

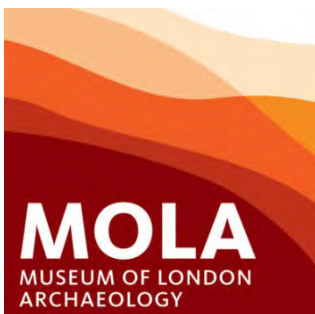


Archaeological mitigation at Darsdale Farm Raunds, Northamptonshire June to September 2015 Assessment Report

Report No. 16/13

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Anthony Maull

Author: Adam Reid
Illustrator: Oliver Dindol



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-239516
Project title	Archaeological mitigation at Darsdale Farm, Raunds, Northamptonshire, June to September 2015: Assessment report	
Short description	Between June and September 2015 MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological mitigation work at Darsdale Farm, Raunds. A series of rectilinear field boundary ditches were bounded to the east by a long-lived linear land boundary. Stone in the upper fill of ditch may have come from an associated trackway. A rectangular enclosure abutted the western side of the boundary system, and an internal oven/hearth contained two intact triangular fired-clay loomweights. The pottery assemblage spans the 1st century AD, comprising late Iron Age and early Roman vessel types. Two poorly preserved inhumation burials of unknown date were found to the south-west of the enclosure. In the north-eastern part of the project area there were at least three small post-built structures of probable early/middle Saxon date.	
Project type	Mitigation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Waterman Energy 2007), geophysical surveys (GSB 2005; Walford 2015); trial trenching (Hood 2009)	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	No	
Monument type/period	Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement and burials, Anglo-Saxon post built structures	
Significant finds	Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery; animal bone; burnt clay loomweights; metal objects (iron, lead, copper alloy); glass bead; flint; human skeletal remains.	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Darsdale Farm, Raunds	
Study area	3.1ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 99340 71950	
Height OD	54m – 58m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor	
Project Design originator	Liz Muldowney, MOLA	
Directors/Supervisors	Adam Reid and Simon Markus	
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney, Anthony Maull, MOLA	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East Midlands	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	15 June 2015	
End date	11 September 2015	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
Physical	Event number: TBC	Pottery; animal bone; human bone; Metal objects; glass bead; ; burnt clay; flint; photographs; plans and sections on permatrace
Paper		Site records; background data
Digital		Survey data; reports; digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological mitigation at Darsdale Farm, Raunds, Northamptonshire, June to September 2015: Assessment report	
Serial title & volume	16/13	
Author(s)	Adam Reid	
Page numbers	17 pages	
Date	January 2016	

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Archaeological mitigation at Darsdale Farm, Raunds, Northamptonshire June to September 2015: Assessment report

Abstract

Between June and September 2015 MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological mitigation work at Darsdale Farm, Raunds, Northamptonshire.

A series of rectilinear field boundary ditches were bounded to the east by a linear land boundary with the multiple recuts indicating a long period of use. Stone in the upper fill of ditch may have come from an associated trackway. A rectangular enclosure abutted the western side of the boundary system, and an internal oven/hearth contained two intact triangular fired-clay loomweights. The pottery assemblage spans the 1st century AD, comprising late Iron Age and early Roman vessel types. Two poorly preserved inhumation burials of unknown date were found to the south-west of the enclosure.

