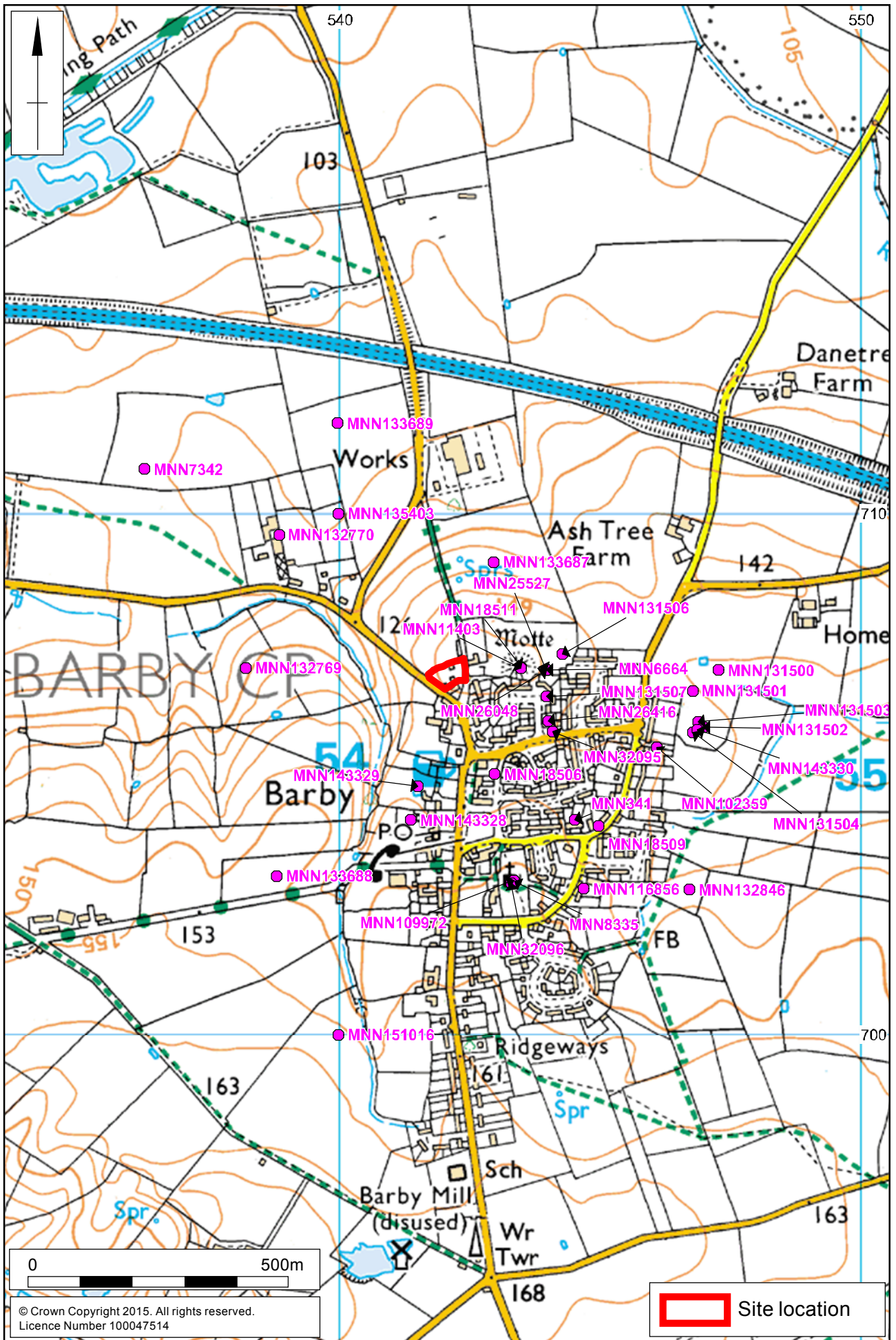
Post-medieval features include a farm possibly dating to the 18th-century, which lies c290m to the south (MNN143328).

A number of Listed Buildings are to be found in the village of Barby, with the closest to the site being Fairholme (Grade II; MNN109984) on Daventry Road to the south, and Number 7 and Barn on Rugby Road (also Grade II; MNN109973, MNN109974). Around 350m east of the site is the Grade II Listed Ashleigh House Farm and Ashleigh House, an 18th-century or earlier brick-built house (MNN31882; MNN108621). Further listed buildings are listed in the Appendix

Around 300m north-west of the site on the outskirts of Barby village is an area of Second World War 'Starfish' and 'QL' bombing decoy arrays constructed for the protection of Rugby (MNN7342, MNN104276).

