



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at
Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire
February 2016**

Report number: 16/43

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-244843	
Project name	Land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients, to provide an archaeological evaluation on land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire. The work followed a geophysical survey and confirmed the presence of some of the identified anomalies, including a 19 th century windmill and relic cultivation features. No other archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	DBA (Reeves 2015), Geophysical Survey (Roseveare and Lewis 2015)		
Current Land use	Arable		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	19th-century windmill mound		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Cambridgeshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire, CB24 5PD		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1.6ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	TL 3800 7037		
Height OD	11m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec (County Archaeological Advisor CHET)		
Project Design originator	Claire Finn (MOLA Northampton)		
Director/Supervisor	Sam Egan (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Adam Yates (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	15/02/16-20/02/16		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	ECB 4645	Pottery and other finds	
Paper	ECB 4645	Site file	
Digital	ECB 4645	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire, February 2016		
Serial title & volume	16/43		
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
	2.1 Location, topography and geology
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
	3.1 Objectives
	3.2 Methodology
4	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
	4.1 General stratigraphy
	4.2 Windmill ditch and mound
	4.3 Cultivation features
5	THE FINDS by Tora Hylton
6	CONCLUSIONS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDIX: TABLE OF CONTEXTS

Figures

Front cover:	Over enclosure map, 1837	
Fig 1:	Site location	1:2000
Fig 2:	Plan of archaeological features and geophysical anomalies	1:1000
Fig 3:	Sample section of Trench 7, looking south	
Fig 4:	Over enclosure map, 1837	1:2500
Fig 5:	Trench 5, Windmill mound plan and section	1:50
Fig 6:	Plan of cultivation features	1:1000
Fig 7:	1926 Ordnance Survey map	1:2500

Tables

Table 1:	Quantification of post-medieval pottery
Table 2:	Quantification of other finds

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire February 2016

Abstract

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients, to provide an archaeological evaluation on land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire. The work followed a geophysical survey and confirmed the presence of some of the identified anomalies, including a 19th-century windmill and cultivation features. No other archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients, to provide an archaeological evaluation on land at Willingham Road, Over, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3800 7037, Fig 1). This work was undertaken in advance of proposed development, which comprises the construction of up to 58 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure, and open space. The evaluation comprised targeted trial trench excavation as required by the CHET in a brief issued 15 January 2016 (Gdaniec 2015), and followed on from a programme of geophysical survey undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd in October 2015 (Roseveare and Lewis 2015).

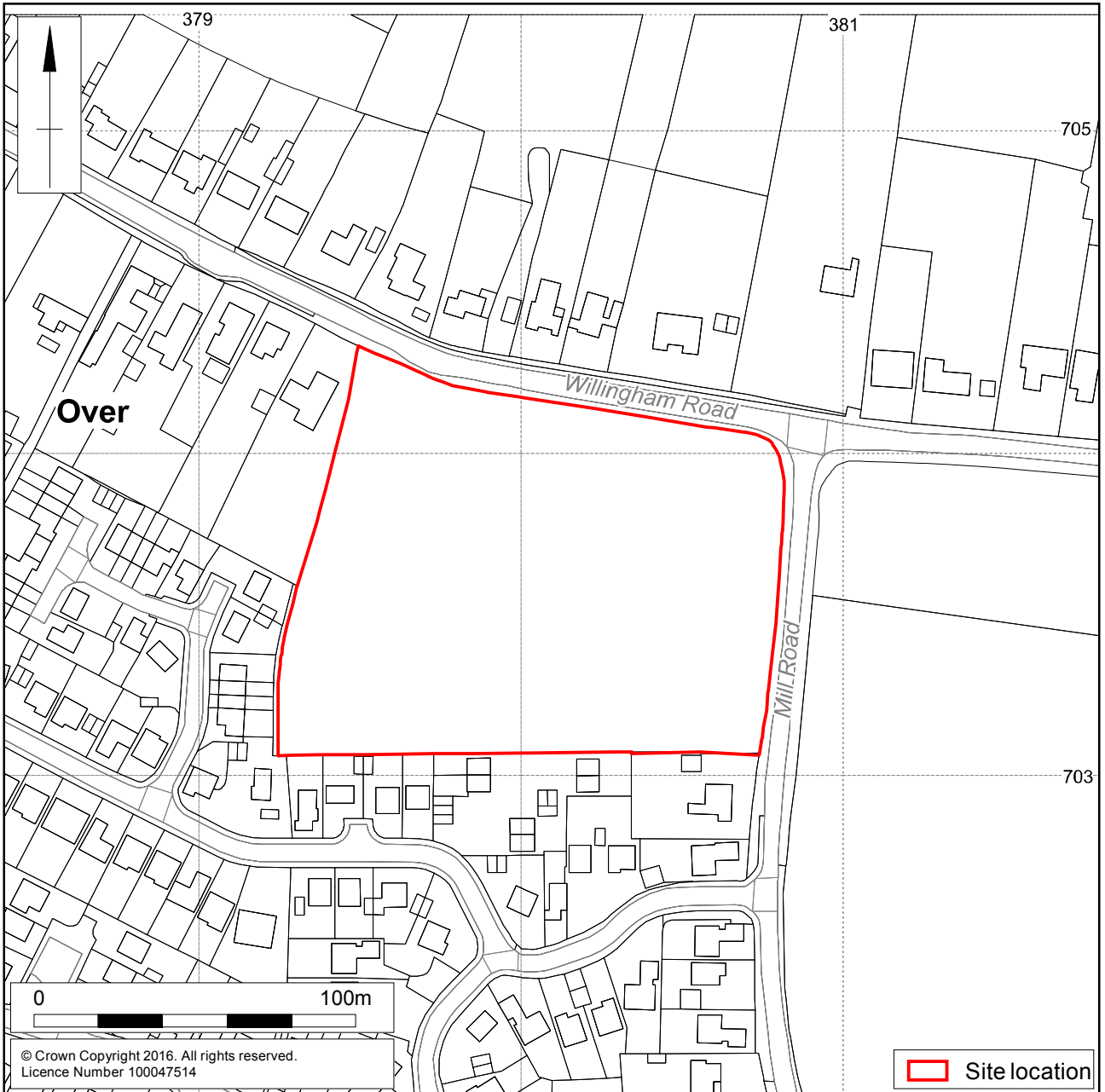
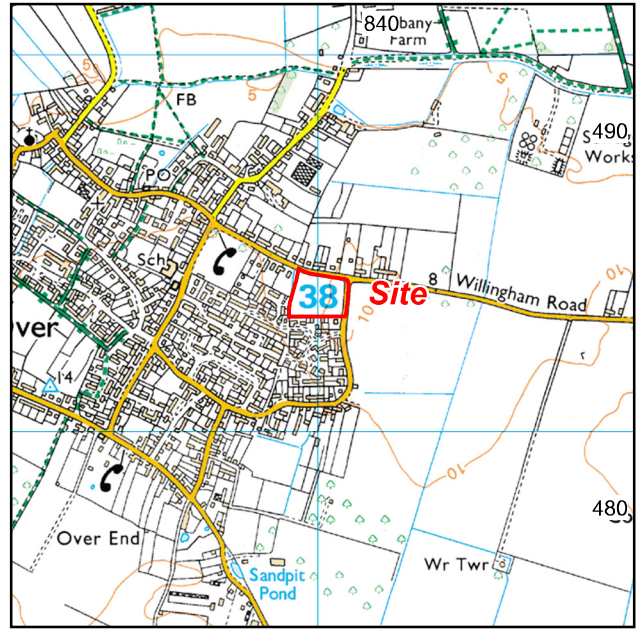
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2016). All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), as well as with regional guidelines (Gurney 2003). All works conformed to Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015) and were carried out according to standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