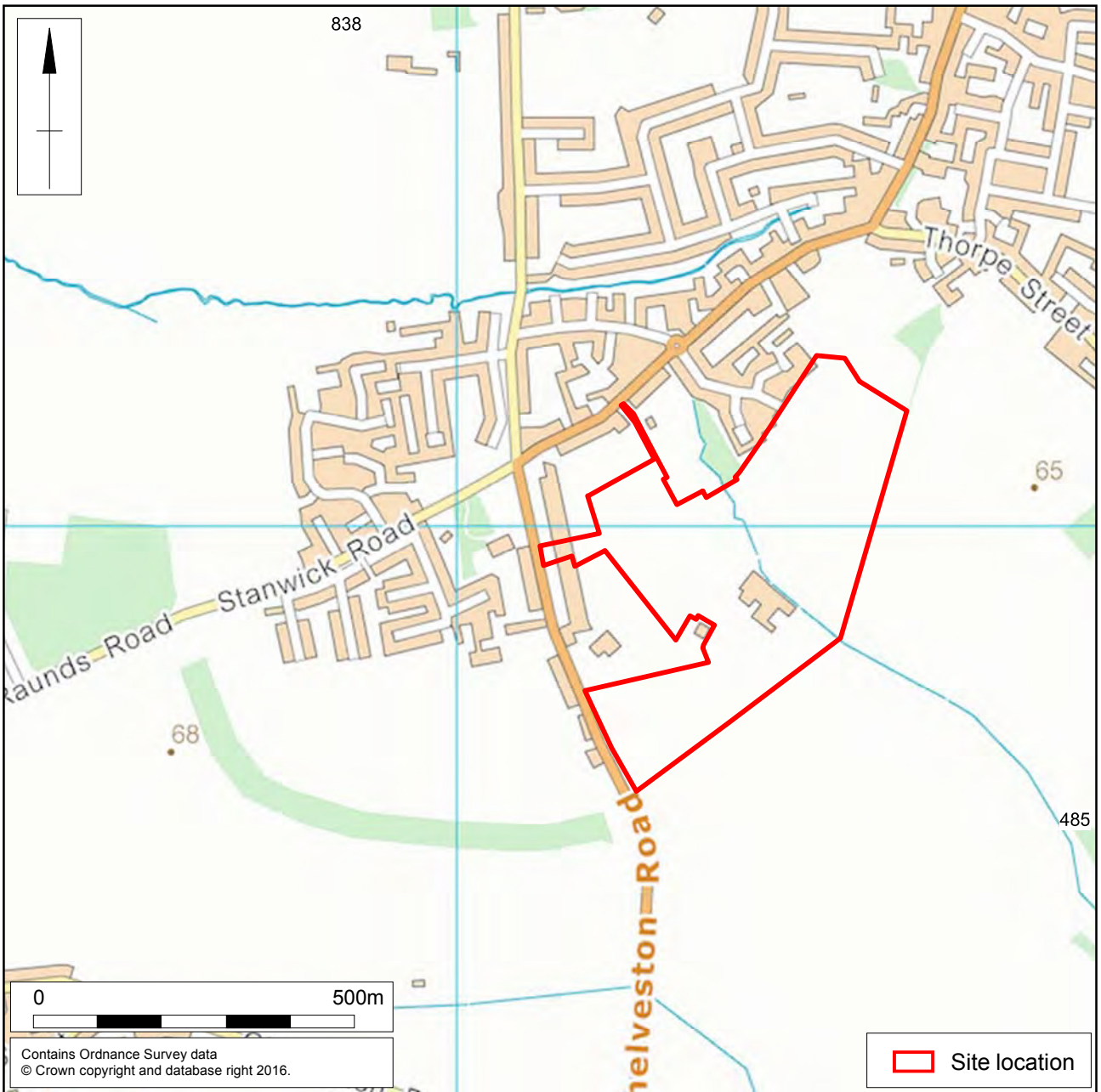
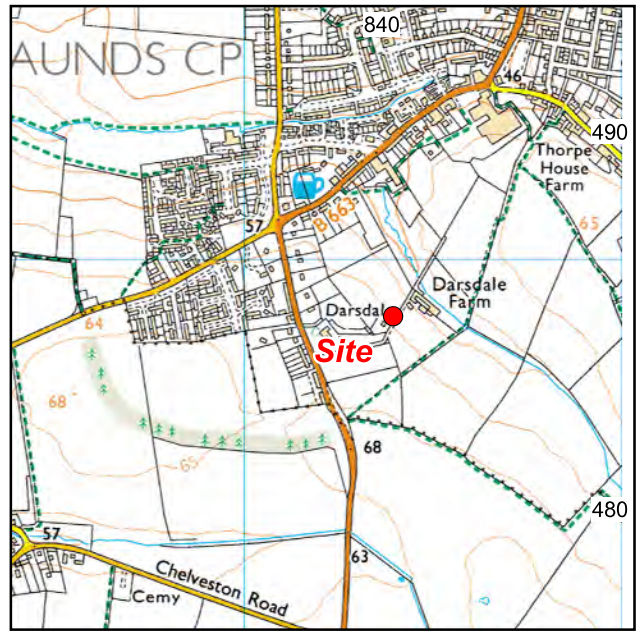
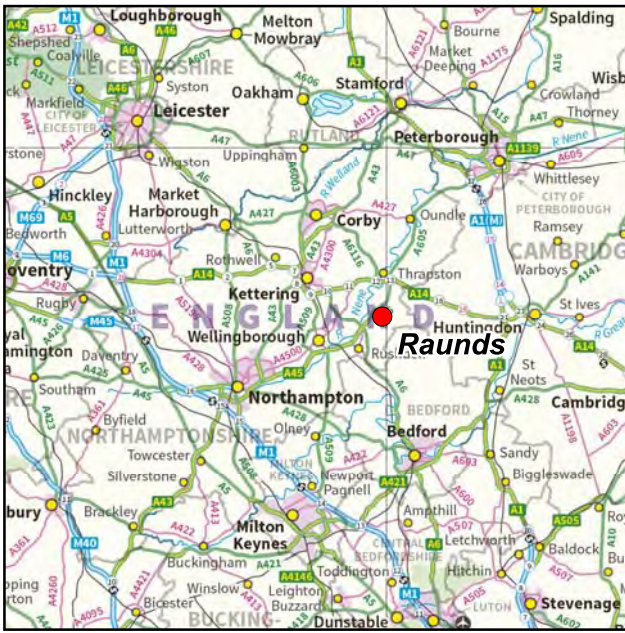
In the north-eastern part of the project area there were at least three small post-built structures of probable early/middle Saxon date.

