



**Archaeological observation, investigation
recording and analysis of land
at Deene Hall, Deene Park
Northamptonshire
February 2016**

Report No. 16/34

Author: Adam Meadows

Illustrator: Carol Simmonds



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-243982	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis of land at Deene Hall, Deene Park, Northamptonshire, February 2016		
Short description	An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during excavations of service trenches on land at Deene Park, Corby, Northamptonshire. A number of walls were uncovered relating to building works during the 19th century.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Courtyard and access road		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval		
Significant finds	Slate roof tiles, paviour brick and a modern thermometer		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Deene Park, Corby		
Easting Northing	SP 949 927		
Area (sq m/ha)	N/A		
Height aOD	c 50m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Mike Dawson (CgMs Consulting)		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA Northampton) Adam Meadows (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	03/02/2016		
End date	09/02/2016		
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Physical	ENN108230	2 slate roof tiles, 1 paviour brick, 1 thermometer, watching brief forms, permatrace plans	
Paper			
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Unpublished client report			
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Archaeological observation, investigation recording and analysis of land at Deene Hall, Deene Park Northamptonshire February 2016

Abstract

An archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was carried out by MOLA Northampton, during excavations of service trenches on land at Deene Hall, Deene Park, Northamptonshire. A number of walls were uncovered relating to building works during the 19th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of the Brudenell family, commissioned MOLA Northampton to carry out archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis during service trench excavations ahead of the installation of a new Biomass Boiler on land at Deene Hall, Deene Park, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 949 927; Fig 1).

