



Archaeological trial trench evaluation at New House Farm, Mickleover Derbyshire February 2016

Report No. 16/39

Author: Adam Reid

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol



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Project Manager: Adam Yates

Author: Adam Reid

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager	Adam Yates BA MCIfA
Fieldwork	Adam Reid BSc MSc Anna Rojek BA Ryszard Molenda
Text	Adam Reid
Illustrator	Oliver Dindol BA

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-244330	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at New House Farm, Mickleover, Derbyshire. February 2016		
Summary	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at New House Farm, Mickleover, prior to the proposed development of the site. Nineteen trenches were excavated. The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were visible across the site. No other archaeological features were present.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (ArchaeoPhysica)		
Current land use	Pasture/meadow		
Future work	None		
Monument type/period	Ridge and furrow		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Derbyshire		
Site address	New House Farm, Mickleover		
Postcode	DE3 0TR		
OS co-ordinates	SK 2996 3410		
Area (sq m/ha)	c16 hectares		
Height aOD	80-100m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Brief originator	Derbyshire County Archaeology Service		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Adam Reid, MOLA, Myk Flitcroft CgMs		
Project Manager	Adam Yates, MOLA Northampton		
Sponsor or funding body			
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	15/02/2016		
End date	19/02/2016		
ARCHIVES		Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Derby		None
Paper			Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Serial title & volume	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at New House Farm, Mickleover, Derbyshire, February 2016		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation at New House Farm, Etwall Road Mickleover, Derby, February 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at New House Farm, Mickleover, prior to the proposed development of the site. Nineteen trenches were excavated. The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were visible across the site. No other archaeological features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

CgMs Consulting commissioned MOLA to undertake archaeological trial trenching of a proposed development site on land at New House Farm, Mickleover, Derby (NGR SK 2996 3410, Fig 1). The works followed on from desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014) and geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014) and were required by a condition (18) contained within the planning permission (9/2014/0249/OM).