1 INTRODUCTION

CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East Midlands, commissioned MOLA Northampton to undertake archaeological mitigation work on the proposed development site at Darsdale Farm, Raunds (NGR SP99340 71950, Fig 1)

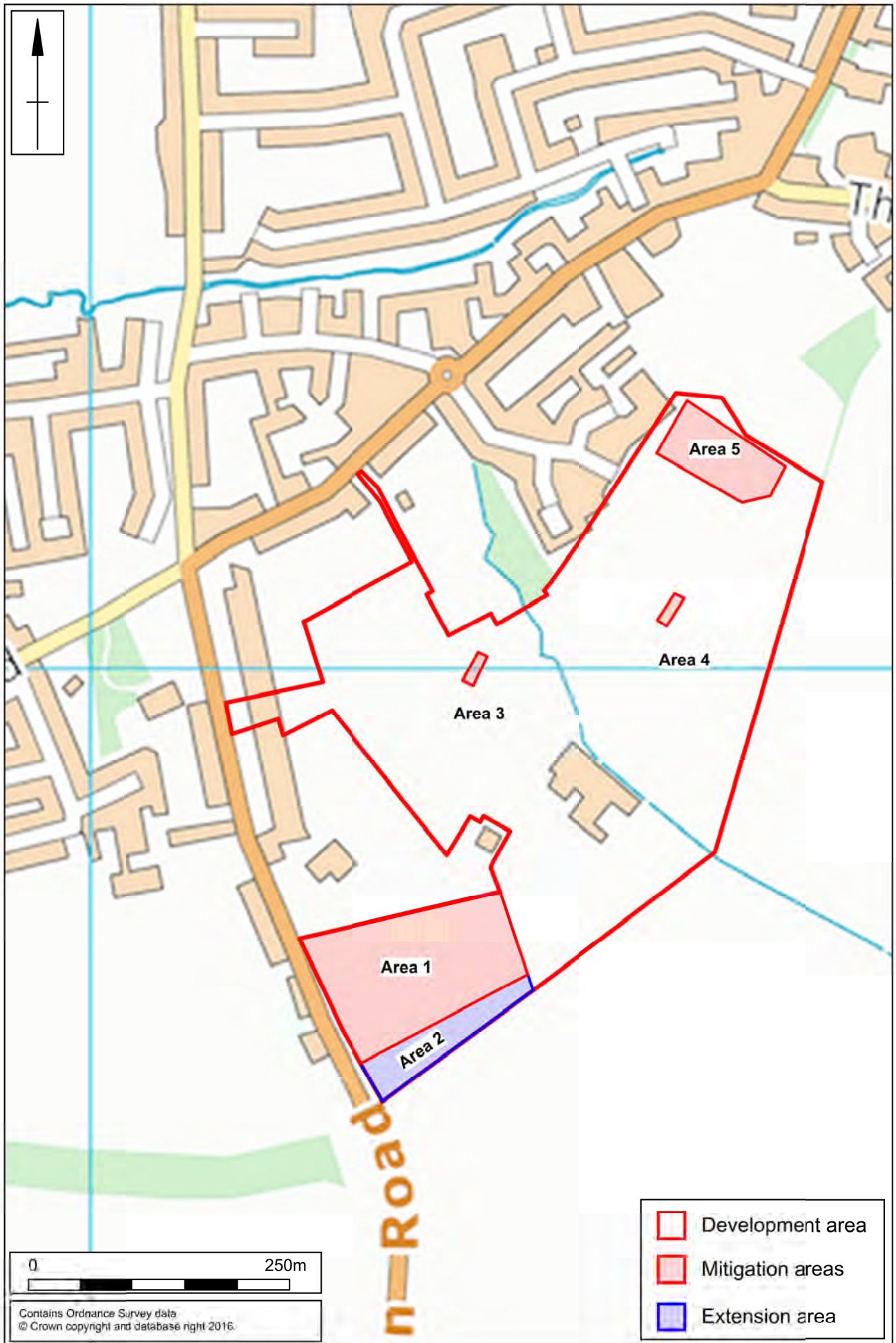
The work was carried out in accordance with a brief provided by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2014), a Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and guidance: archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b), and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