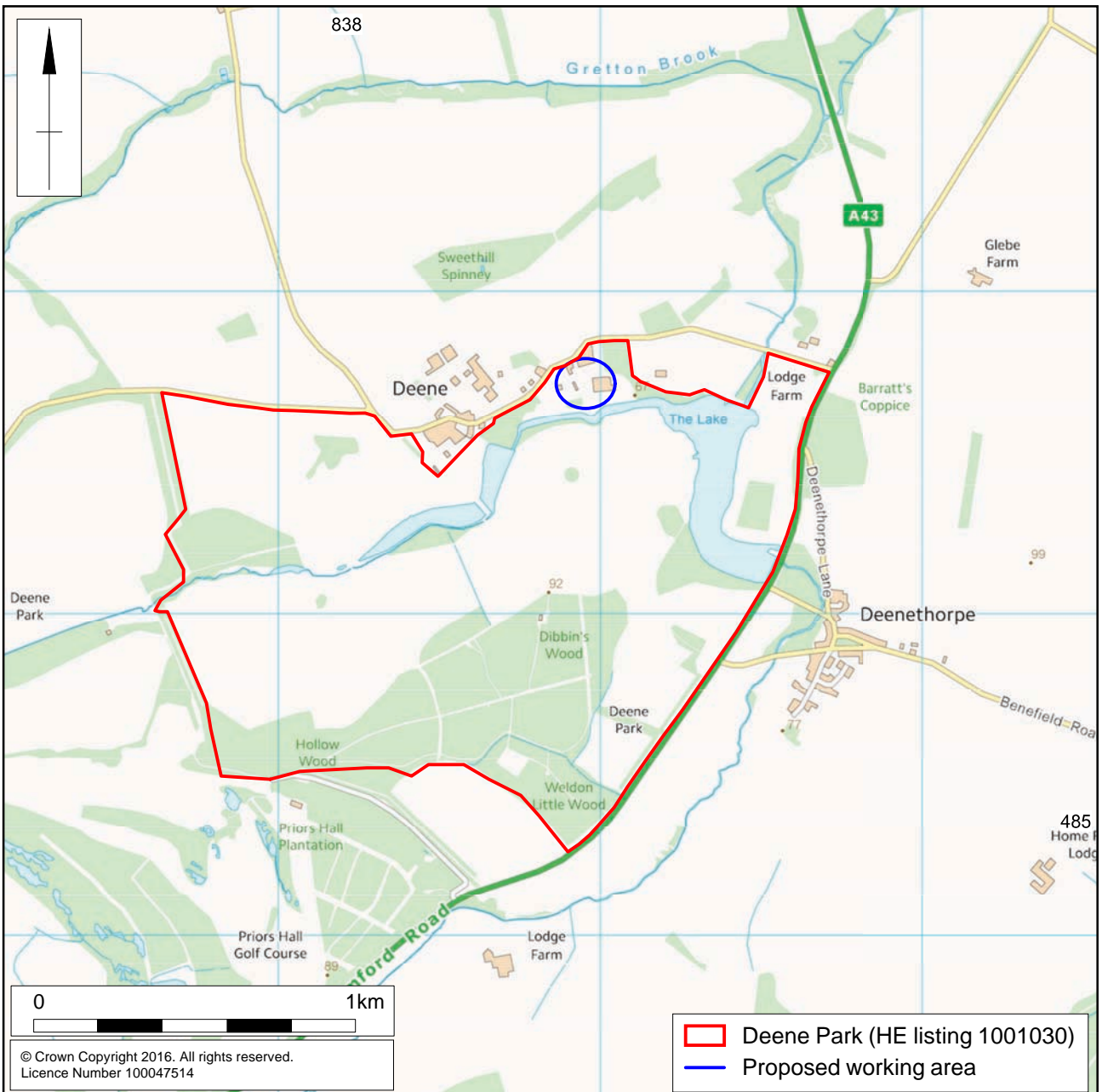
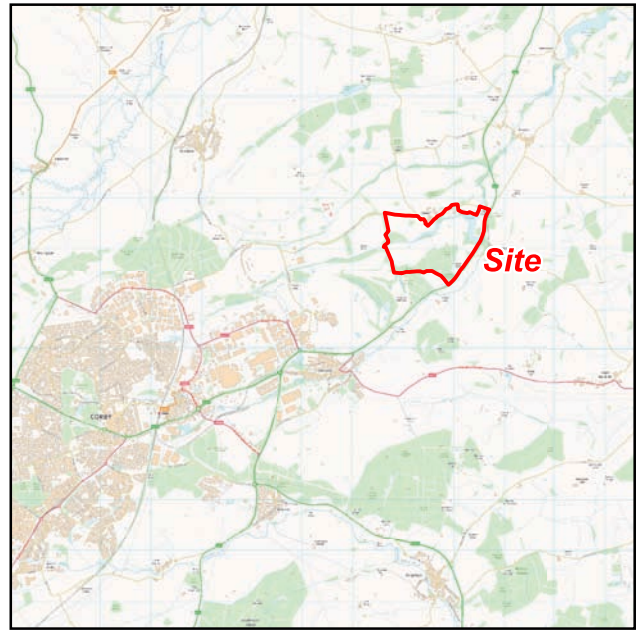
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation. This report has been prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance: archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a), the *Code of 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 geology

Deene Park is located c 6km north-east of Corby within the parishes of Deene and Deenethorpe. The estate is owned by the Brudenell family and comprises 230ha of land located west of the A43 and south of Kirby Lane. The study area itself is located immediately west of Deene Hall, predominantly following an existing road.

The study area lies on a south-facing slope at c 50m aOD with Willow Brook running c 100m to the south. The geology of the area is mapped as Limestone and Sandstone of Lower Lincolnshire member, Blisworth and Rutland formation (BGS 2016).



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2. Historical and archaeological background

Deene Hall is documented within the Domesday Book as a moated manor owned by the Abbey of Westminster. The property was let out from c 1215 until it was sold in 1970 to the Brudenell family who had been tenants at Deene Hall since 1514. The manor has undergone many expansions and adjustments; the medieval house was superseded by an Elizabethan mansion surrounding a courtyard. This was then superseded in the Georgian style with expansions made during the reign of Queen Victoria. However much of the Victorian architecture on this property was demolished during the 20th century.