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1884 indicates that the site's boundaries to the north-east and west were already established, with the area being used as orchard. The boundary to the south at this time lay further to the south, directly behind the brick dwelling of 56 Rugby Road, which was already extant. Around five other buildings lay in the south of the development area, to the rear of the house. A central field boundary divided the development site north to south; this was no longer marked after 1990. On the 1925 map, one building in the west of the site on Rugby Road has a small boundary marked. Little has appeared to have altered on the site until the OS map of 1960, when the curtilage of the house (No 56) had moved to the north into the orchard area, and only two of the smaller buildings immediately adjacent to the house are shown. A pump is marked just to the north of the house. The boundary between No. 56 and the orchard is not shown after 1967. The 1:10,000 1971 map shows a small structure on the northern border of the site. This is not marked on the 1:2,500 1971 map or 1980 maps which instead show a structure to the west facing onto Rugby Road.

Aerial photographs from the early 21st century indicate that the site has undergone several periods of apparent abandonment and clearance, and that the eastern third of the site was under hard standing until 2010, with later photographs showing the area as grassland.



Scale 1: 10,000

Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 2

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Four trenches, each 10m long, were excavated using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 3). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal the natural substrate.

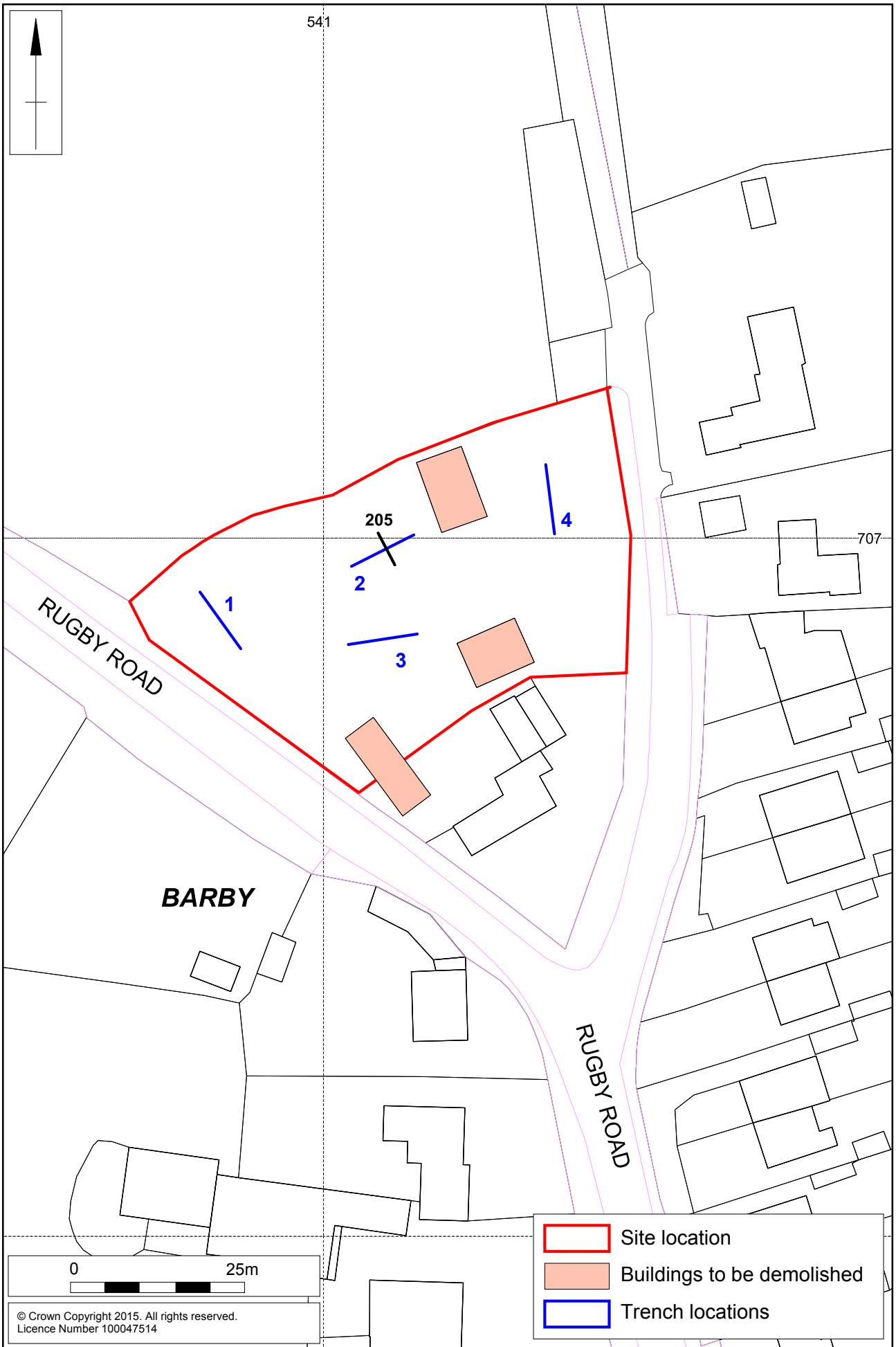
The location of the trenches was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full photographic record comprising digital images was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

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

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

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



Scale 1: 750

Trench locations Fig 3

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

A full list of deposits by trench can be found in the Context Inventory (Appendix).