Five areas were excavated: Areas 1 and 2 (2.45ha) in the south-western part of site, Area 3 (0.03ha) on the west side of the brook, Area 4 (0.03ha) on the eastern side of the brook and Area 5 (0.6ha) at the north-eastern limit of development area (Fig 2).



Scale 1:10000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1: 5000

Location of mitigation areas Fig 2

2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

At least three phases of activity were observed:

Period 1: Late Iron Age or Early Roman (1st century BC to 2nd century AD)

Period 2: Early/Middle to Late Saxon (5th to 11th century AD)

Period 3: Medieval to modern (11th to 19th century AD)

2.1 Period 1: Late Iron Age to Early Roman (1st century BC to early 2nd century AD)

Across the western half of Areas 1 & 2 there was a series of rectilinear field boundary ditches and lengths of partial sub-divisions or drainage ditches (Fig 3). These were bounded to the east by a major linear land boundary, aligned near north to south. The multiple ditch recuts indicate that this was a long-lived landscape feature (Figs 3 & 5). At one stage it also incorporated a line of posts, with some 30 postholes surviving in intermittent lengths. Quantities of stone in the upper fills of parts of the ditch system may derive from an accompanying trackway.

To the north, a rectangular enclosure, 27m wide and in excess of 23m long, abutted the boundary system (Fig 7). Within the enclosure, an oven or hearth contained two intact triangular loomweights (Fig 6).

Two poorly preserved burials, aligned east-west, lay to the west of the enclosure, approximately 100m apart (Fig 8). No associated finds were recovered. The terminals of two ditches that provisionally date to the later end of this phase of activity were identified at the southern edge of the development area.

2.2 Period 2: Anglo-Saxon (5th to 11th centuries AD)

There were at least three post-built structures in Area 5 (Figs 4, 9 and 10). Finds of pottery were rare and will provide dating evidence for a very limited number of the features. An initial assessment of the pottery has identified a well-preserved early/middle Saxon vessel, but the rest of the assemblage comprises a mixture of fabrics mainly as small abraded sherds (Chapman pers. com.). A small fragment of a bone or antler comb was recovered from one of the postholes. Several isolated pits were located close to the northern edge of the area. A pit, which was previously investigated during trial trenching and contained a sherd of early/middle Saxon pottery, also contained an iron knife blade.