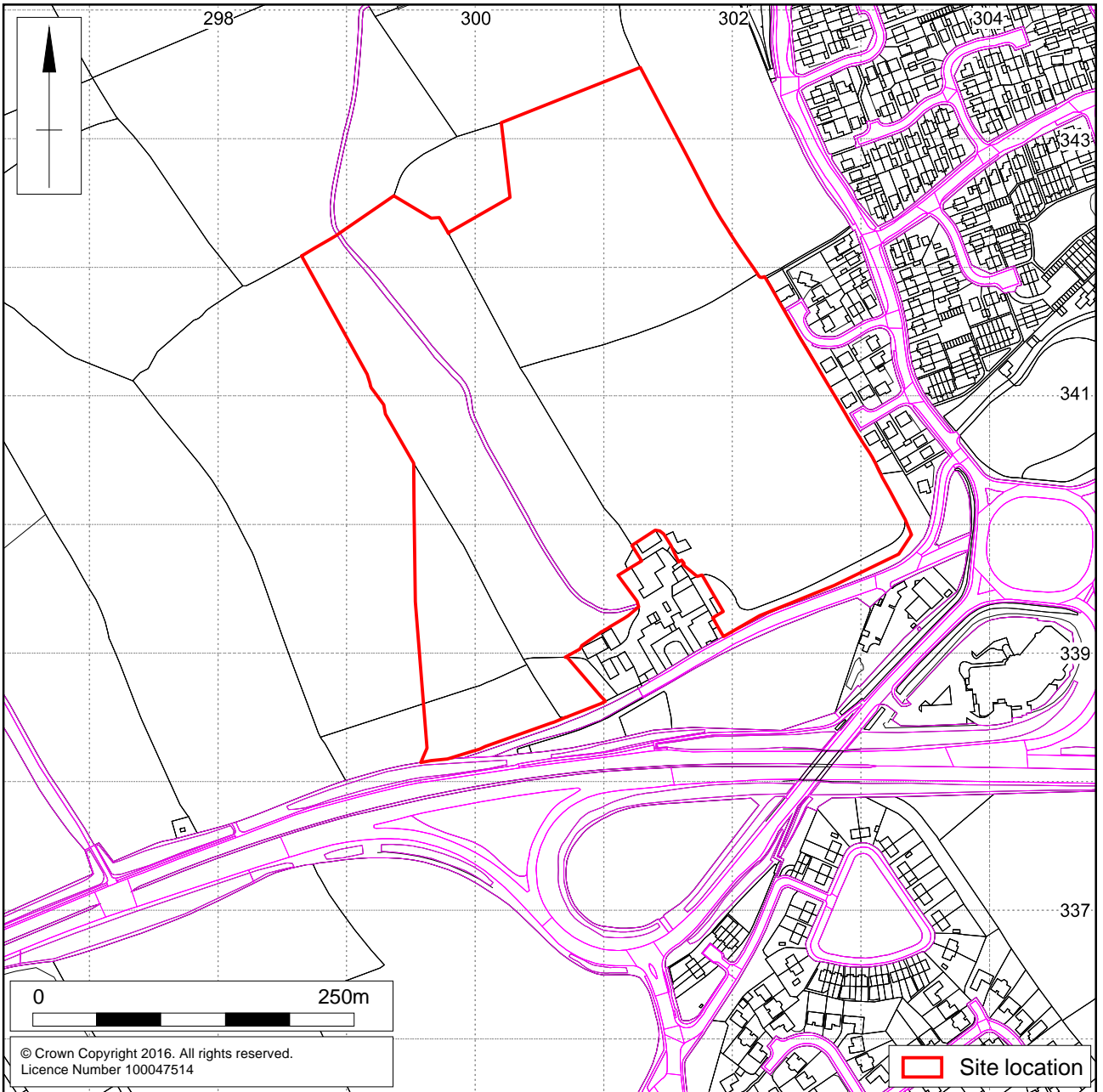
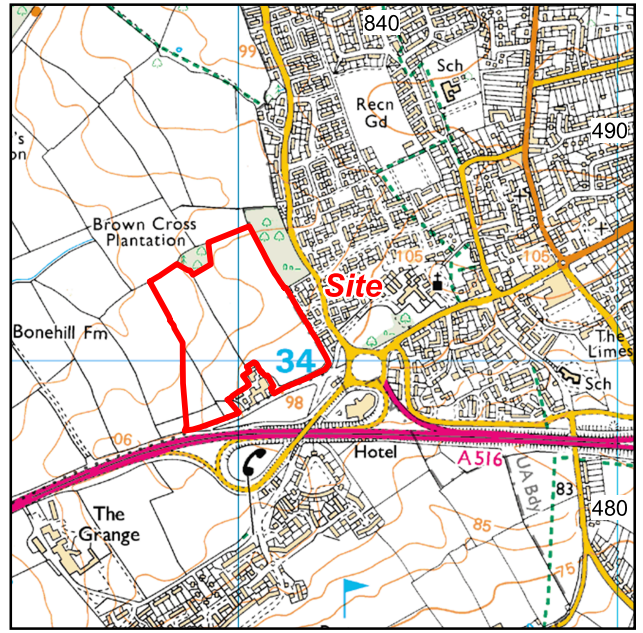
The Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area. The requirements and methodology were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs (2015).

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (2014b). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England procedural documents (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

The proposed development area comprises parts of five pasture and meadow fields to the west of the village of Mickleover, totalling an area of c 16ha. It lies to the north and west of New House Farm and is bounded by the A516. The area sits between 80m to 100m aOD with the ground rising to the east and dropping away towards the north-west. The underlying geology is recorded as Edwalton Member mudstone, overlain in the eastern part of the site by superficial deposits of Oadby Member diamicton (BGS 2015).

Desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014) found that there was one known archaeological feature present within the proposed development area, an area of ridge and furrow earthworks thought to date to the medieval or post-medieval period (Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER) reference 24308). An HER search of the area within 0.5km of the site found no further indications of human activity.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The trenching specifically aimed to examine:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains.