Over is a large village in South Cambridgeshire. It lies around 14 km north-west of Cambridge on the edge of the fens and near the former Huntingdonshire boundary, lying just over 1km to the south-east of the floodplain of the River Great Ouse and a little over 1km south of the edge of the fenland basin. The application site forms a roughly square parcel of land located at the eastern edge of the village, bounded to the north by Willingham Road, and to the east by Mill Road. To the south lie the properties on Cox's End, and to the west the site is bordered by a drainage ditch beyond which are the curtailments of properties on Pippin Close and Willingham Road.

The site occupies an area of c1.6ha. The bedrock geology is recorded as West Walton and Ampthill Clay formation substrate (BGS 2016). The superficial deposits are not recorded but the soil type is observed as Hanslope association of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils over chalky till (LAT 1983). The site lies on a very shallow slope, rising from c10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to around 11m aOD at the southern edge.



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

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2.2 Historical and archaeological background

No previous intrusive archaeological works have been undertaken on the site. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has previously been undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Reeves 2015). The following historical background is drawn from that assessment, and from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

The assessment confirms that there are no designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields or Parks and Gardens) within the study site. The presence of one non-designated heritage asset on the site is known; this comprises the site of a post-medieval windmill, lying adjacent to Mill Road. This proposed location was confirmed during geophysical survey works (Roseveare and Lewis 2015).

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age

There are no known Palaeolithic or Mesolithic finds or features identified on the site of within a 1km radius of it.

Excavations in gardens 900m north-west of the study site at TL373 708 (CHER 11783) recorded artefacts dated to a number of periods including some Neolithic flint implements. However, within the 1km radius of the study area no evidence for permanent settlement or funerary structures dated to this period have been recorded.

A single entry on the HER reports a Bronze Age arrowhead discovered by a metal detector c.900m south-west of the site at TL371 702 (MCB166690). However, within the 1km radius of the study area no evidence for permanent settlement or funerary structures dated to this period have been recorded.

Iron Age to Roman

The HER does not record any entries of Iron Age or Roman date on the site, although a number of features and finds dated to this period are recorded within a 1km radius of the site.

A Roman settlement site, possibly a villa is thought to have been located near the centre of the village (CHER 11783), around 875m west of the site. Excavations in this area have found hypocaust tiles. Although no additional structural evidence has been recorded, at least two possible Roman burials have been found near to the proposed villa site (CHER09836 and 11577). Cropmarks to the south of the settlement may represent a Roman field system (CHER 06810).

Undated cropmarks, c.600m east of the study site, may indicate settlement dated to the Iron Age or Roman period (CHER 08334). Two enclosures observed on aerial photographs as cropmarks, 950m south of the site, may also date to these periods (CHER 11133). A sherd of Roman pottery is recorded adjacent to these enclosures (CHER 07724).

Metal detecting recorded 50 bronze coins, a silver coin and a brooch dated to the Roman period from 900m south-east of the site. No evidence of building materials was reported and no cropmarks are visible on aerial photographs at this location (CHER 11683). It is possible that these finds may have been deposited during manuring of fields. Roman coins have also been recovered 650m east of the site (CHER 03693), along with a possible gold stater found in 1862. Further evidence of Roman settlement was recorded 1km to the south of the site (ECB3228).