The natural substrate was fairly consistent across the site comprising mid orange-yellow-brown and grey clays with infrequent small stones and occurred between 0.37-1.0m below the present ground surface. The deepest trench was Trench 4 in the north-east corner of the site. This extra depth was due to a layer of modern hard core in this area.

Subsoil was present across the site, and was generally consistent in Trenches 1-3 where it comprised mid-yellow to brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and brick fragments. The subsoil in Trench 4 comprised mid yellow-brown clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal and brick fragments.

The topsoil remained the same across the site and was between 0.30-0.45m thick and comprised friable dark brown-black silty clay with infrequent small stones, charcoal and brick fragments.

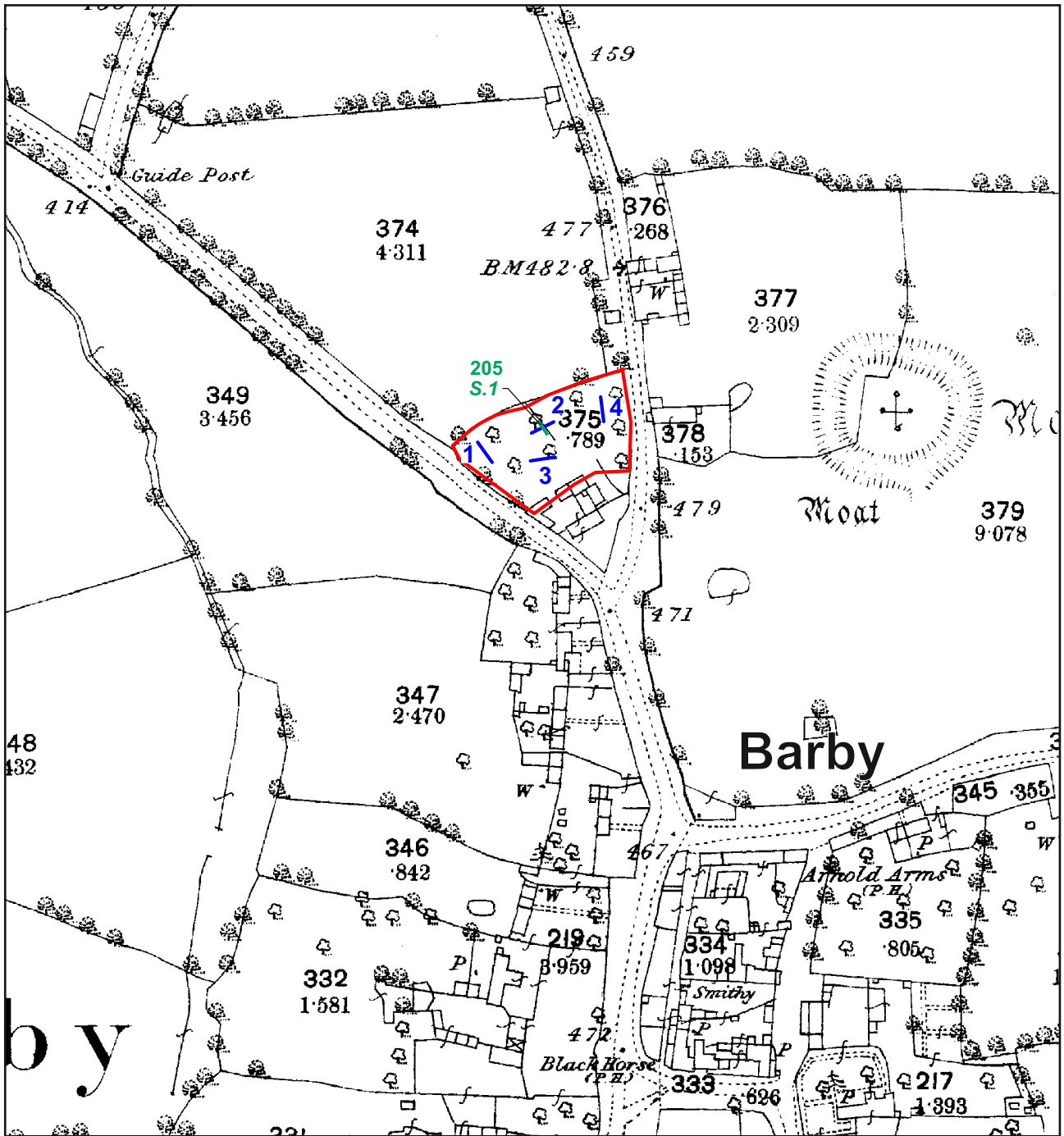
Archaeological remains were present in Trench 2 only; Trenches 1, 3 and 4 contained modern pits, disturbance and land drains.