2.3 Period 3: Medieval to modern (11th to 19th centuries AD)

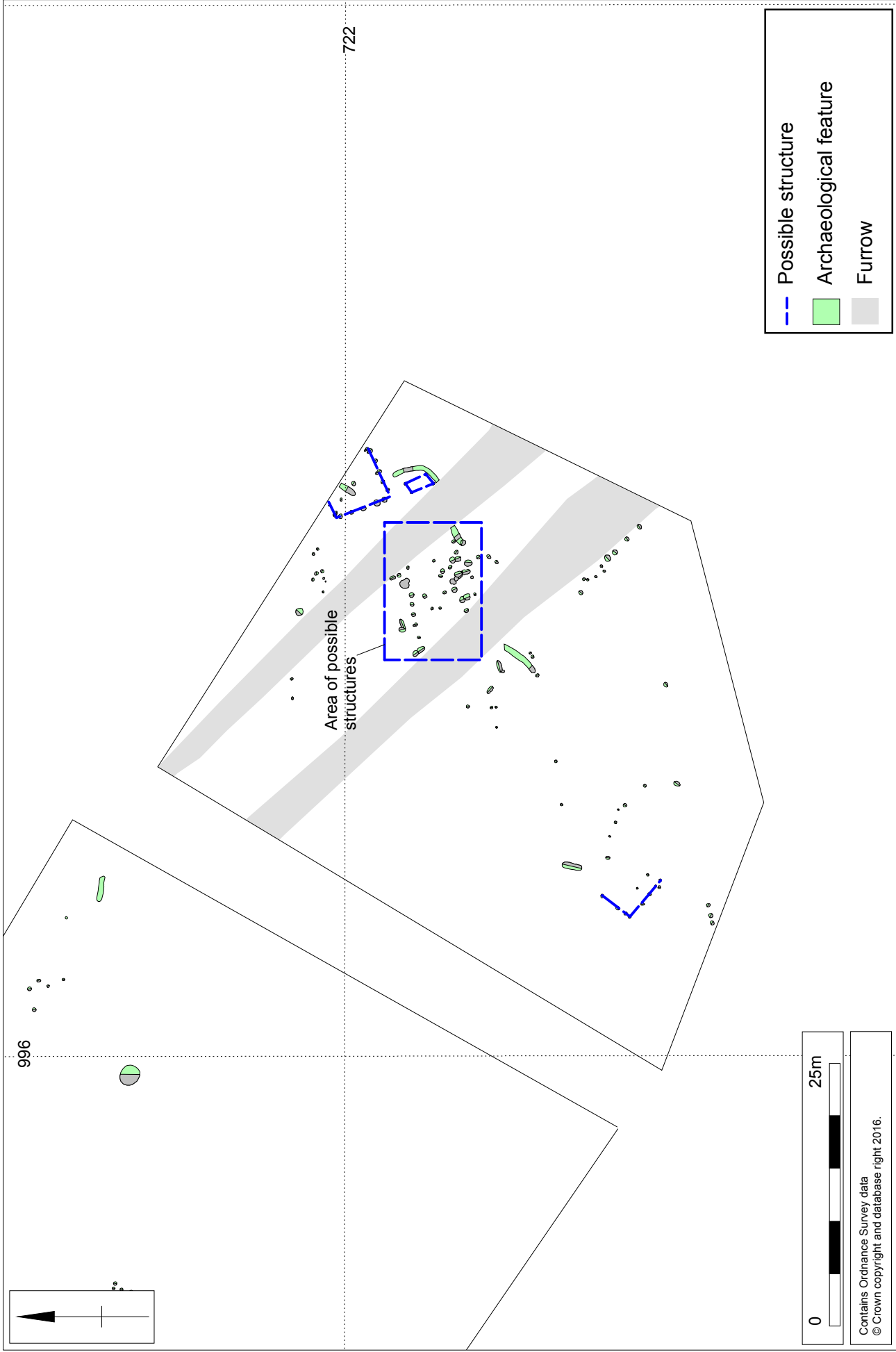
An undated elongated pit in Area 3 contained a large quantity of coke and may be related to the former brickworks, which was located slightly to the north.

The truncated furrows of former ridge and furrow cultivation were present across most of the mitigation areas. In the south-western corner of the development area the furrows were aligned north-south, changing to an east-west alignment to the north and east. In Area 5 the furrows were aligned north-west to south-east. Modern fence lines were identified in Area 5 and several undated postholes were found in Area 4.



Plan of Areas 1 and 2 Fig 3

Scale 1: 1250



Plan of Area 5 Fig 4

Scale 1:500

3 DISCUSSION

The development area contained remains from three periods and represent two spatially distinct sites: a rural late Iron Age to early Roman land boundary, settlement and field system in the south-western part of the area and a small Anglo-Saxon settlement or farmstead in the north-eastern mitigation area.

The late Iron Age to Roman site comprised a series of rectilinear field boundaries tentatively dated to the 1st century BC through to the 2nd century AD. To the east they are abounded by a long-lived boundary ditch, probably with an accompanying trackway. A rectangular enclosure abutted the boundary system and a few internal features contained debris from domestic use. The burials are currently undated.

The evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period comprised at least three discrete post-built structures and other postholes that form no clear structures. Many of these were cut into a sub-square area of reddish-brown silt, which appears to have formed in a natural hollow. The structures may relate to the Anglo-Saxon Thorpe End settlement (DNN1295), located to the north-east of the project area, although the presence of earlier features cannot be discounted at this stage.

4 FINDS QUANTIFICATION

4.1 Flint

A total of 12 struck/worked flints were recovered (including at least one end-and-side scraper) which will be analysed by an in-house specialist.

4.2 The late Iron Age and Roman pottery by Andy Chapman

There is a total of c.15kg of pottery (two archive boxes) from 107 contexts. The majority of the groups are small, with only 15 contexts producing more than 250g. The assemblage has been rapidly scanned to determine its date range. While the assemblage contains a high proportion of shelly fabrics, the vessel forms are typical of the late pre-Roman Iron Age, early 1st century BC. Coarseware vessels in shelly fabrics also make up a high proportion of the assemblages that also contain Roman fabrics, which include grey wares, a few fragments from samian vessels and at least one flagon. The assemblage therefore spans at least the 1st century AD and may continue into the early 2nd century AD.

4.3 Pottery from Area 5 by Andy Chapman

This is a small assemblage with a total weight of only 265g, with 15 contexts producing single small sherds or small groups of sherds weighing no more than 15g, while only three groups exceed 43g in weight.

The largest group, weighing 74g, is a rim sherd from an early/middle Saxon vessel from the fill (5294) of posthole [5295]. The rest of the assemblage contains mixed fabrics, perhaps including further Saxon material but probably also some residual Roman pottery.

4.4 Other finds

The small finds consisted of
 39 Metal objects (lead, iron and copper alloy)
 3 Fired clay objects
 1 Glass object
 1 Worked stone object

1 Worked bone or antler object

A total 0.6kg of ceramic building material, 48g of slag and 5g of tobacco pipe were recovered in addition to a total of 48 small finds, which will be analysed by an in-house specialist:

The late Iron Age loomweights by Andy Chapman

There are two intact fired-clay loomweights, each weighing a little less than 2kg (Fig 11). They are both triangular, with perforations across only two of the three corners, with these corners also rounded with a central deep curving groove, while the third corner is more pointed. If suspended from an upright warp-weighted loom they would have hung point downwards, as pendant triangles. These would appear to be a late Iron Age variation on the classic Iron Age loomweights, which have perforations across all three corners. They will be fully described and illustrated.

4.5 Human bone

A total 0.7kg of human bone from two skeletons was recovered. This will be analysed by an in-house specialist.

4.6 Animal bone

A total of 9.5kg of animal bone was hand collected from 104 contexts. This will be analysed by an in-house specialist.

4.7 Environmental samples

Eight environmental samples were taken, constituting a total of 200litres of material that will be wet sieved in-house and submitted for specialist analysis.

4.8 Ceramic building material

A total 0.6kg of ceramic building material from the late Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon periods was recovered, which will be analysed by an in-house specialist.

4.9 Radiocarbon dating

If there is suitable material, radiocarbon dating can be used to determine the date of the Anglo-Saxon settlement in order to phase it with the broader understanding of village development within Raunds (Parry 2006; Auduoy and Chapman 2009).

5 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

5.1 Future works

In order to bring the project to final reporting and publication a programme of future works will be undertaken.

Table 1: Post-excavation analysis task list

Tasks	Personnel
1. Report introduction and background	Adam Reid
2. Report structural site narrative	Adam Reid
3. Documentary research	Adam Reid
4. Flint artefact analysis and report	Andy Chapman or Yvonne-Wolfram Murray
5. Late Iron Age & Roman pottery analysis and report	Rob Perrin
6. Anglo-Saxon pottery analysis and report	Paul Blinkhorn
7. Charred plant remains analysis and report	Val Fryer
8. Human bone	Chris Chinnock
9. Animal bone	Adam Reid or Rebecca Gordon
10. Other finds	Tora Hylton, Andy Chapman and Pat Chapman
11. Illustrations	James Ladocha
12. Integration of specialist reports	Adam Reid
13. Report digest and discussion	Adam Reid
14. Editing/proof reading	Andy Chapman & Pat Chapman
15. Preparation of research archive	Tora Hylton

5.2 Programme

The programme will commence once the Interim Statement has been approved by the County Archaeological Advisor and is anticipated to start in April 2016

Table 2: Post-excavation analysis programme

Task/ month	1 April/May	2 June/July	3 August/September
1			
2			
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14			
15			
16			

6 REPORTING, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

6.1 Reporting

A full site report will be prepared by MOLA. The proposed structure of the report is as follows:

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 BACKGROUND**
 - 2.1 Location, topography and geology**
 - 2.2 Previous archaeological work**
- 3 OBJECTIVES**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**
 - 5.1 Summary of site chronology**
 - 5.2 The Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British settlement**
 - 5.3 The Anglo-Saxon settlement**
 - 5.4 Medieval to post-medieval agrarian landscape**
- 6 THE FINDS**
 - 6.1 The worked flint** by Andy Chapman or Yvonne Wolfram-Murray
 - 6.2 The Late Iron Age & Roman Pottery** by Rob Perrin
 - 6.3 The Saxon and medieval pottery** by Paul Blinkhorn
 - 6.4 The other finds** by Tora Hylton, Andy Chapman and Pat Chapman
- 7 THE HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS** by Chris Chinnock
- 8 THE FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**
 - 8.1 The animal bone** by Adam Reid or Rebecca Gordon
 - 8.2 The plant macrofossils** by Val Fryer

9 DISCUSSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Figures

Each section will be accompanied by appropriate illustrations. The introductory sections will include figures showing the location of the site and its topographic and geological context. Within the narrative text illustrations will include overall phase plans, detailed drawings of individual features or feature groups, photographs and finds illustrations. The discussion will include figures showing the archaeological context of the works in relation to other archaeological investigations discussed in the text and other figures as necessary.

6.2 Archive

A digital copy of the site archive and the site narrative will be made to RCHME standards and submitted to the National Archaeological Record. The archive will comprise all written, drawn and photographic records, and all material finds and processed sample residues recovered from the excavation. All records and finds generated by the excavation will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance

with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the Historic England procedural document, *MoRPHE* (HE 2015). Site details will be entered onto the OASIS online database.

6.3 Excavation records archive

The records generated by the excavation have all been cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The context records and finds catalogues will be entered on to a database (Access 2007). All records and finds are kept under the site code RDS DDF14.

The excavation generated the following records:

750	Context records
104	Pencil drawn plans on A3 permatrace sheets (varying scales)
252	Pencil drawn sections on 25 A3 permatrace sheets (varying scales)
1	Environmental sample register
29	Photographic record sheets (12 for monochrome and 17 for digital images)
11	Monochrome films and 600 digital images
27	Context registers
9	Section registers
2	Section sheet registers
3	Plan registers
3	Individually recorded finds (small finds) registers
6	Level registers

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Area 1, eastern boundary ditch system, looking south-west Fig 5



Area 1, Oven or hearth with triangular loomweight, looking south-west Fig 6



Area 1, enclosure ditches [1087] and [1090], looking west Fig 7



Area 1, poorly preserved burial [1101], looking west Fig 8



Area 5, post-built structure, looking west Fig 9



Area 5, area containing possible structures, looking east Fig 10



The late Iron Age loomweights (Scale 50mm)

Fig 11



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