A search of Northamptonshire's Heritage Environment Record (HER) for the site has uncovered little in the way of archaeology that is not associated with the development of Deene Hall. However, it has indicated a number of listed buildings within the village of Deene. This includes the Village Hall and Manor Farm, located along Kirby Lane, north-west of Deene Hall.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

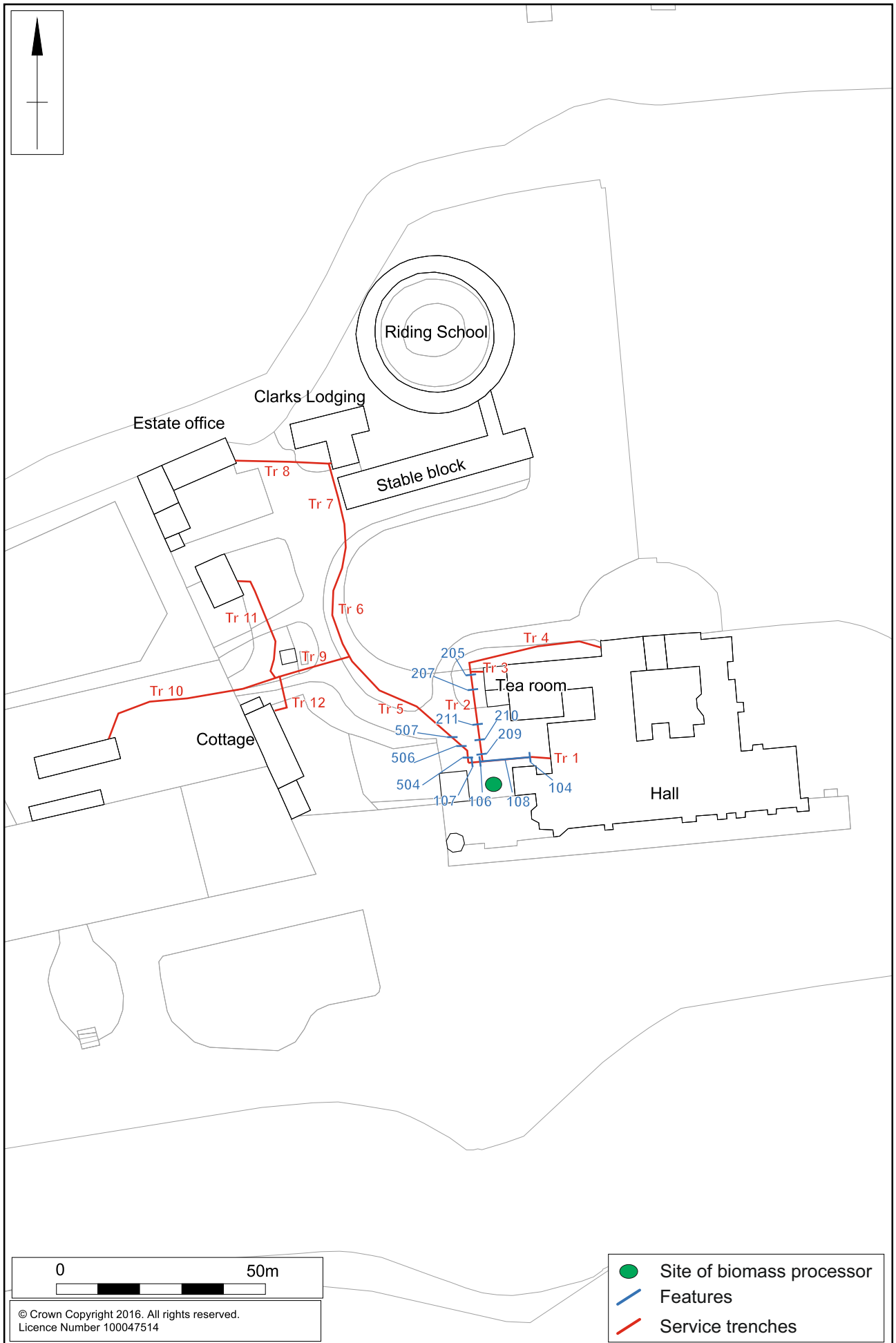
In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the main objectives of the investigation were to determine and understand the nature, function, and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting. More specifically, the work would:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of the service trenches;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Create 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) and followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by MOLA (2016). Where appropriate the research frameworks were borne in mind (Knight *et al* 2012).

Prior to the commencement of the excavation work, the affected areas of the site consisted mainly of tarmac road ways covered in chippings with some stretches of trench running through adjacent verges and gardens. The excavation area was marked with spray paint across the whole site and the tarmac had already been cut by a disc cutter, allowing the JCB to remove it. The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucket 0.8m wide. The service trenches were 0.80m to 1.0m wide and at least 1.0m deep. The biomass processor was constructed on top of a pre-existing concrete slab; no groundworks were therefore necessary.



Scale 1:1250

Area of service trenches Fig 2

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 comprises 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 English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The service trenches were positioned to follow a road that leads to Deene Hall with a number of trenches branching off. To allow for improved identification and analysis of features, the branches of the trench have been numbered individually (Fig 2).

Overall the trenches uncovered a concentration of archaeological finds towards the south-eastern area of the site, against the western edge of Deene Hall. These comprised sections of limestone wall and demolition rubble that are likely to relate to previous configurations of Deene Hall. Modern disturbance in the form of land drains, cables and water pipes were present throughout the excavations.

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 followed an east-west orientation, running from the south-western side of Deene Hall, past public toilets towards the 18th-century cottage. The soil horizon here consisted of c 0.14m of modern tarmac and concrete over a single heterogeneous layer of brick, mortar, concrete, crushed limestone and sand.

Three limestone walls were sectioned within this trench [104], [106] and [107]. They were all aligned north-south and constructed of square-cut limestone of an average size of c 200mm. The bricks were bonded with a poorly preserved sandy shelly mortar, and the walls were all c 80cm wide while their depth went below that of the excavated trench. The finish of the wall facings and the 10mm thick layer of plaster present upon the western face of wall [106] indicate that these represent potential cellarage below a substantial building (Fig 3).



Plaster remains on wall [106] Fig 3

A fourth wall [108] within this trench, was aligned east-west between walls [104] and [107], cutting through [106]. This wall was constructed of similar materials to the other walls and is likely to be contemporary, representing another partition of this cellar.

The material found south of wall [108] and between walls [104] [106] and [107] comprised predominantly red brick rubble in varying states of preservation. This included whole bricks, fragmented bricks and some bricks that were still mortared

together in 'Running Bond' (105) (Fig 4). This deposit was only present within these walls, and is likely to represent demolition rubble dumped within the exposed cellar cavity prior to being covered to form the courtyard present today.



Brick rubble deposit (105) with wall [104] to the left Fig 4

4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-south, extending from a garden wall to the north and joining Trench 1 to the south. The soil horizon encountered varied along this trench due to differing land uses. In the southern half of the trench cut through more of the modern tarmac courtyard, 0.14m deep. Below this there was a mixed rubble layer that comprised brick, tile, crushed limestone and some clay soils (203). This likely resulted from nearby construction work and landscaping. The northern part of the trench cut through a grass verge, lined with some small trees and rose bushes. Here the soil horizon consisted of a 0.24m thick layer of black loamy topsoil (201), possibly imported. This was laid over a uniformly thick layer of very clean orange sand 0.15m deep (202), and is likely a result of landscaping works. Below the sand there was the continuation of the rubble layer found in the southern portion of the trench (203).

The southern portion of this trench cut through three walls aligned east-west. All three were constructed of shaped limestone bricks with a shelly sandy mortar similar to the walls found in Trench 1 and may relate to the same structure. The southern wall [209] measured 1.06m wide. It was poorly faced and the bricks were irregular in both size and shape with some nearly 400mm long. This may suggest that this feature is the remains of a foundation wall. Wall [210] was c 0.76m wide and constructed of shaped and faced limestone bricks measuring c 300mm long, extending below the depth of the trench. Wall [211], located north of [210], was c 0.60m wide and 0.70m deep. This feature is likely to be a foundation wall for a small building.

A further three walls were encountered in the northern portion of this trench running in an east-west orientation. One of these [207] was preserved through a linear concentration of limestone blocks that may represent packing within a foundation trench. The northern wall [205] comprised two courses of brickwork 0.34m wide and 0.43m deep constructed of well fired unfrogged bricks (Fig 5).



Wall [205] with roofing slate deposit (208) Fig 5

Wall [206] was a concreted mass of brick and limestone which is likely to be the remnants of a foundation wall footing. These features, particularly wall [206], appear to match a scar found on the side of the tea room at Deene Hall (Fig 6). This represents a recently demolished building that still features on current Ordnance Survey mapping.



Building scar upon Deene Hall, the left scale locating wall [205] and the right scale indicates wall [206] Fig 6

The area within walls [205] and [206] contain two deposits that are likely to result from the demolition of this ancillary building. This includes [204], a block of bricks nearly entirely enveloped by mortar and concrete which may have been a footing for this structure. Against the southern face of wall [205] there was a deposit of slate roof tiles

(208) which again are likely to have been left from this recent demolition. Within the slate deposit there was an iron framed thermometer which could indicate that this building once contained a boiler or other such machinery in need of temperature regulation (SF 1, Fig 15).

There is evidence of a previous surface for this courtyard in the southern half of trench 2. This consists of some cobble stones found below the tarmac between walls [209] and [210] (Fig 7).



Trench 2, cobbled surface (212) Fig 7

4.3 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located at the western side of Deene Hall and was aligned north-west to south-east. Its stratigraphy differed from the other trenches. The south-eastern part of the trench cut through 0.14m of modern tarmac and concrete which, in places, overlies the remnants of a limestone surface (502) set upon a near pure bed of orange sand 0.11m thick (503) (Fig 8). Below this there was a rubble layer (508) of a similar consistency to (203) which extended down to the base of the trench. The north-western end of the trench followed the eastern side of an existing road. Here a layer of black loamy topsoil (510), 0.15m thick overlies an orangey layer of silty clay subsoil (511). Below this there was the continuation of the rubble spread (508) which became thinner as it becomes more distant from Deene Hall. This layer was underlain by natural clay mixed with Cornbrash limestone (509).



Section of Trench 5 including a potential limestone surface Fig 8

Three limestone walls [504], [506] and [507] were present within this trench. All three were constructed with shaped limestone blocks measuring between 200mm and 320mm long creating walls c 0.70m wide. The mortar for these features was poorly preserved, made of a similar sandy shelly material found in the limestone walls within Trenches 1 and 2. The east-west alignments of these structures appear to match the walls present in Trench 2. Walls [504] and [209] appear to correspond with [506] and [210]. Red brick facing was also present along the southern side of wall [504], this is likely to be a cosmetic touch, though here neither the limestone nor the brick facing reaches below 0.60m deep. Some disturbance also affected wall [507] as a modern brick manhole partially cut through its southern side.

North of wall [507], just below the layer of tarmac the remains of a Pavioir brick surface was uncovered (Fig 9).



Paviour brick surface Fig 9

4.4 The remaining features

An undated stone-lined drain which was still directing water was present in Trenches 7 and 8 (Fig 10).



Stone-lined drain within Trench 7 Fig 10

The remnants of a Victorian stoke house were uncovered within Trench 10, beneath a modern concrete boiler house. This would have been used to heat up the large glasshouses that were located within the walled kitchen garden (Fig 11).



Stoke house remains within trench 10 Fig 11

Trench 9 uncovered a limestone gravel path leading from the weigh station located north of the trench. The weigh station is a small limestone building with a slate roof (Fig 12). A sign over the entrance door indicated that the estate had a licence to sell game. Outside the window of this structure, there is a metal plate on the ground which would have been used to weigh livestock, it is cast iron and inscribed with 'Barwell & Co, Eagle Foundry, Northampton, 1836'. This pathway might have led to the southern part of the cottage which used to operate as a slaughter house.



Weigh station house and platform Fig 12

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Slate roof tile by Pat Chapman

One almost complete roof tile and half of another were collected as the best surviving samples. Both tiles have been burnt both sides. The material is most likely Groby or Swithland slate from north-west Leicestershire, quarried until the 19th century when cheaper Welsh slate brought about a permanent decline in the industry (Ramsey 2007).

The almost complete tile is diamond-shaped, 315mm long, 245mm wide in the middle and 12mm thick, with a peghole, 7mm in diameter near the top. The bottom half of the tile has had both sides cut with a slight concave arc down to a point, probably for reuse from an original possibly damaged rectangular tile (Fig 13). The other tile was originally rectangular, 225mm wide and 10mm thick, cut cleanly in half with the bottom half surviving.



Slate roof tile (scale 50mm) Fig 13

5.2 Paviour brick by Pat Chapman

The sample brick from the surface is 175mm square and 50mm thick (7 inches x 2 inches). It is mould made with hard fine sandy pale red clay with frequent ironstone and gravel inclusions up to 10mm long (Fig 14). The top of the brick is slightly rough to the touch as the overlying surface (Fig 9) protected it from wear.

The base of the brick has the remains of grey mortar with an aggregate of large (10mm) white, black and brown stone. One of the sides has the remains of fine white mortar and another has a layer of hard grey Portland cement, 7mm thick, with a vertical line indicating where two other bricks had been laid adjacent to overlap.



Paviour brick (scale 50mm) Fig 14

5.3 Thermometer by Pat Chapman

This iron thermometer case is 230mm long, 45mm wide and 15mm thick (Fig 15). The top expands into three decorative lobes, 5mm thick, widening to 63mm, the centre lobe has a banner which holds a maker's name or symbol and initials above. The base of the recess expands into a cone 30mm in diameter and 18mm deep with a ring 5mm thick and 30mm in diameter below to hold the glass inside the 18mm tall and 15mm wide cylindrical base, where remnant glass is still poking out.

The shallow recess, 10mm deep and 153mm long, holds the still partially surviving glass thermometer. The recess was lined with copper plate carrying the graduated scale which had a range from 60° to 260° F (Fahrenheit).

This would have been a thermometer for specialised use, requiring monitoring of very high temperatures, in a boiler for a laundry or greenhouse, or for jam making perhaps.



Iron thermometer case, top to the left (scale 10mm) Fig 15

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological observation of ground works comprising pipe trenches around the buildings at Deene Hall were successful in recording features of archaeological origin. No observation of the location of the biomass processor was necessary as the structure was to be constructed on a pre-existing concrete slab.

A concentration of archaeological features was located in the southern portion of the site, located within the courtyard of Deene Hall. This consisted of a number of walls mostly constructed of limestone with some red brick walls also present. These are likely to be the remains of the large building that is marked out on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, the 18th-century laundry house and Victorian ballroom that was demolished after a successful appeal to the House of Lords in 1984 (Fig 16).

Other areas, located further away from the hall, have uncovered surprisingly little in the way of archaeological horizons or finds. Eighteenth century mapping indicates that the modern access road lies over an area depicted as courtyard. This would have preserved much of the natural soil horizons and would account for the reduction of archaeological finds.



Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1886, showing the 19th-century layout of the house Fig 16

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MOLA

V1 3 March 2016

V2 16 March 2016

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1				
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts</i>
101	Layer	Modern tarmac, covered in fine gravel chippings	0.14m deep	-
102	Layer	Subsoil, not present	-	-
103	Layer	Natural, not present	-	-
104	Wall	Limestone wall, clean faced, potential cellarage	0.85m wide >1.05m deep	-
105	Layer	Red brick rubble, some broken, others still mortared together. Demolition fill	Unknown depth and width	-
106	Wall	Limestone wall, clean faced with one side covered by plaster. Potential cellarage	0.57m wide >1.05m deep	-
107	Wall	Limestone wall, clean faced, potential cellarage	0.60m thick >1.05m deep	-
108	Wall	Limestone wall, probably associated with others within trench	0.65m thick Unknown depth, largely removed	-

DEENE HALL, DEENE

Trench 2 & 3				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
201	Topsoil	Black loose loamy soil, heavily root disturbed, no inclusions, probably imported	0.24m deep	-
202	Sand Layer	Orange sand, no inclusions, imported for landscaping or drainage	0.15m deep	-
203	Demolition Rubble	Rubble layer filled with bricks, slate and limestone fragments mixed with sand and silty clay	0.52m deep	-
204	Wall	Cement and mortar enclosed brick, potential foundation footing	0.95m thick 0.30m deep	-
205	Wall	Red brick wall, unfrogged. Wall constructed of two bricks wide for 7 visible courses	0.34m wide 0.43m deep	-
206	Wall	Concrete and brick fragments which may represent a wall footing	-	-
207	Wall	An observed concentration of limestone bricks which was removed during the machining	-	-
208	Slate and rubble deposit	Rubble fill comprising primarily of roofing slate located to the south of wall [205]	-	Small Find 1, Roofing Slate
209	Wall	Limestone wall, sandy mortar, East-West orientation	1.06m wide	-
210	Wall	Limestone wall, rough cut blocks, east-west orientation	0.76m wide >1.18m deep	-
211	Wall	Limestone wall, very poor mortar preservation. Rough cut in an east-west orientation	0.6m wide 0.7m deep	-
212	Cobbled surface	Regular cobble stones, 0.25m in length	-	-