In view of the recorded Roman settlement evidence (buildings and burials) within the 1km study area, a low/moderate potential for settlement remains of this period is

identified. However, a potential for stray finds and evidence of land division/drainage should be regarded as moderate to high.

Saxon and medieval

No evidence is recorded for remains of the Saxon period within the study site or a 1km radius around it.

The village of Over is thought to have developed between the 11th-12th centuries around two centres either end of the High Street, around St Mary's church (CHER 03559) and around the junction between Fen End Street and the High Street. Elements of the church building date from the 12th century. Few archaeological finds of medieval date have been identified. A carved stone, considered to be of medieval date, was retrieved during a watching brief at a house on Station Road (CHER 10527). Pottery of medieval and post-medieval date was recovered during archaeological excavations at the west end of High Street near to the church (ECB1387 and CHER 11783).

The Fenland Project (EAA 1992) considers that the study site was located to the east of the fen-edge settlement at Over throughout the medieval period, and therefore it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains of this period will be encountered, with the exception of land divisions or agricultural remains. Medieval field systems are preserved at the west end of the village (CHER1029, 11262), as well as in possible medieval planting beds around 500m to the north-west of the site (CHER 13045). Ridge and furrow earthworks are also extant in moderate condition 500m to the west of the site (CHER 10294).

An archaeological evaluation 300m west of the study site recorded medieval or post-medieval ditches (ECB297, MCB15291). In addition, a pond, located 750m south-west of the site is also likely to be of this date range (CHER11268).

Medieval pottery (CHER 07724a) was also identified at the site of the two possibly Roman enclosures lying 950m to the south (CHER 11133).

A medieval 'hollow way' is known to the north of the site, on the route of the road between Earith to Over (CHER 11263).

Post medieval and modern

The site of a post-medieval windmill is situated within the proposed development area (CHER 00824). It is first depicted on an Ordnance Survey drawing, dated 1811.

Ditches identified during evaluation work to the west of the site found provide evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation (MCB15291). Elizabethan to later post-medieval coins and a variety of metal artefacts were found during metal detecting of the field to the south of 79-83 Willingham Road (PAS records).

Other records of this date within the area correlated with listed buildings. Three listed buildings lie within a 1km radius of the site: St Mary's Church, a 17th-century dovecote, and a 19th century Baptist Chapel. None of the buildings are visible from the site.

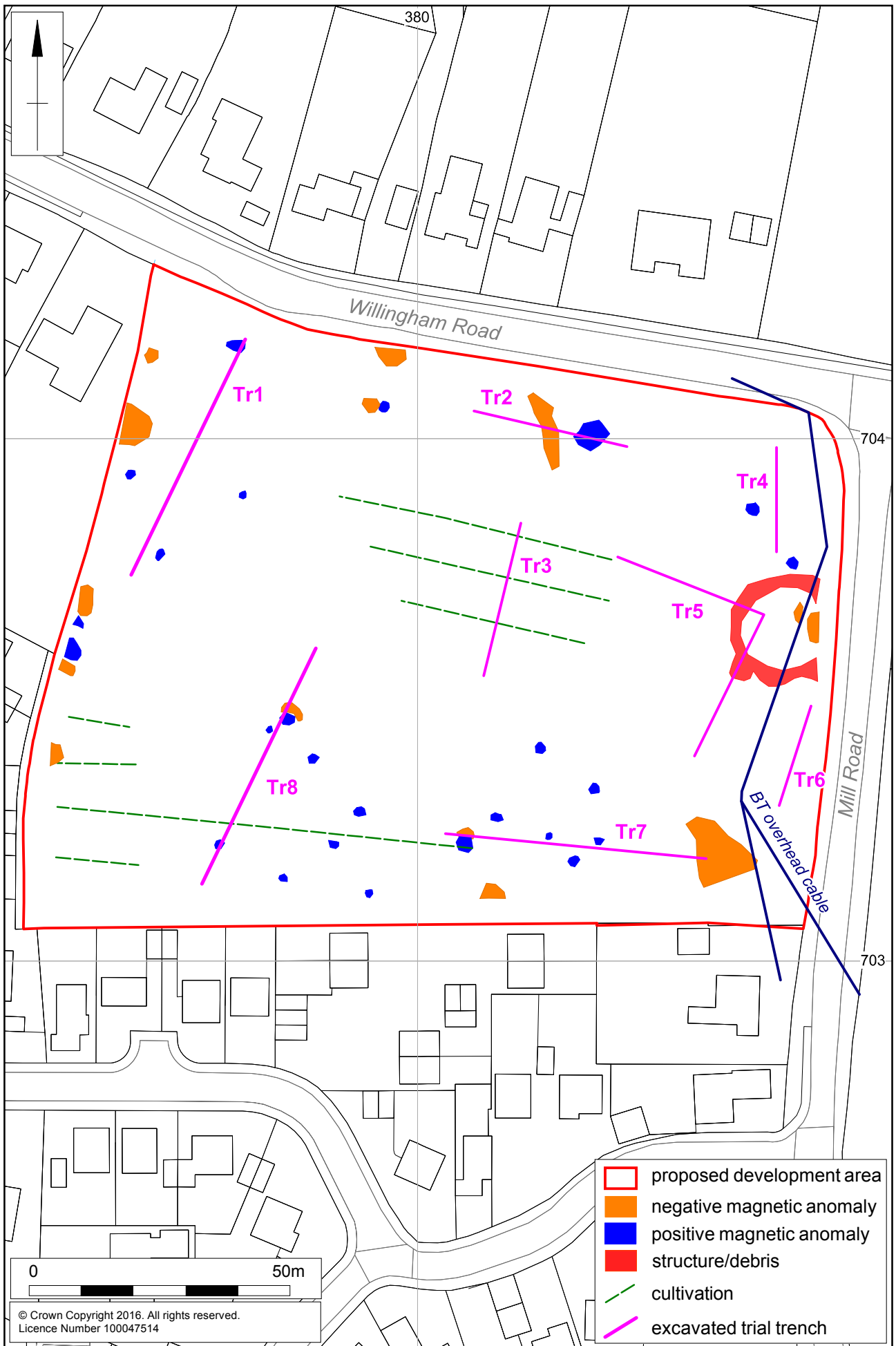
The Ordnance Survey drawing of 1811 shows the study site within a large open area to the east of the village. The windmill is annotated, but Mill Road is not shown. The Enclosure Map of 1837 and a map of the De Freville Estates (1886) indicate the site covered one plot belonging to the Master Fellows and Scholars of Jesus College, Cambridge University (Fig 4). Mill Road was named Cox End Lane Road in 1837, and a public house, the Three Jolly Millers, was situated on the 'T' junction of Cox End Lane Road and Willingham Road.

The first edition 1887 Ordnance Survey Map depicts the windmill within the site as standing on a mound, and it is labelled as a corn mill. On the map of 1902, the findspot for Roman coins to the east along Willingham Road is marked. By the Ordnance Survey map of 1926, the windmill had been demolished, and the site was subdivided up into four strip fields aligned east-west with two indicated as orchard. Fields to the north, east and south were also put to orchard at this time. At that time, the field to the west remained clear, although by 1958, this area was also shown to be orchard. An aerial photograph of 1969 indicates that the site was divided into five strip fields, two of which were orchard, and a number of agricultural barns and greenhouses were constructed in the field immediately to the south of the site. Buildings off Willingham Lane to the west of the site had also been extended. This pattern of encroaching development to the west, south-west and south of the site is seen throughout the maps of the later 20th century. Satellite imagery from 2008 shows the site as a single large arable field, crossed by a north-west to south-east aligned footpath. The agricultural buildings to the south of the site had been replaced by domestic houses, with the building of the Cox's End development.

Previous archaeological work

An evaluation undertaken on land c350m west of the study site produced few archaeological remains, comprising medieval and post-medieval ditches (ECB297/CB15291).

Geophysical Survey was undertaken on the site in 2015 (Roseveare and Lewis). This concluded that overall the data seemed typical of a pastoral or agricultural setting, with some evidence for the orchard cultivation seen on the historic maps. The survey also confirmed the location of the former windmill. There was no evidence for past industry or settlement, either contemporary with the windmill, or earlier.



Scale 1:1,000

Plan of archaeological features and geophysical anomalies

Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

As required in the brief (Gdaniec 2015) and detailed in the approved WSI (MOLA 2016), the evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be impacted upon by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially at risk was studied. 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, including the presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits, the character of deposits and their contents within negative features, and the site formation processes generally;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains;
- and inform any future excavation, mitigation and/or preservation *in-situ* strategy.

Specific research objectives from national and regional research frameworks were referred to (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Glazebrook 1997; Medlycott 2011).

3.2 Methodology

The c1.6ha area of the development site was subject to archaeological evaluation through trial trench excavation (Fig 1). The evaluation examined a 3.5% sample of the total area. This comprised three trenches measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide (Trenches 1, 7 and 8), two trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m (Trenches 2 and 3), one trench measuring 60m x 1.8m (Trench 5) and two trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m (Trenches 4 and 6). Trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified through the geophysical survey (Roseveare and Lewis 2015), as well as to provide a full and varied sample of the total area. An additional 50m (a 0.5% sample) was held in contingency should further definition be required although in the event they were not excavated.

The trenches were accurately measured in and marked out prior to the commencement of work using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment operating to a tolerance of +/- 0.05m to OS National Grid and Datum. Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated by machine fitted with a toothless bucket a minimum of 1.8m wide, to reveal archaeological remains or where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. Excavation did not proceed beyond safe working depths.

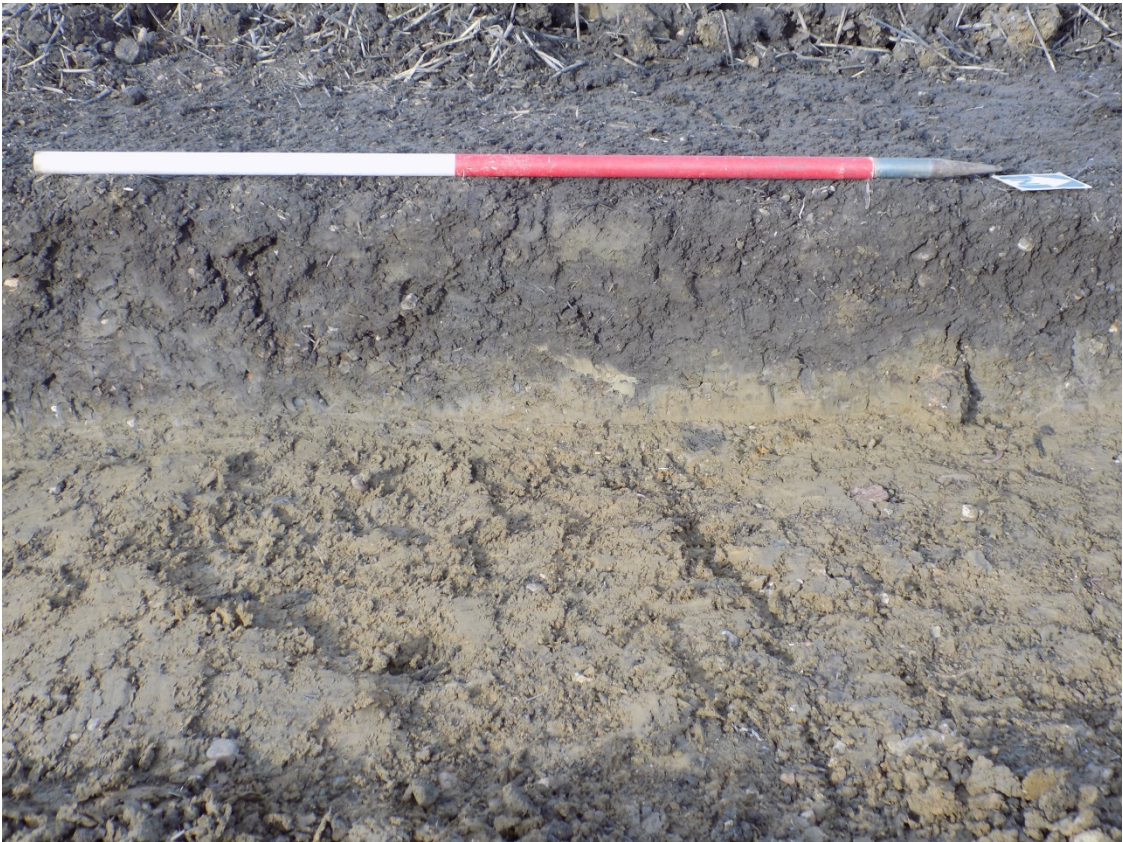
A metal detector survey of the whole of the application area was undertaken in advance of the commencement of trenching. The detector was not set to discriminate against iron, to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The requirements of the Treasure Act (1996) were adhered to. The artefact content of the ploughsoil and any lower soil horizons were examined as part of the evaluation. This comprised the hand sorting of 90l of spoil for each soil horizon from each end and the centre point of each trench.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

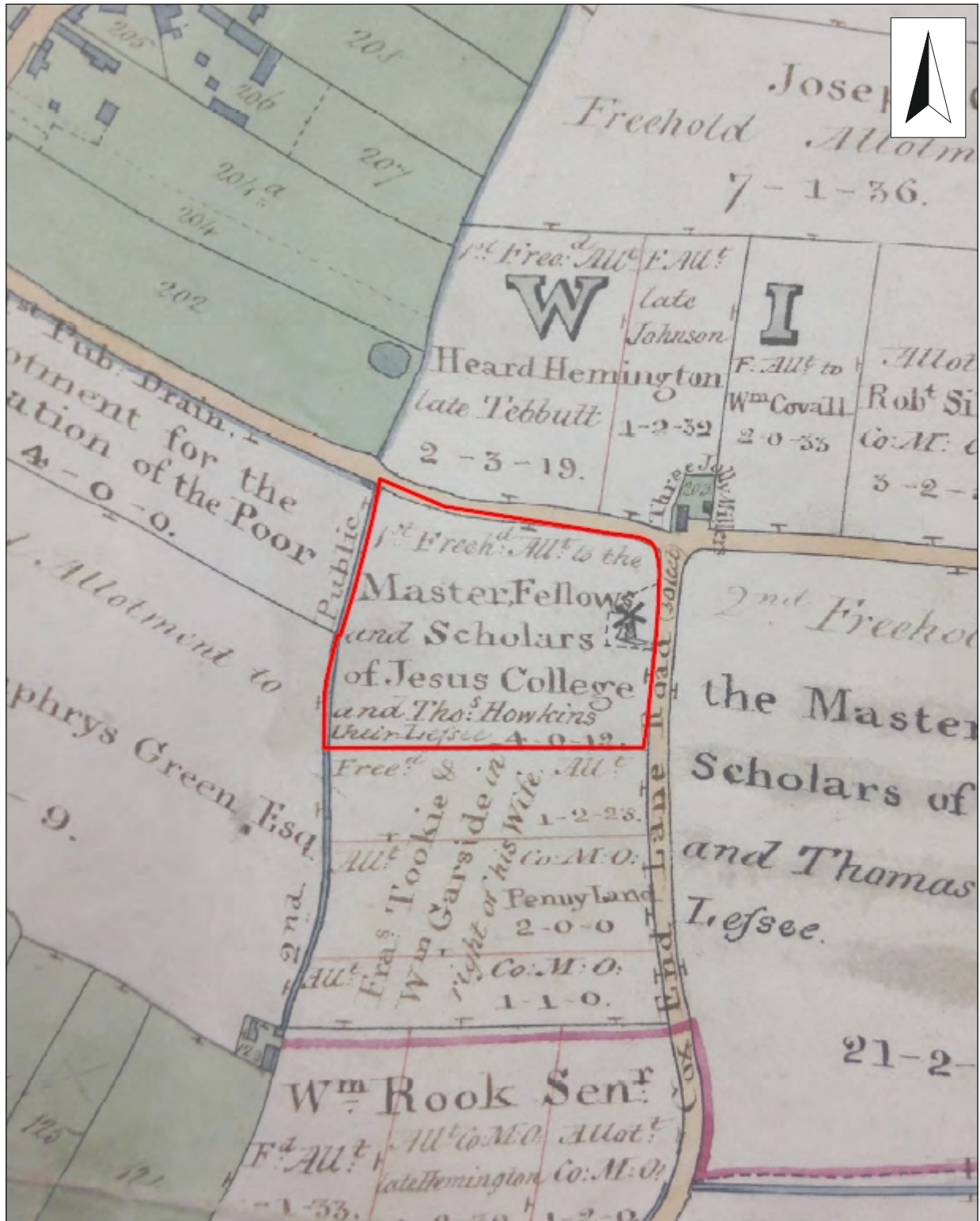
The natural geology varied little across the site; the trenches exposed a light orange-brown clay with rare small sub-angular flint nodules. The natural substrate was encountered at depths around 0.35m+. Topsoil was mid grey-brown firm silty clay with rare small sub-angular flint nodules. Topsoil was present across the whole site, varying little between 0.25-0.35m thick.

Archaeological features were observed in one trench (5), whilst the remaining seven trenches contained remnants of cultivation features. A full metal detector survey of the site was conducted at 10m traverses across the application area. This yielded a largely negative result excluding a few modern cans and bottle tops.



Sample section of Trench 7, looking south

Fig 3



Scale 1:2500

Over enclosure map, 1837 Fig 4

4.2 Windmill ditch and mound

Sections of the windmill ditch and mound were located in Trench 5 (Fig 5). The geophysical survey detected the ditch as a weak magnetic anomaly.

Ditch [506] was 3.20m wide and 0.62m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile. Its fill (505) was firm mid brown-grey silty clay. It contained 65g of 18th- to 20th-century pottery. Ditch [506] cut a buried soil layer of mid grey-brown silty clay.

The material which formed the windmill mound (503) comprised a compact mid yellow blue clay with no inclusions. It formed a circular anomaly with a diameter of c.20m. The layer above the mound consisted of mid-red-brown silty clay with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions, which was up-cast natural from the excavation of ditch [510].

Two features cut the windmill ditch; these were cultivation feature [508] and a 20th-century land drain [510].

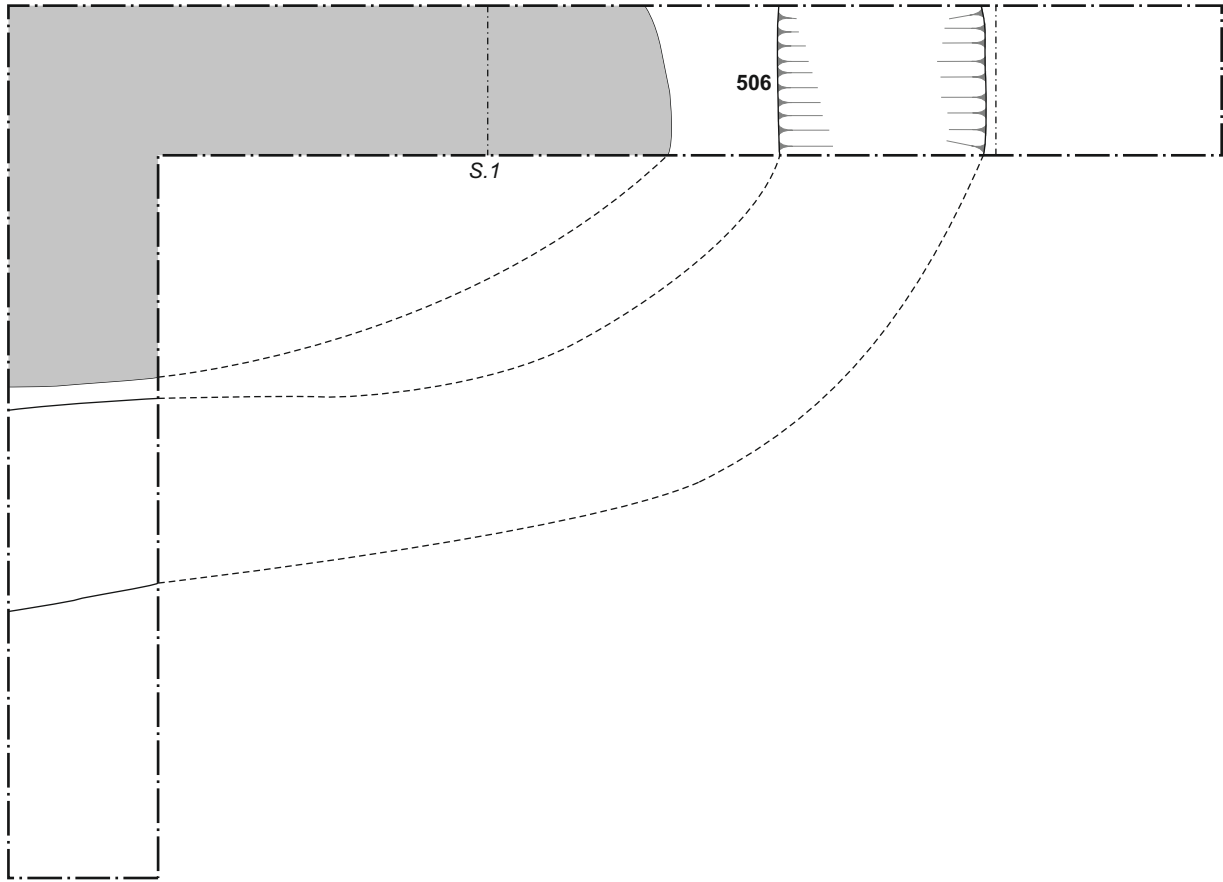
4.3 Cultivation features

Parallel linear features, most probably related to cultivation were observed in all the trenches (Fig 6). These features were recognised in the geophysical survey as linear anomalies (Roseveare and Lewis 2015). The features were roughly equidistant, spaced c.3m apart, and were aligned east to west across the entirety of the application area. The cultivation features are likely to be related to the orchard shown on the early to mid-20th-century Ordnance Survey maps (Fig 7).

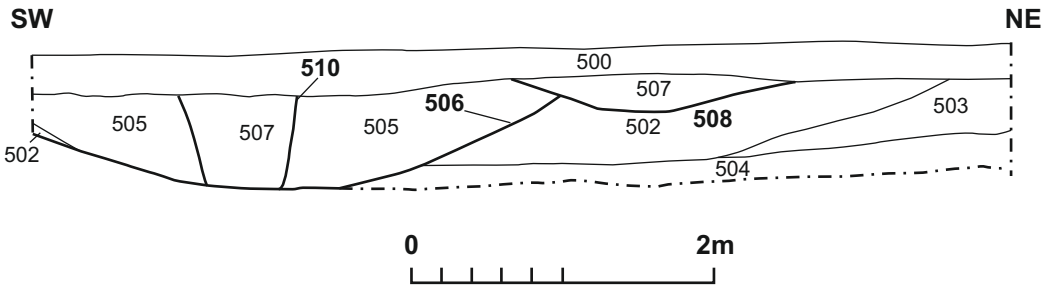
Feature [508] was 2.0m wide and 0.25m deep. Its fill (507) comprised dark grey-brown silty clay with poorly sorted rare small flint nodules. This cut the upper layer of the windmill ditch and is therefore likely to be post-medieval in date.

Trench 5

Mounded clay layer



Section 1

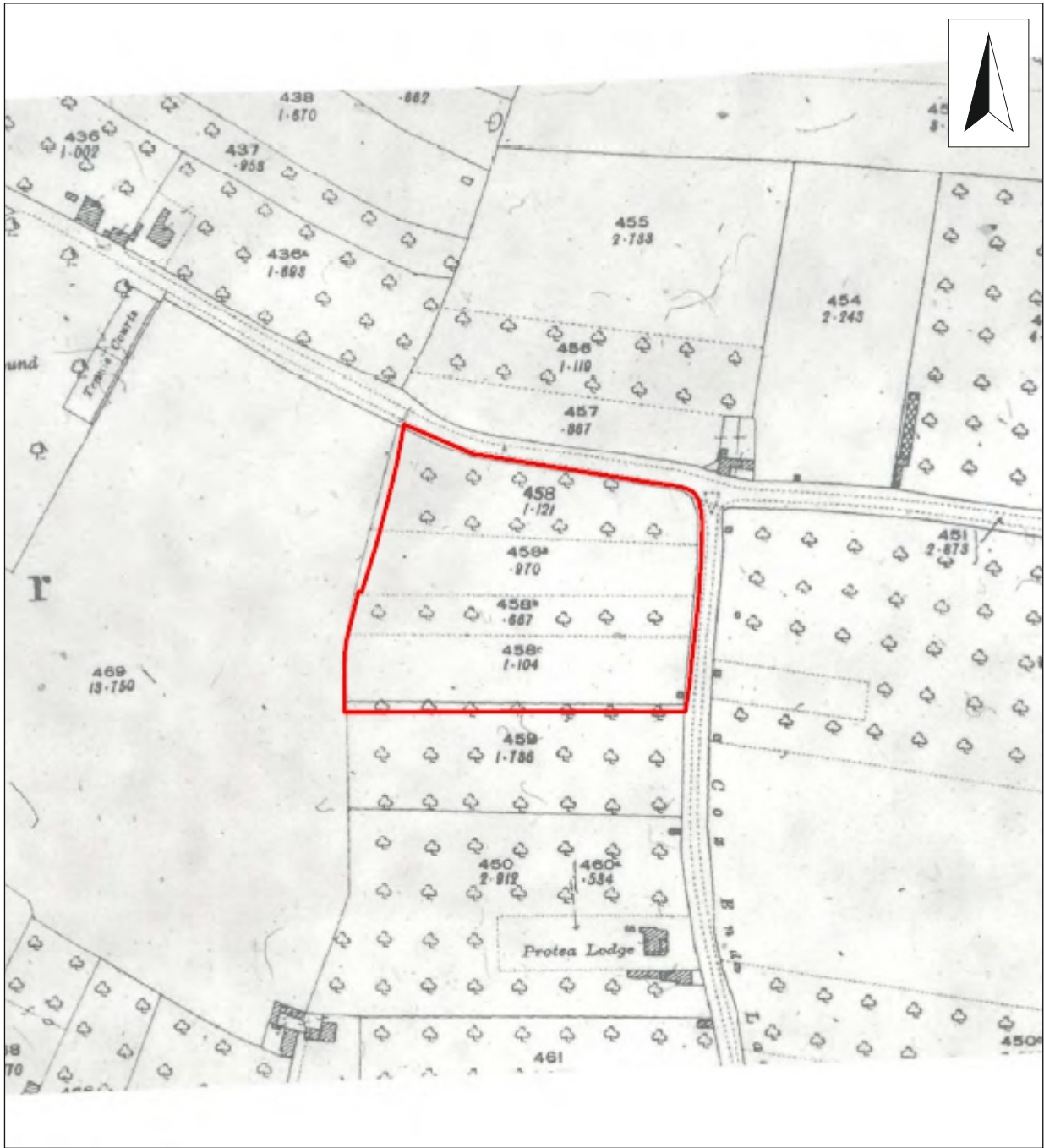


Windmill mound and ditch, looking east



Scale 1:1,000

Plan of cultivation features Fig 6



5 THE FINDS

Pottery

Twelve sherds of pottery, with a combined weight of 454.2g, were recovered. The assemblage is fragmentary, abraded and comprises a range of domestic vessels dating from the 18th through to the 20th centuries. The earliest datable sherds were recovered from windmill ditch [506] and they are represented by storage vessels in glazed and unglazed red earthenware fabrics. Fragmentary tablewares were located in topsoil deposits, and they include fragments of blue shell-edged pearlware, underglaze transfer-printed, and utilitarian whitewares. One distinctive sherd recovered is a base sherd from a stoneware torpedo bottle ('Hamilton' bottle). Bottles of this type were patented by William Francis Hamilton in 1809 and 1814 and they were used for storing soda water. Since the bottle could not stand up because of its pointed bottom, it had to be laid on its side, keeping the contents in contact with the cork and therefore prevented the loss of carbonation.

Table 1: Quantification of post-medieval pottery

Fabric Type	Cut/ fill/ type				Date
	500		505		
	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	
Glazed red earthenware	-	-	4	250.0	c.18th century
Unglazed red earthenware	-	-	1	140.0	c. 18th
Pearlware – Blue shell edged	1	1.2	-	-	c. Late 18thC- Early 19thC
Under glazed transfer printed ware	1	2.1	-	-	Late 18th century
English Stonewares	2	31.5	1	21.5	18th-19th century
Utilitarian Whiteware	2	7.9	-	-	c. Late 19th/20th century

Table 2: Quantification of other finds

Fabric Type	Cut/ fill/ type				Date
	500		505		
	No	Wgt	No	Wgt	
Ceramic tile	1	18.2	-	-	(post-medieval)
Oyster shells	1	2.5	-	-	-
Bottle glass	1	3.2	7	157.0	(post-medieval)
Clay tobacco-pipe stems	4	17.0	-	-	(17th-18th century)

Clay tobacco-pipe

Four abraded clay tobacco-pipes stems were recovered from the topsoil. They measure up to 52mm in length, and the size of the stem bore is large (8/64's, 7/64's and 564's of an inch) suggests a late 17th- and 18th-century date for the fragments.

Iron

Four fragments of iron partially covered in corrosion deposits were recovered. They include, a ?branch from a worn horseshoe and nail shank, and two undiagnostic strap fragments.

Glass

There are eight shards of bottle glass. Four shards with flaking iridescent surfaces represent the base of a c.19th-century wine bottle in green glass. The remaining sherds include undiagnostic body sherds from bottles in green glass and clear glass.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation confirmed the presence of the historically-documented windmill. The first map which validated the existence of this windmill is the 1837 Over enclosure map (Fig 4). Finds located within its ditch fill date the initial windmill construction to the early 1800s. The evaluation also confirmed the previously identified cultivation features (Fig 6), which are most probably the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation, or the remains of orchard cultivation beds as observed on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 7).

No other archaeological features or finds were discovered during the evaluation.

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MOLA Northampton

08 March 2016

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m NE-SW			0.50m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.32m thick	
101	Natural	Friable light yellow/orange-brown silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.18m+ thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	30m x 1.8m W-E			0.39m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles and modern brick.	0.21m thick	
201	Natural	Friable light yellow/orange-brown silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.18m+ thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	30m x 1.8m NE-SW			0.33m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.31m thick	
301	Natural	Friable light yellow/orange-brown silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.02m+ thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
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4	20m x 1.9m N-S			0.32m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.24m thick	
401	Natural	Friable light orange-yellow clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.08m+ thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	60m x 1.8m NW-SE/NESW			0.25m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.25m thick	
501	Natural	Friable light orange-yellow clay with occasional small flint pebbles.		
502	Layer/upcast of windmill mound	Friable mid red-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.40m thick	Pot and clay pipe.
503	Layer/erosion of windmill mound	Firm light green-grey clay.	0.34m thick	-
504	Built up layer of windmill Mound	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.24m thick	-
505	Fill of [506]	Friable green/grey-brown silty clay.		-
506	Ditch	Circular with a broad U-shaped profile and a concave base.	3.50m wide 0.60m deep	
507	Fill of [508]	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.		-
508	Furrow	Linear aligned NW-SE with gradually sloping sides and a flat base.	2.00m wide 0.25m deep	
509	Fill of [510]	-		
510	Land drain	-		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	20m x 1.8m NE-SW			0.25m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples

600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.25m thick	
601	Natural	Friable light orange-yellow clay with occasional small flint pebbles.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	50m x 1.8m W-E			0.39m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small rub-rounded flint.	0.30m thick	
501	Natural	Friable light orange-brown/yellow silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub rounded flint nodules.	0.09m+ thick	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m x 1.8m, NE-SW			0.40m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay with small flint pebbles.	0.24m thick	
501	Natural	Friable mid orange-brown/yellow silty clay with occasional small flint pebbles.	0.16m+ thick	