5.2 The archaeological features

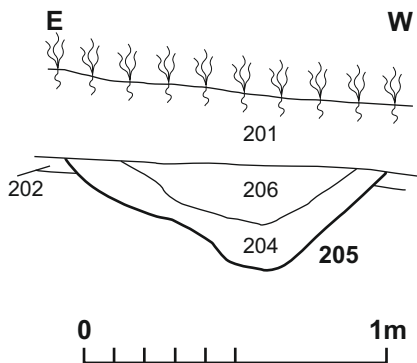
Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned east-west and was located in the central north area of the site.

A ditch [205], aligned north-south, was 1.10m wide and 0.35m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base and truncated the subsoil within the trench. The fills (204) and (206) comprised mixed mid-grey brown silty clay and mid-yellow brown clay respectively, both contained moderate amounts of charcoal/coal, brick/tile fragments and rare ceramic fragments (Figs 3 and 4)



Section 1



6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation recorded a single linear feature likely to be a ditch, which produced brick, tile and ceramic fragments dating to the late post-medieval period; it is probable that this ditch represents a short sub-division within this parcel of land.

A search of historic mapping has identified this feature within the 1886 edition Ordnance Survey map and it is shown as a small north-south boundary within an area of orchard (Fig 4), subsequent editions of Ordnance Survey map do not show the ditch indicating that it was a short lived 19th-century addition to this parcel of land.

The site is within close proximity to a number of medieval features including a fortified manor house, known as 'Barby castle', which is located c100m to the east; possible ditches, linear earthworks and a hollow-way have also been identified within this area, the closest of which lies c50m to the east. An area of medieval closes, crofts and tofts have also been identified c150m to the south-east (MOLA 2015); with the medieval nucleus of the settlement of Barby likely to be located in the proximity of the parish church of St Marys c400m to the south. Although the site is within close proximity of a number of medieval features, there were none recorded within this evaluation; presumably this is because the site lay within an area of open fields or within an area of pasture/rough ground where very little activity, other than non-intrusive agricultural, took place.

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www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	1.5m x 10m NW-SE		144.69m	0.53-0.62m 144.07m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-black silty clay with infrequent small stones, charcoal and brick fragments.	0.34-0.45m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoals and brick fragments	0.16-32m thick	-
103	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and grey clays with infrequent small stones	-	-



Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 5

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	1.5m x 10m E-W		146.17m	0.37-49m 97.17m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-black silty clay with infrequent small stones, charcoal and brick fragments.	0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoals and brick fragments (only visible in part of the trench)	0.11-17m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and grey clays with infrequent small stones	-	-
204	Fill of [305]	Mid grey-brown clay with frequent charcoals/coal and brick/tile fragments	1.10m wide 0.15m deep	Brick/Tile fragments
205	Ditch	N-S aligned linear with U-shaped profile and concave base	1.10m wide 0.30m deep	Brick/Tile fragments
206	Fill of [205]	Mixed mid yellow-brown clay and mid grey-brown clays with moderate charcoals and small stones	0.75m wide 0.20m deep	Brick/Tile fragments



Trench 2, looking west Fig 6

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	1.5m x 10m NW-SE		145.96m	0.46-66m 145.30m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-black silty clay with infrequent small stones, charcoal and brick fragments.	0.36-45m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoals and brick fragments	0.10-0.21m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and grey clays with infrequent small stones	-	-



Trench 3, looking east Fig 7

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	1.5m x 10m N-S		147.79m	0.70-1.0m 146.79m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Hard core layer	Layer of modern hard core rubble – visible at N end for c4m	0.30m thick	-
402	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-black silty clay with infrequent small stones, charcoal and brick fragments.	0.30m thick	-
403	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown and grey clays with infrequent small stones	0.20-30m thick	-
404	Natural	Mixed mid yellow-brown clay and mid grey-brown clays with moderate charcoals and small stones	-	-



Trench 4, looking south Fig 8



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