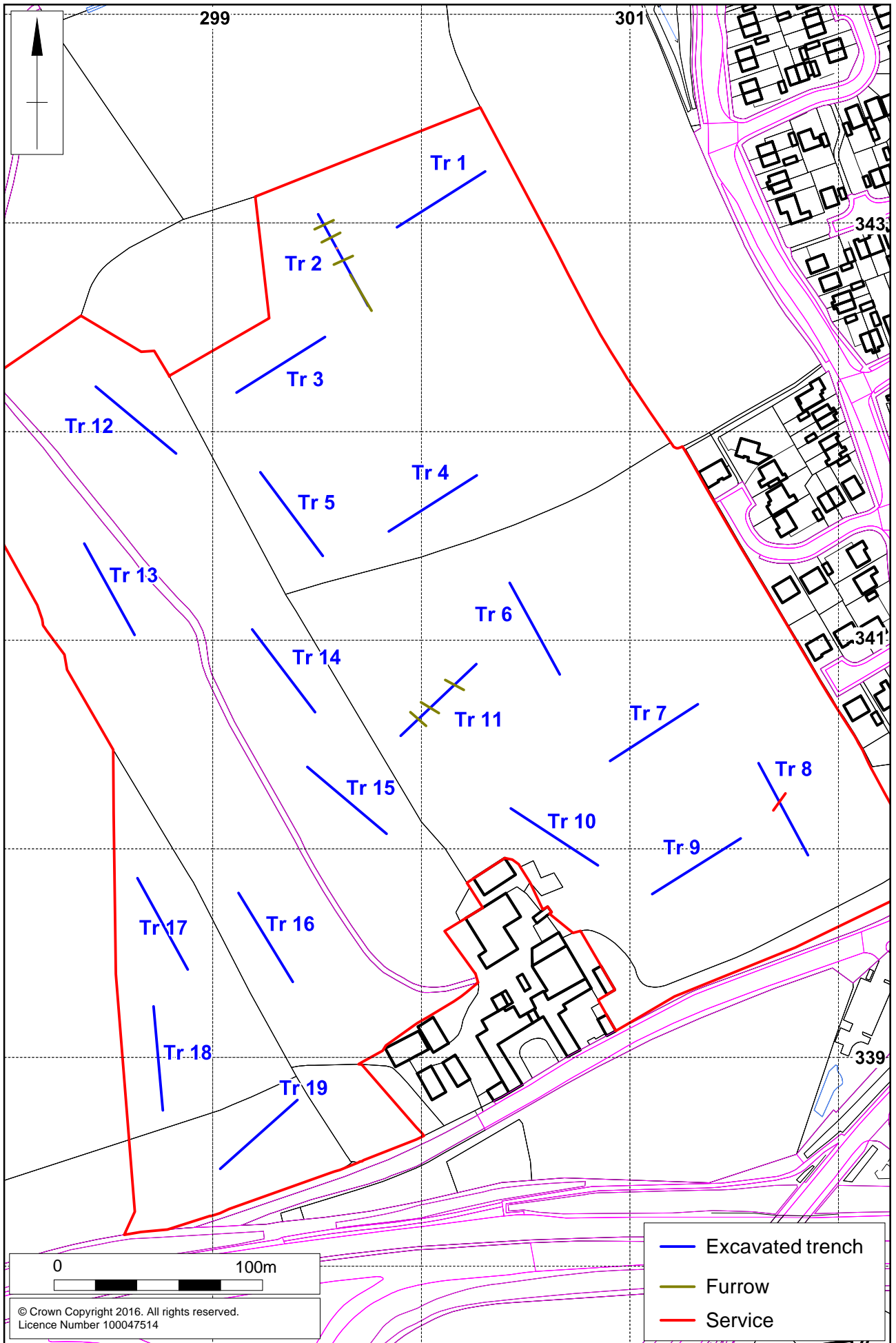
Where applicable, specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks (English Heritage 1991, Knight *et al* 2012).

