



**Archaeological observation, investigation
recording and analysis of land to the rear of
1 Kelmars Road, Clipston, Northamptonshire
January 2016**

Report No 16/7

Author: Tim Sharman

Illustrator: Ian Fisher



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Event No: ENN 108138

Report No 16/7

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	12/01/16	P Chapman	A Maull	A Chapman	Draft for client review

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The pottery: Tora Hylton

The clay tobacco-pipe Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1- 234903	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, Northamptonshire January 2016		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during construction work on land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, Northamptonshire. A modern layer and brick footings were identified.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Former farmyard		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval and modern		
Significant finds	Pottery sherds: post-medieval and modern.		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston		
Easting Northing	SP 71516 81412		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.15 ha		
Height aOD	125m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, NCC		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	04/01/2016		
End date	06/01/2016		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	ENN 108138	Pottery sherds,	
Paper		Watching brief forms, permatrace plans	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Unpublished client report			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, analysis and recording of land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston Northamptonshire January 2016		
Serial title & volume	16/7		
Author(s)	Tim Sharman		
Page numbers	12 text, 9 figs		
Date	13 January 2016		

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Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis of land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, Northamptonshire January 2016

Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during construction work on land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, Northamptonshire. A modern layer and brick footings were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton had been commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Scales, to carry out a programme of observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (a 'Strip, Map and Sample') on groundworks in advance of proposed development on a c0.15ha area of land to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston (NGR 71516 81412) (Fig 1).

A planning application had been submitted for the development of a single residential development on land previously occupied by farm buildings (DA/2015/0453). Consent for the application had been granted with a condition attached for a programme of archaeological investigation.

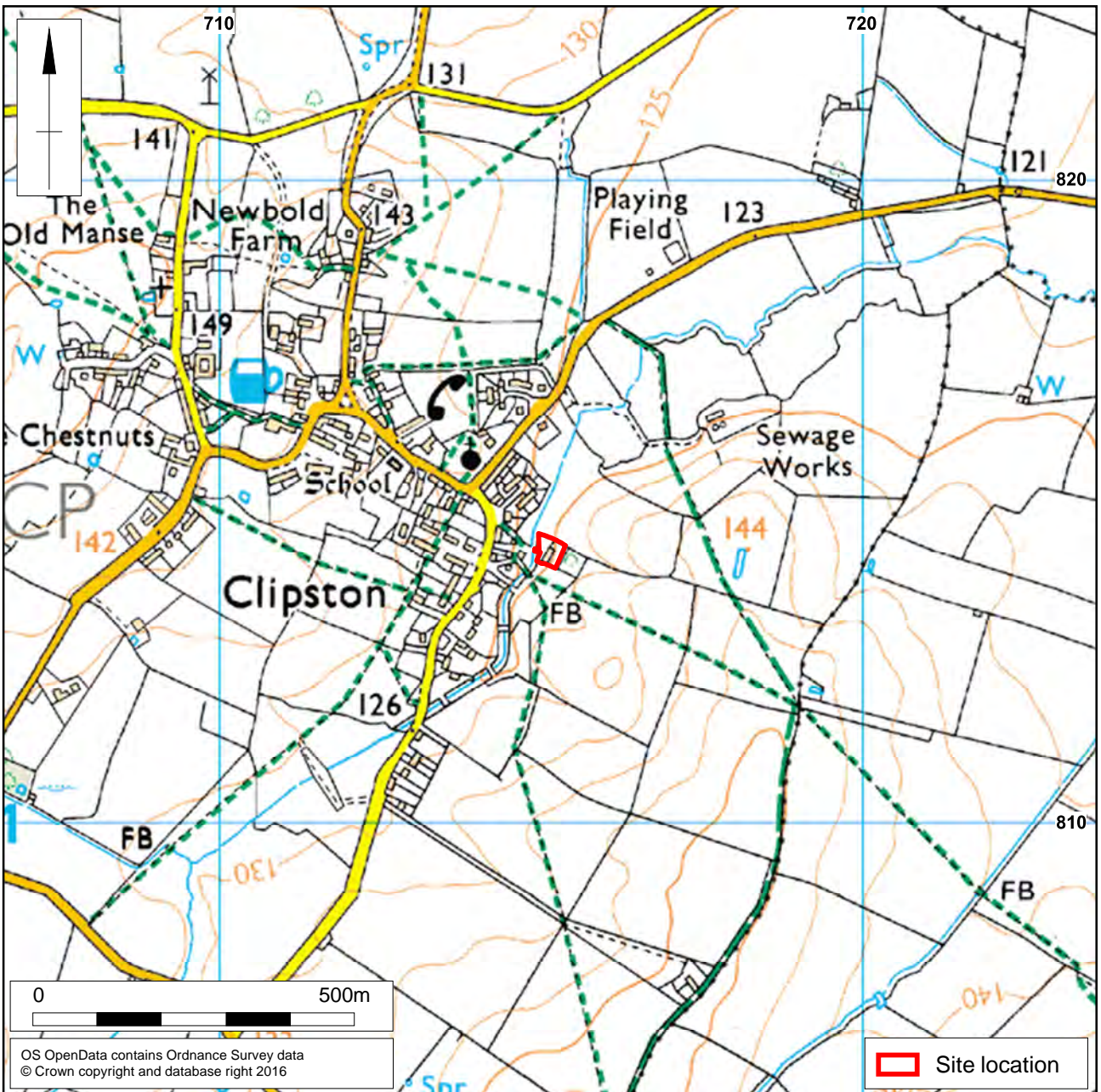
The archaeological monitoring works were to ensure that any archaeological remains within the area of the groundworks were appropriately located, defined, characterised, and recorded. Works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), and to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 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* (ClfA 2014a) and the Historic England (HE) procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015). The work complied with a written Scheme of Investigation by MOLA (2015) in response to a brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Adviser, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2015)

2 BACKGROUND

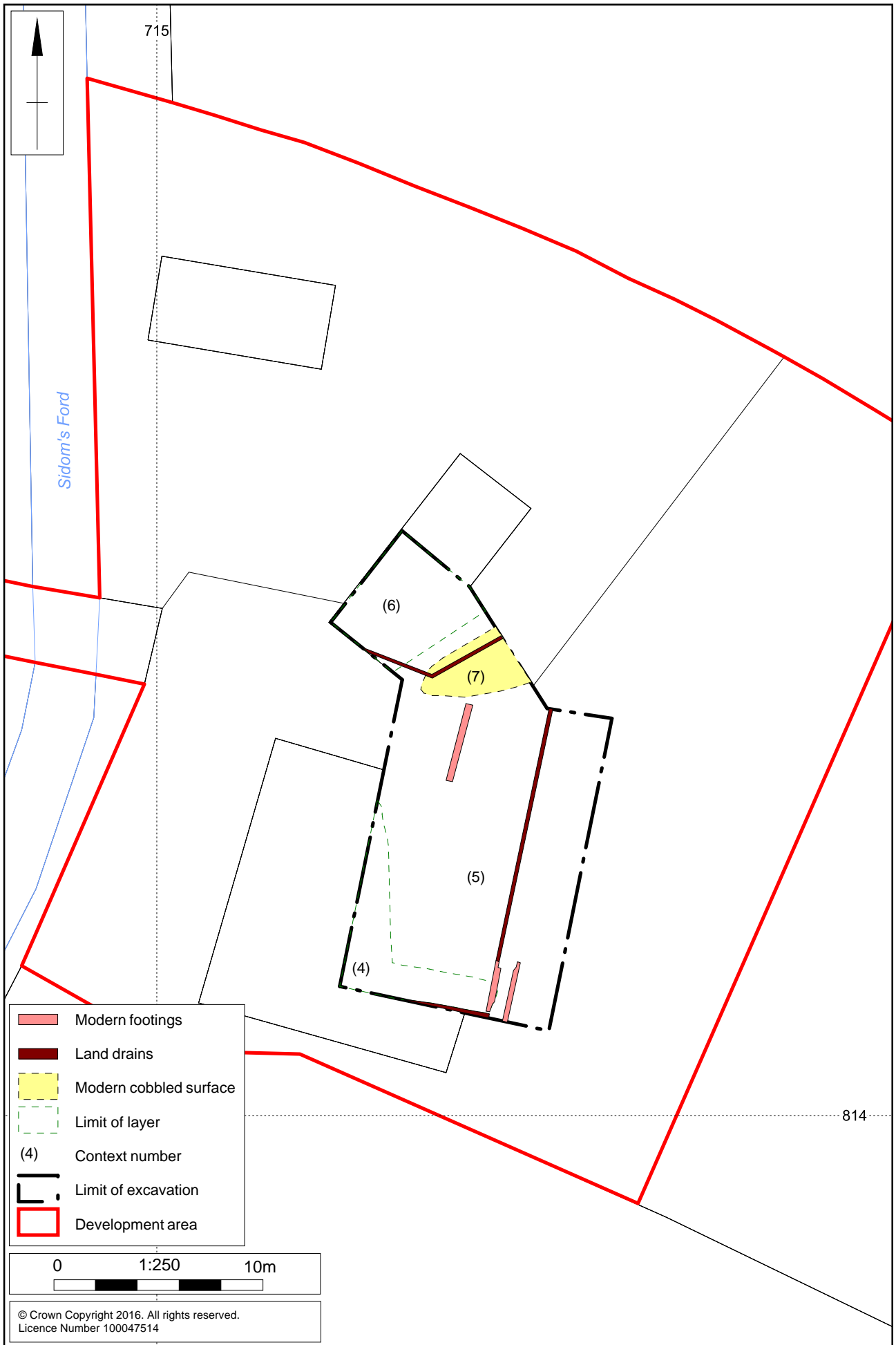
2.1 Location and topography

Clipston is a historic village in north-west Northamptonshire in the district of Daventry. It lies about 20km north of Northampton. The village is surrounded by arable farmland. The proposed development area is to the rear of 1 Kelmarsh Road, on the eastern edge of the village (Fig 2). The site is accessed via an existing track off Kelmarsh Road, which crosses Sidom's Ford, a tributary of the River Ise, over a small bridge.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 250

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

The site itself was previously a farmyard, and was until recently occupied by a pole barn and a small red brick residential cottage, both since demolished (BRP 2015).

The development area is bounded to the west by Sidom's Ford, and to the north and south by hedged field boundaries with pasture land beyond. Immediately to the east of the site is a small parcel of grassland, also within the applicants' ownership. This area, which is also marked by hedged boundaries, forms part of Scheduled Monument (SM) 1418334. This Scheduled Monument comprises the remnants and earthworks of a former medieval village which extends down the eastern side of the current village (BRP 2015).

The area of the development site is around 0.15ha, and lies on a relatively level area situated at c125m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Whitby Mudstone Formation, while the site lies on the border of two areas of superficial deposit, with mid Pleistocene diamicton till to the east, and Quaternary alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel to the west (BGS 2015).

2.2 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.

Prehistoric evidence from Clipston is scarce. Worked flints including a core and a scraper, may have been found in the west and south-west of the parish (PastScape 2015).

Four areas of possible Roman settlement, identified by pottery scatters, are known from the parish of Clipston. These lie between 1.5 and 2km to the north-west and south-west of Clipston village (RCHME 1981).

The village of Clipston itself has medieval origins. A single early Saxon inhumation with weaponry was reportedly discovered in 1867 in the east of the village (RCHME 1981). The HER cites the approximate location as 140m to the west of the development area (HER 6190). A second inhumation found to the south of the village, was dated to the 15th century by the grave goods of a spear and riding spur (PastScape 2015). The Church of All Saints, 200m to the north-west of the site, originated in the 13th century, with some 18th-century restoration. The possible remains of a medieval manorial complex or other medieval habitation, have been tentatively identified in the vicinity of the church (HER 4232/3). The Domesday survey of 1086 records at least four manors in the village (RCHME 1981).

At least two deserted medieval villages (DMV) are known from the area of Clipston. The location of the village of Calme has not been identified, however, the remains of the medieval settlement of Nobold survive as earthworks to the west of the modern village (RCHME 1981). Two areas of earthworks have been designated as a Scheduled Monument by Historic England, including the area of Nobold DMV, and an area centred 200m to the east of the development site. This designation includes the area immediately east of the application site, which is thought to represent enclosures used for stock and other agricultural purposes. The application site may also have been agricultural land in the medieval period (NCC 2015).

The area around Clipston is also notable for the extensive survival of ridge and furrow earthworks (HER 4238/0/1). Enclosure was undertaken around the Clipston township in 1776, leaving extensive earthworks around the town (DNN12609).

Historic maps indicate that the boundaries of the development area were already in place from around 1886, with two parcels of land backing onto Sidom's Ford. Several buildings are marked on the site, with the area currently housing the pole barn having been a separate bounded sub-area. The site was also overgrown with trees at this time, particularly in the eastern adjoining plot. By 1968, the small sub-division within the main development area had disappeared, and the cottage and barn structures were in place.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

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

- Identified, investigated and recorded all archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of the house footprint and access road, plus associated below groundworks;
- 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 documents Historic England's *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).

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

The observation work (strip, map and sample) took place on three days during the first week of January 2016 in variable weather conditions.

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 digital images and 35mm black and white film.

The observation area comprised an area of relatively flat land on the western side of the building plot, close to the course of the Sidom's Ford stream and an area of sloping land, forming part of the valley sides, to the east. Within the observation area, an open area trench, encompassing the footprint of the new house, measuring approximately 15.5m long by 10.5m wide and aligned north-south was excavated to a level approximately 0.2m below the surface on the western side and to a formation level of 1.1m below the surface, cutting into the natural substrate on the eastern side (Figs 2, 3, 9 and rear cover). At the northern end of the trench, an open area

extension, encompassing the footprint of a smaller, neighbouring new building, c10m long by 5m wide by c 0.5m deep aligned north-west to south east and was also excavated (Figs 2, 5)

The topsoil, subsoil and natural substratum were stripped using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with either a 1m or 1.5m bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Three types of natural substrate (3) (5) and (6) were encountered (Fig 4) within the open area excavation trench. On the eastern side of the trench, the natural substrate (5) consisted of a possibly alluvial, light-grey clay with few inclusions, occurring at a depth of approximately 0.8m below the surface. Overlying the possible alluvial clay (5) was a c 0.3m deep layer of possibly colluvial (hill-wash), orange-brown sandy clay (3) with a few pebble inclusions.

In the northernmost part of the site (Fig 5) the natural substrate consisted of an orange-brown sandy clay with numerous river pebbles and gravel (6) which would appear to be indicative of a former stream bed.

Overlying the natural substrate was a c 0.2m deep layer of yellow-brown sandy clay loam subsoil (2) containing in one location numerous sherds of 19th-century pottery. The topsoil consisted of a c 0.3m deep layer of dark grey clay loam (1). Due to the sloping nature of the site, the topsoil and subsoil were visible only in the eastern side of the trench.

4.1 The modern layer

Within the western and southern parts of the trench a layer of grey-brown clay loam (4) with sherds of 19th-century pottery and clay tobacco-pipe was identified (Figs 2 and 6).

4.2 The modern cobbled surface

In the northern part of the site the remains of a path surface (7) possibly associated with the small cottage (now demolished) which previously existed on the site. The surface consisted mostly of a layer of large rounded flint cobbles set within a dark loamy soil (Fig 7).

4.3 The modern brick footings

In the central and south-eastern parts of the trench, the remains of some modern, possibly 19th-century brick footings were identified. The footings consisted of unfrosted red clay bricks set within lime mortar and are likely to be associated with the large brick-built pole barn (8) known to have existed over much of the southern part of the site. The footings in the south-eastern part of the trench may have been evidence of a small extension on the side of the building at this point and also appear to have been associated with a deep area of modern disturbance (Figs 8, 9).

4.4 The modern land drains

Three ceramic, possibly 19th-century land drains were noted within the trench. Two were of an upturned U-shaped profile and one was of a circular cross-section (Figs 2, 5).

5 THE FINDS

5.1 The pottery by Tora Hylton

In total 38 sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 2,235kg, were recovered. The majority of the sherds (33) were recovered from subsoil deposits (2), while the remainder were recovered from a post-medieval/modern layer (4) associated with the remains of a brick-build structure. The assemblage comprises kitchen wares dating from the early/mid-19th century. Most of the assemblage is in fairly good condition, although some sherds do show signs of abrasion. The assemblage has been classified according to the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type Series (Blinkhorn 1996).

The earliest datable fabric represented is a body sherd from a Mochaware jar (CTS432) decorated with an 'earthworm' motif and dating to the c mid 19th-century. The majority of sherds (37) are represented by large fragments of iron glazed red earthenware from pancheon type vessels manufactured from hard-fired pink and orange clays and covered with a thick black glaze on their internal surfaces. These vessel types generally date to the 19th and 20th centuries.

Table 1:

FABRIC TYPE	Context number			
	(2) layer		(4) layer	
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
Mochaware (CTS 432) c.1820-40	-	-	1	30
Glazed earthenwares (CTS 426) c. 19th -20th centuries	33	2000	4	205
Total	33	2000	5	235

5.2 The clay tobacco-pipe by Tora Hylton

An undiagnostic base fragment from a clay tobacco-pipe bowl and a stem fragment were recovered from a post-medieval/modern layer (4) associated with the remains of a brick-build structure. The stem fragment measures 52mm in length, it has a small bore measuring 4/64's of an inch, suggesting a 19th/20th century date.



Sloping ground surface, southern part of site, looking south Fig 3



Eastern section of trench showing layers (1), (2), (3) and (5), looking east Fig 4



Layer of river gravel (6), northern part of site, looking south-east Fig 5



Layer (4), looking south Fig 6



Cobbled modern path layer, northern part of site looking west Fig 7



Modern brick footings, south-eastern corner of site, looking north Fig 8



Area of modern disturbance, south-eastern corner of site, looking east Fig 9

6 DISCUSSION

The observation work identified modern layers, surfaces and brick footings associated with the now demolished pole barn and cottage. The pottery and clay tobacco-pipe finds would appear to suggest a 19th century origin for these structures.

Despite the close proximity of a known medieval site, the lack of any pre-modern finds would suggest the site was not in use until the 19th-century, possibly due to its location in a valley bottom close to an active stream and thereby possibly prone to flooding. The presence of several modern, possibly 19th-century, ceramic land-drains, along with a deepening and re-cutting of the stream, could be evidence of a concerted attempt to drain the valley bottom, thus allowing the use of the site for residential and agricultural purposes to be viable from the 19th century onwards.

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MOLA Northampton

12 January 2016

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
1	c 20m long x c 11m wide North to South			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1	Layer	Dark grey-brown loam topsoil	c 0.3m thick	-
2	Layer	Yellow-brown sandy clay loam subsoil	c 0.2m thick	19th century pot
3	Layer	Orange-brown sandy clay natural with a few small pebble inclusions	c 0.3m thick	-
4	Layer	Grey-brown clay loam	c 0.3m thick	19th century pot and clay tobacco-pipe
5	Layer	Grey alluvial clay natural	At least 0.3m thick	-
6	Layer	Orange-brown sandy clay with numerous river gravel inclusions	At least 0.3m thick	-
7	Layer	Cobbled surface with some dark-grey clay loam	c 0.3m thick	-
8	Structure	Brick footings remains from former pole barn		-



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