



**A Strip, Map and Recording Action on land at
Pine Reach, Church Street
Weedon, Northamptonshire
July - August 2015**

Report No. 16/10

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STAFF

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Fieldwork	David J Leigh
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS: molanort1-238711	
Project name	A strip, map and recording action on land at Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire		
Short description	A strip, map and recording action and supplementary archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hancock between July and August 2015 prior to, and during the construction of a new dwelling on land at Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were collected from the topsoil, no archaeological deposits were present.		
Project type	Strip, map and recording action with supplementary archaeological observation, investigation and recording		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Grassed area of domestic garden		
Future work	No		
Monument type/ period	-		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire,		
Postcode	NN7 4ED		
Study area (sq. metres)	100m ²		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 63293 59165		
Height (aOD)	85.0m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northampton County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Hancock		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	July 2015		
End date	August 2015		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical		none	
Paper	Lincolnshire Museums	Watching brief forms (3) Photographic record sheets (2) Black and white photographs (10) Digital photographs (16)	
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Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			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 at Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 16/10		
Author	David J Leigh		
Date	January 2016		

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A Strip, Map and Recording Action on land at Pine reach, Church Street Weedon, Northamptonshire July - August 2015

Abstract

A Strip, Map and Recording Action with supplementary archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken between July and August 2015 by MOLA Northampton on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hancock prior to, and during the construction of a new dwelling on land at Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire. Two unstratified sherds of Romano-British pottery were collected from the topsoil, no archaeological deposits were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A strip, map and recording action along with a supplementary programme of archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton between July and August 2015 prior to, and during the construction of a new dwelling with car-port (Planning Ref: DA/2014/0586) on land at Pine Reach, Church Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP63293 59165; Figs 1, 2 and 4). The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hancock, following a requirement for the undertaking of an archaeological strip, map and recording action issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council in correspondence dated 19th August 2014 (Mordue 2014).

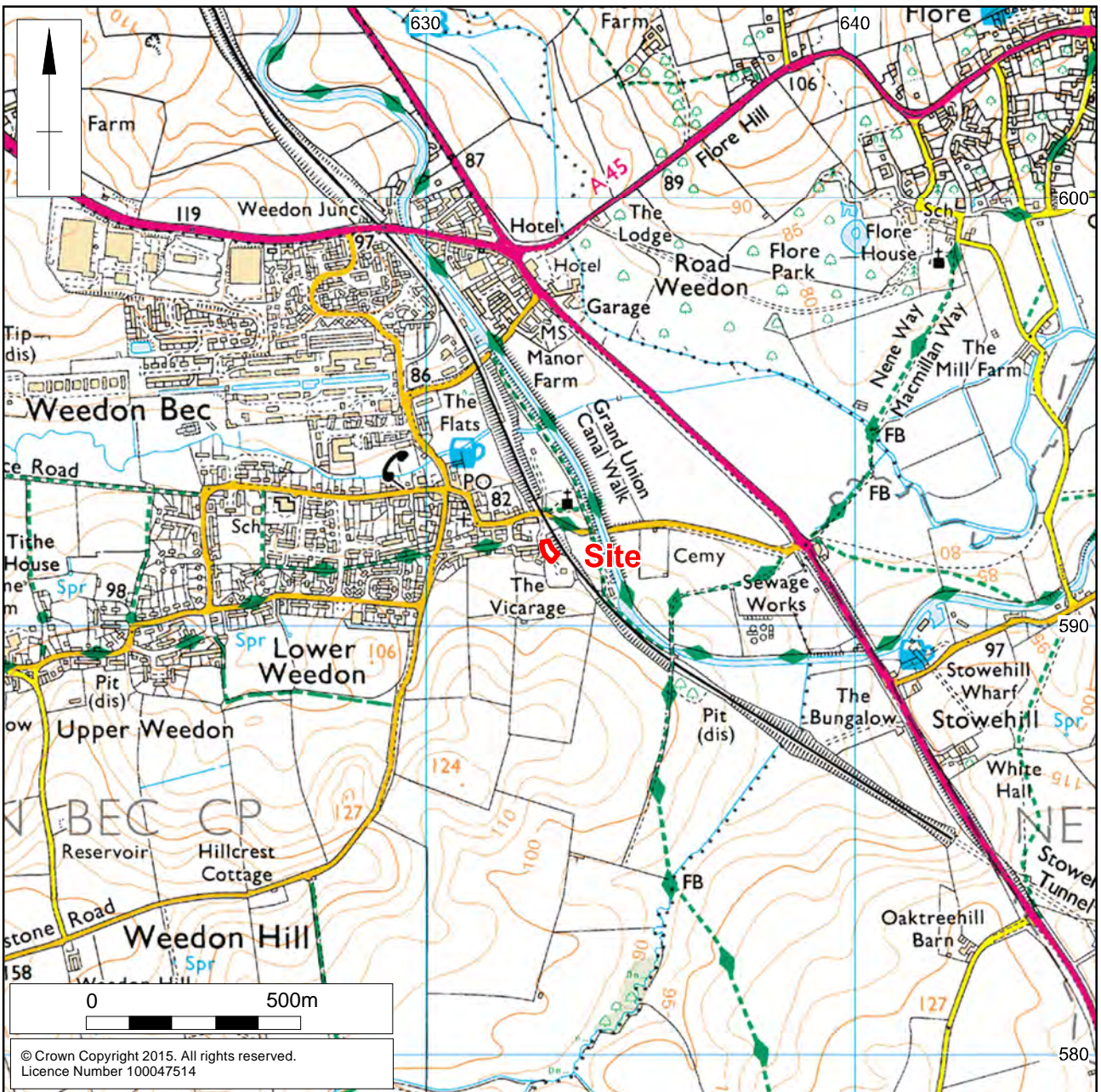
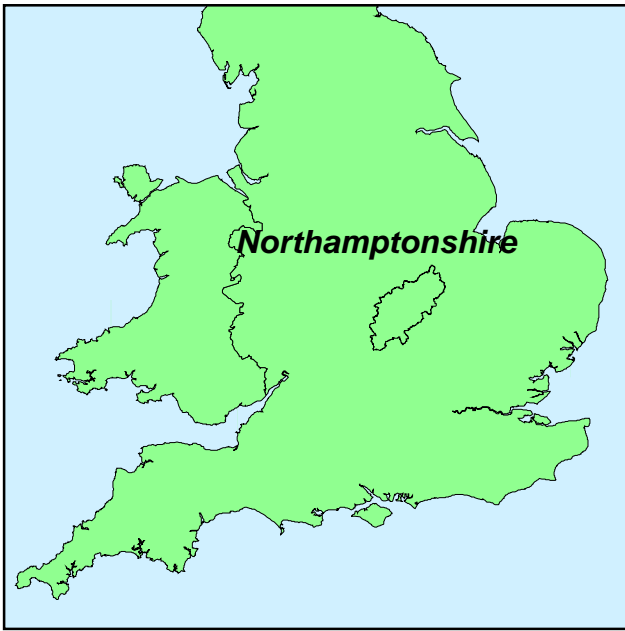
The work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by MOLA (2015) and adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage, now Historic England (HE 2015) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as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