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Nineteen trenches, each 50m long, were excavated in the proposed development area (Fig. 2). A previously unidentified service cable was located in Trench 8 and a 5m portion of the trench was left unexcavated to avoid it. Trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal archaeological features or natural substrate. All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast material and were then compacted by the mechanical excavator. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines (MOLA 2014).

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence assigned to each trench. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. All trench locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with the procedural document, *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 CgMs (CgMs 2015).



Scale 1: 2,500

Excavated trenches, showing archaeological features Fig 2

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

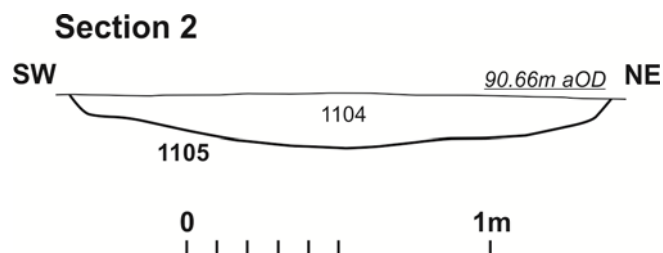
The general stratigraphy varied little across the site. The natural substrate mostly comprised mid brown-red silty clay, apart from in the south-eastern corner of site where the natural comprised yellow-orange sandy gravel. The natural was located between 0.32m and 0.72m below the present ground surface. This was overlain by mid grey-brown clayey silt subsoil, which ranged in thickness from 0.05m, in Trench 18, and 0.44m in Trench 7. The topsoil comprised dark grey-brown sandy, clayey silt, between 0.17 and 0.34m thick.

5.2 Furrows

Shallow linear features, the truncated furrows from medieval ridge and furrow cultivation visible at surface level as earthworks across most of the site. These were seen as features in many of the trenches, and excavated in Trenches 2 and 11. Two alignments were noted in the field containing Trenches 1 to 5: in the northern part of the field the furrows were aligned north-east to south-west and in the southern part the furrows were aligned north-west to south-east. In the field containing Trenches 6 to 11 the furrows were also aligned north-west to south-east. In both fields they were spaced approximately 5m apart. Two furrows were excavated: [205] (Fig 3), and [1105] (Fig 4). The furrows ranged from approximately 1.0m to 1.8m wide and were approximately 0.2m deep. The fill of [205] comprised firm light yellow-orange silty clay and the fill of [1105] comprised friable dark brown-grey sandy silt. No finds were recovered.



Trench 2, furrow [205], looking west Fig 3



Trench 11, furrow [1105] (scale 1:25) Fig 4

5.3 Other features

Possible features were investigated in trenches 12 and 18, but were found to be natural in origin.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, which suggested that there was no evidence for any human activity in the development area prior to the use of the land for ridge and furrow cultivation in the medieval and post-medieval period. Excavation of the furrows was unable to provide any further information regarding their date or their character.

The lack of archaeological features in the development area supports the assertion made in the desk based assessment that the site lies in an area of low archaeological potential (CgMs 2014).

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MOLA Northampton
01 March 2016

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	430031, 334325	89.59m	89.07m 0.52m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.29m deep	-
102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt.	0.23m deep	-
103	Natural	Firm dark brown-red silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and ironstone deposits	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429950, 334304	89.28m	88.55m 0.73m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.20m deep	-
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt.	0.15m deep	-
203	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay.	-	-
204	Fill of [205]	Firm light yellow-orange silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.	1.00m wide 0.19m deep	-
205	Furrow	NE-SW aligned linear with wide regular profile and concave base.	1.00m wide 0.19m deep	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	429954, 334245	89.55m	89.03m 0.52m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.24m deep	-
302	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt.	0.28m deep	-
303	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional manganese deposits.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	430027, 334179	90.21m	89.72m 0.49m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.24m deep	-
402	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt.	0.25m deep	-
403	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional manganese deposits and ironstone fragments. Tends towards compact orange silty sand towards western end.	-	-
404	Layer	Mixed light yellow-grey colluvial layer overlaying natural in centre of trench. Contained infrequent charcoal flecks.	Max. 0.40m deep	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429923, 334181	87.21m	86.88m 0.33m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.25m deep	-
502	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt with no stones or other inclusions.	0.08m deep	-
503	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	430042, 334128	89.82m	89.35m 0.47m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.20m deep	-
602	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown clayey silt.	0.27m deep	-
603	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay, tending towards grey-blue clay at southern end.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	430133, 334069	95.36m	94.69m 0.67m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
701	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.23m deep	-
702	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown clayey silt.	0.44m deep	-
703	Natural	Loose light orange yellow silty sandy gravel with frequent manganese inclusions and occasional ironstone.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	430162, 334041	97.33m	96.86m 0.47m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.21m deep	-
802	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.26m deep	-
803	Natural	Friable-firm mixed brown-orange sandy clay with frequent manganese and small ironstone inclusions. Patches of light grey sand mottling noted. Tends towards gravel at southern end.	-	-