Trench 4				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
401	Topsoil	Black loamy soil, heavily root disturbed, possibly imported	0.22m deep	-
402	Mixed Subsoil	Layer of silty clay subsoil, orangey brown with clusters of brick and limestone fragments mixed in	0.62m deep	-
403	Natural	Cornbrash Limestone imbedded orangey brown clay	-	-

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Trench 5 & 6				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
501	Tarmac	Same as 101	0.14m deep	-
502	Limestone Surface	Remains of possible limestone surface	0.31m deep	-
503	Sand	Deposit of clean orange sand, likely imported for landscape works	0.11m deep	-
504	Wall	Limestone wall, rough square shaped blocks in an east-west orientation	0.73m wide	-
505	Land drain	Brick-lined land drain was observed during excavations, but was completely removed by the machine	-	-
506	Wall	Limestone wall, smooth square shaped blocks, east-west orientation, northern face smooth, potential cellar wall	0.7m wide 0.9m deep	-
507	Wall	Limestone wall, rough cut square blocks, east-west orientation, brick facing on southern face	Undefined width >1.04m deep	-
508	Rubble fill	Brick, limestone and slate fragments mixed in with orangey brown silty clay	0.59m deep	-
509	Natural	Orange-brown natural clay and Cornbrash limestone	-	-
510	Topsoil	Dark loamy soil, heavily root disturbed	0.15m deep	-
511	Mixed subsoil	Orangey-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 7				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
701	Tarmac	Modern tarmac overlain by fine gravel chippings	0.14m deep	-
702	Rubble layer	Mix of limestone and brick rubble mixed in with greyish-brown silty clay	0.74m deep	-
703	Natural	Clean blue clay natural to the south and a Cornbrash limestone to the north	-	-

Trench 8				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
801	Tarmac	Modern tarmac overlain by fine gravel chippings	0.14m deep	-
802	Rubble layer	Mix of limestone and brick rubble mixed in with greyish brown silty clay	0.6m deep	-
803	Natural	Clean blue-grey clay natural	-	-
804	topsoil	Black loamy topsoil, heavily root disturbed and present only within the cottage garden, probably imported	0.32m deep	-

Trench 9				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
901	Tarmac	Modern tarmac overlain by fine gravel chippings	0.16m deep	-
902	topsoil	Black silty clay, signs of root disturbance, possible buried topsoil.	0.23m deep	-
903	Mixed subsoil	Grey-brown silty clay with patches of brick and limestone rubble inclusions. Root disturbance also evident	0.48m deep	-
904	Natural	Orangey yellow sandy Cornbrash limestone	-	-

Trench 10				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1001	Topsoil	Black loamy soil, heavily root disturbed, no inclusions, possibly imported	0.21m deep	-
1002	Subsoil	Grey-brown silty clay with the occasional limestone and brick fragment	0.34m deep	-
1003	Natural	Clean, yellow-orange silty clay	-	-
1004	Wall	Red brick, well preserved sandy mortar. Remains of Victorian stoke house	-	-

Trench 11				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1101	Tarmac	Modern tarmac overlain by fine gravel chippings	0.14m deep	-
1102	Brick surface	Potential brick surface	-	-
1103	Rubble layer	Dark black powdery soil filled with brick and limestone fragments	0.39m deep	-
1104	Subsoil	Silty grey loam, heavily root disturbed with less frequent brick and limestone inclusions	0.43m deep	-

Trench 12				
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
1201	Topsoil	Dark loamy soil, heavily root disturbed	0.4m deep	-
1202	Subsoil	Grey-brown silty clay, less root disturbance and infrequent small limestone inclusions	0.35m	-
1203	Natural	Orange-yellow cornbrash limestone in clay	-	-



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