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The village of Weedon lies approximately 13km of Northampton in the county of Northamptonshire. The investigation area lies on the south-east edge of the modern settlement within the present village.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Northampton Sand and Ironstone (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex>).



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical background

The site lies on the south-eastern edge of the present village of Weedon and within an area of archaeological interest. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record lists a number of sites in the surrounding area.

Roman coins are recorded as having been recovered in the vicinity of the investigation area and eleven sherds of Romano-British pottery were found 200m to the north at 46 Church Street. At the same address early-middle and late Anglo Saxon and medieval remains were found, some representing tenement boundaries (Blinkhorn 1994). To the west of the village, at Holm Close archaeological investigations also recorded pits, ditches and post-holes dating to the 12th century, which may indicate the extent of the medieval core of the village.

Documentary evidence suggests that the presence of a possible site of an Anglo-Saxon palace which is thought to have been converted into a monastery by St Werburgh somewhere within the village.

No archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out within the investigation area which up to the present application has comprised an area of domestic garden belonging to Pine Reach.

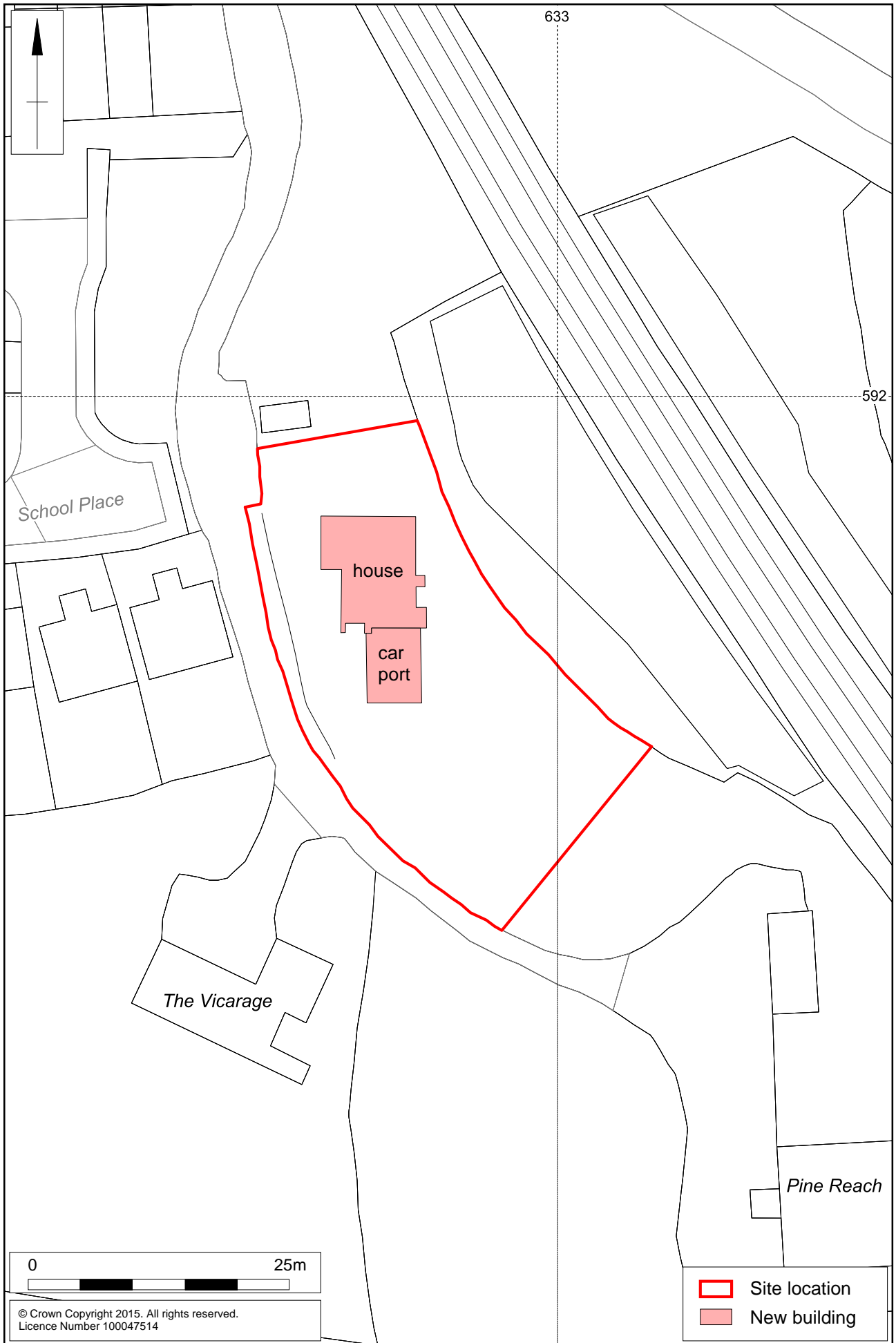
3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Undertake a controlled soil strip within the footprint of the new dwelling 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;
- ◆ Undertake a supplementary programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the excavation of the area of the new car-port;
- ◆ 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* (ClfA 2008a).

The fieldwork was undertaken between July and August 2015 prior to, and during the construction of the new dwelling and car-port. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig 3) and comprised the removal of topsoil and subsoil under archaeological supervision within the area of the new dwelling and the excavation of foundations for the new car-port (Figs 4-7).



Scale 1: 500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2



The investigation area looking north, prior to the start of the soil strip Fig 3



The groundworks in progress Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.85m below present ground level and comprised reddish-brown compact clay. This was overlain by mid brown sandy loam, up to 0.40m thick, which contained very occasional irregular stones. The topsoil of grey-black sandy loam topsoil, up to 0.45m thick, contained occasional irregular stones and very occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material, along with two sherds of Romano-British pottery.

No archaeological deposits were present.



The house plot after soil removal, looking north Fig 5



The area of the house and car-port after the soil strip, looking north Fig 6



The stratigraphic sequence Fig 7

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Photographic record sheets	2
Black and white photographs	10
Digital photographs	16

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

6 CONCLUSIONS

An undisturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area and no archaeological deposits were present. It has been suggested that some levelling up of the ground level and topsoil has previously taken place within the investigation area. However, no evidence for this type of activity was identified during the course of the archaeological investigation.

Two unstratified sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the topsoil, which may simply represent part of an extensive manure scatter associated with the practice of mixing domestic waste with animal dung to fertilise fields (Parry 2006, 81-3; fig 4.13).

The archaeological investigations were carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered reliable.

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