NEW HOUSE FARM, MICKLEOVER

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	430153, 334005	97.60m	97.25m 0.35m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
901	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.17m deep	-
902	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.18m deep	-
903	Natural	Friable-firm light yellow-orange silty sandy gravel with frequent manganese inclusions. Tends towards white silty sand towards centre of trench.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	430043, 334019	95.65m	95.15m 0.50m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1001	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.24m deep	-
1002	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt with frequent gravel.	0.26m deep	-
1003	Natural	Friable-firm light yellow-orange silty clay.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	430026, 334089	90.71m	90.29m 0.42m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1101	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.22m deep	-
1102	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt with frequent gravel.	0.20m deep	-
1103	Natural	Friable-firm light yellow-orange silty sand tending towards gravel at eastern end of trench.	-	-
1104	Fill of [1105]	Friable dark brown-grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks.	1.78m wide 0.18m deep	-
1105	Furrow	NW-SE aligned linear with wide shallow profile and slightly concave base.	1.78m wide 0.18m deep	-

NEW HOUSE FARM, MICKLEOVER

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429844, 334222	84.34m	83.91m 0.43m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1201	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.23m deep	-
1202	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.20m deep	-
1203	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional patches of light grey sandy silty clay mottling, which become more frequent towards southern end of trench.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
13	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429838, 334147	83.68m	83.29m 0.39m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1301	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.22m deep	-
1302	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.17m deep	-
1303	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional patches of grey sand. Tends towards higher percentage of gravel towards south.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
14	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429919, 334105	85.56m	85.17m 0.39m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1401	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.23m deep	-
1402	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal.	0.16m deep	-
1403	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with frequent gravel.	-	-

NEW HOUSE FARM, MICKLEOVER

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429945, 334039	88.40m	87.83m 0.67m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1501	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.27m deep	-
1502	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal.	0.24m deep	-
1503	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with frequent patches of gravel.	-	-
1504	Layer	Friable light yellow orange clayey silt. Colluvial layer at southern end of trench.	0.16m deep	

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
16	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429912, 333979	89.03m	88.71m 0.32m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1601	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.19m deep	-
1602	Subsoil	Friable light grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel.	0.13m deep	-
1603	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional patches of light grey sand.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
17	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	429864, 333987	85.98m	85.59m 0.39m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1701	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.26m deep	-
1702	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.13m deep	-
1703	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with occasional light grey sandy clay mottling.	-	-

NEW HOUSE FARM, MICKLEOVER

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (N end)	Surface height, N end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
18	50m x 1.8m N-S	429871, 333924	88.05m	87.66m 0.39m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1801	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown sandy clayey silt.	0.34m deep	-
1802	Subsoil	Friable mid-dark grey-red silty clay interface with natural.	0.05m deep	-
1803	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with grey clay mottling.	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
19	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	429941, 333880	92.92m	92.41m 0.51m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1901	Topsoil	Loose dark brown-grey sandy clayey silt.	0.26m deep	-
1902	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel.	0.25m deep	-
1903	Natural	Firm mid red-grey silty clay with frequent patches of red clay mottling.	-	-



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk