



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation  
on land adjacent to 10 Church Street  
North Marston  
Buckinghamshire  
March 2016**

Report No. 16/80

Author: Paul Clements

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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Project Manager: Adam Yates  
Site Code: AYBCM:2016.53  
NGR: SP 77678 22593

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The Finds: Tora Hylton

Illustrations: James Ladocha BA

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS molanort1-250408</b>	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 10 Church Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, March 2016		
Short description	In March 2016 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton, for Rob Symmonds. The works identified a shallow ditch and gully. Pottery of 18th-20th century date was recovered from both features.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work			
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Post-medieval to modern ditch and gully		
Significant finds			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Buckinghamshire		
Site address	10 Church Street, North Marston		
Easting Northing	SP 77678 22593		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.10 ha		
Height aOD	c 121m AOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Buckinghamshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements		
Project Managers	Adam Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	Rob Symmonds		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	29/03/2016		
End date	29/03/2016		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	AYBCM:2016.53		
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 10 Church Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire, March 2016		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Report 16/80		
Author(s)	Paul Clements		
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Date	March 2016		

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Front cover: General view facing west.

Fig 1: Site location 1:10,000

Fig 2: Gully [105], looking north-west

Fig 3: Ditch [107], looking north-east

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 10 Church Street North Marston Buckinghamshire March 2016

## **Abstract**

*In March 2016 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton, for Rob Symmonds. The works identified a shallow ditch and gully. Pottery of 18th-20th century date was recovered from both features.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in March 2016 by MOLA Northampton on land adjacent to 10 Church street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 77678 22593; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Rob Symmonds in order to further inform of the potential impact of the development, a single dwelling (Planning Ref: 87/01570/APP), upon the archaeological resource.

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA Northampton (2016).

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development and more specifically to:

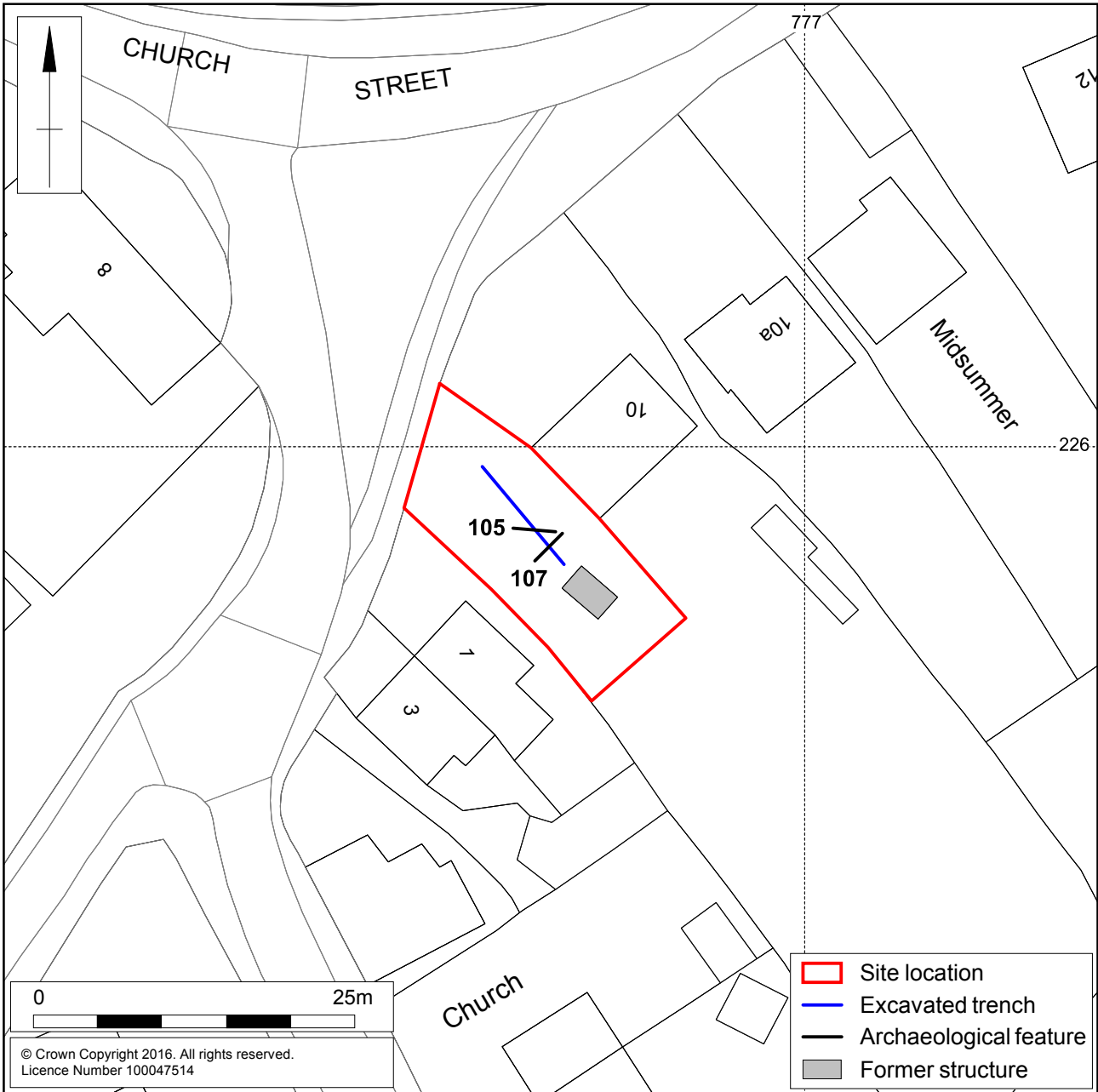
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and geology**

The development site is situated towards the south-eastern edge of the village, within the current garden plot of 10 Church Street. at a height of c.121m aOD. The 12th-century parish church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located c.100m to the north of the development area. The medieval holy well of St. Schorne lies about 70m to the south. The area of the new dwelling footprint comprises an area c.8.4m in diameter between the houses 10 Church Street and 1 Schorne Lane.

The underlying geology is recorded as Ampthill Clay Formation mudstone, with a band of Kimmeridge Clay Formation lying just to the north (BGS 2016). Soils across the site are recorded as slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils (Landis 2016).



Scale 1:500

Site location and excavated trench Fig 1



## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The historical background was assessed within the Written scheme of Investigation (2016) and is reproduced here.

The proposed development site is situated within the historic core of North Marston and the North Marston Conservation Area (Historic Environment Record DBC8058), close to the Grade I listed medieval church (HER 0209800000). North Marston is known to have been an important pilgrimage site during the later medieval period, due to the activities of a local saint, John Schorne, who was the rector from 1290 to 1314. A medieval well, said to have been created by John Schorne, is located c.70 metres to the south-west of the development site (HER 0132400000).

Two other buildings on Church Street are listed buildings. These are 8 Church Street (Burnaby House) which is a late 16th to 17th-century timber-framed house (HER 1096800000), and 4 Church Street, a 16th-century timber-framed house (HER 1096700000).

A spotfind of an Anglo-Saxon loomweight has been recorded c.300m to the west of the site (PastScape Monument No. 342825). Around 100m to the north-west, an evaluation at no. 1 Portway in 2003 identified post-medieval ditches, a gully and a cobbled surface, along with some pottery (HER 0805200000) (Williams and Roberts 2003). In the same year, an evaluation on land adjacent the Vicarage identified post-medieval postholes, pottery and tile, as well as medieval pottery and some Roman tile (Hart 2003) (HER 0805400000). An archaeological evaluation at The Old Forge, on Church Street to the north-west of the site also produced post-medieval material, comprising a wall foundation for a post-medieval building, thought to have occupied the site since the mid-19th century until the last quarter of the 20th century (Flavell 2009).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

A trial trench was excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by MOLA Northampton and approved by Eliza Alqassar (Buckinghamshire Planning Archaeologist) The trench was positioned to provide a general coverage of the development area. (Fig 1). A total area of 18 square metres was excavated comprising a trench 10m long by 1.80m wide. The trench was positioned using a Leica Viva RTK GPS.

A 6 ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trench was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. 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. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and digital images.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 1994, revised 2014) and Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015).



## 4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 General stratigraphy

The position of the trench is shown in Figure 1 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix.

The underlying geology was encountered between 0.50-0.60m below the modern ground surface. It comprised light green-grey clay containing occasional medium-sized limestone and frequent flecks of chalk. The subsoil, 0.30-0.20m thick, comprised mid grey-brown silty-clay containing occasional sherds of modern pottery and fragments of brick. The topsoil was 0.30m thick, dark grey-brown silty-clay with quantities of modern waste, including plastic and brick.

### 4.2 The excavated features

Two post-medieval features were identified by the evaluation. Gully [105] was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig 2). The fill, mid grey silty-clay, contained a sherd of 20th-century pottery.



Gully [105], looking north-west Fig 2

Ditch [107], at the southern end of the trench, was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig 3). Pottery and glass of 18th-century date were recovered from its fill, mid grey silty-clay.



Ditch [107] looking north-east Fig 3

## 5 THE FINDS by Tora Hylton

### 5.1 Pottery

Three sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 186g were recovered from Trench 1. The earliest datable sherds were located in ditch [107] and included a marbled slipware body sherd, presumably from an item of flatware, and a complete base from a glazed red earthenware bowl, both date to the 18th century. In addition, a small undiagnostic rim sherd in a utilitarian whiteware fabric of 20th-century date was recovered from gully [105].

### 5.2 Clay tobacco-pipe

A single clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment measuring 62mm in length was recovered from ditch [107]. Changes in manufacturing technique ensured the reduction of bore size, since this fragment has a bore measuring 5/64's of an inch; an 18th-century date is suggested.

### 5.3 Glass

Two complete bases from wine bottles in green glass ware recovered from ditch [107]. Although both bases are in a good condition, the interior and exterior surfaces display signs of dehydration in the form of iridescent flaking surfaces. The bases of the wine bottles are relatively large and measure c.130mm and 140mm in diameter and both examples possess a large kick (indentation in base of bottle). The style of the base, together with the vestiges of the wall of the bottle which appear to be vertical, suggest that these bases originate from mallet type bottles, a form which dates to the mid/late 18th-century.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

The trial trench evaluation has identified an 18th-century ditch and 20th-century gully. These most likely form part of earlier garden features.

No residual finds predating the post-medieval period were recovered from the features or the overburden to suggest the presence of earlier features within the development area.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

ClfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute of Archaeologists

ClfA 2014c *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

EH 1991 *Management of archaeological projects, second edition (MAP2)*, English Heritage

HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, Historic England

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, MOLA Northampton

MOLA 2016 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 10 Church Street, North Marston, Buckinghamshire*, MOLA Northampton

## Websites

BGS 2016 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

Landis 2016 <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> Cranfield University National Soil Resources Institute

**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
1	10m x 1.80m NW-SE	SP 77674 22598	120.73m aOD	120.23m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type Feature &amp; type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay.	0.30m thick	Modern plastic and brick
102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	
103	Natural	Light green-grey clay containing occasional medium-sized limestone and frequent flecks of chalk		-
104	Fill of 105	Mid grey silty-clay	0.30m wide 0.15m thick	Pottery
105	Gully	Post-medieval gully, aligned NW-SE	0.30m wide 0.15m deep	
106	Fill of 107	Mid grey silty-clay	0.90m wide 0.20m thick	Pottery, Glass, brick, clay tobacco-pipe
107	Ditch	Post-medieval ditch, aligned NE-SW	0.90m wide 0.20m deep	



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