



**Trial trench evaluation on land at
The Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate
Daventry
May 2016**

Report No. 16/97

Author: Ben Kidd

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol



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Author: Ben Kidd

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager:	Anthony Maull Cert Arch
Text:	Ben Kidd BA
Fieldwork:	Ben Kidd Piotr Kieca MA
Post-medieval pottery:	Tora Hylton
Illustrations:	Oliver Dindol BSc

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-253539	
Project name	Trial trench evaluation on land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry, May 2016		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Armour Heritage, on behalf of their clients Daventry District Council, to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry, prior to proposed development. Nine trenches were excavated across the site; a total of nine furrows were remnants of a former ridge and furrow field system and the fills contained a little post-medieval pottery. No other archaeological features were identified.		
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Ex-wooded area, rough scrubland		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Post-medieval remnant furrows		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	The Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry		
Study area (sq. m or ha)	2.4ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 57939 61506		
Height OD	107m to 116m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	County Archaeological Advisor (NCC)		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Ben Kidd (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	Armour Heritage on behalf of Daventry District Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	23/05/2016 – 24/05/2016		
ARCHIVES		Accession no.	Content
Physical	ENN108327	Site documents – context sheets etc	
Paper		Mapinfo plans, Word report, dxf data, digital photographs	
Digital			
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Trial trench evaluation on land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry, May 2016		
Serial title & volume	16/97		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
Page numbers	14 pages including text and illustrations		
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Trial trench evaluation on land at The Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate Daventry May 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Armour Heritage, on behalf of their clients Daventry District Council, to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry, prior to proposed development. Nine trenches were excavated across the site; a total of nine furrows were remnants of a former ridge and furrow field system and the fills contained a little post-medieval pottery. No other archaeological features were identified

1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2016, MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Armour Heritage, on behalf of their clients Daventry District Council to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at the Knoll, Long March Industrial Estate, Daventry (NGR SP 57939 61506; Fig 1), in advance of proposed development.

The archaeological works were requested by the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCCAA). The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (MOLA 2016), and were undertaken in accordance with a two part brief prepared by the Archaeological Advisor in May 2016 (Mather 2016a and 2016b) and adheres to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

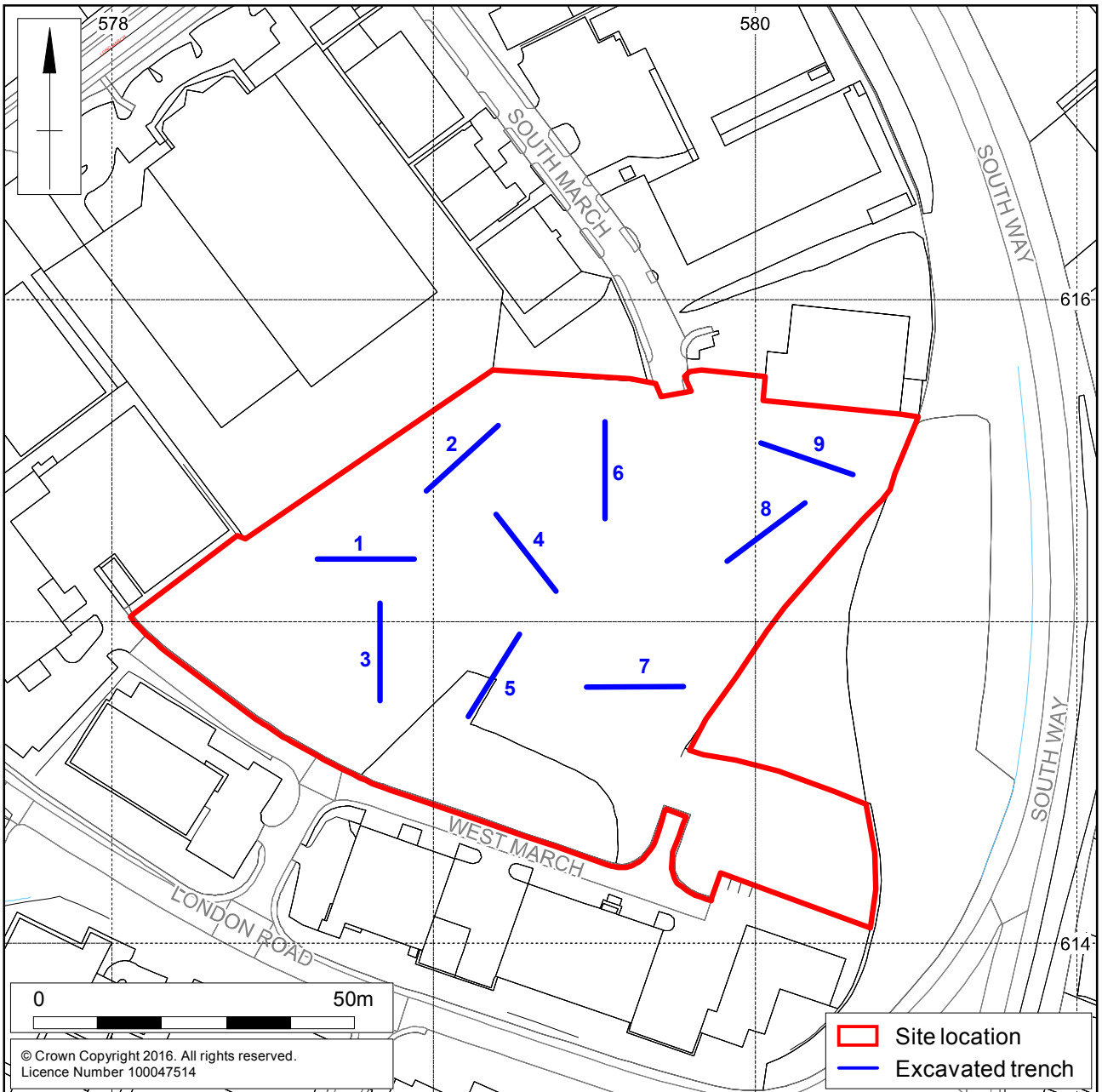
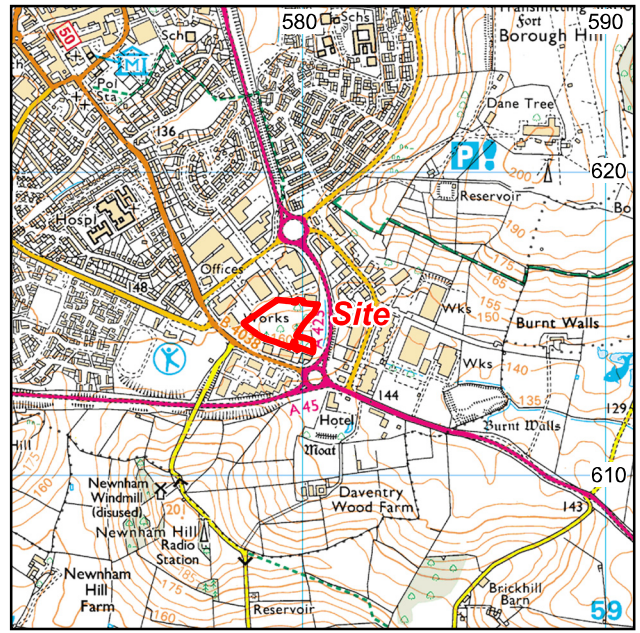
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation. All works were prepared and undertaken accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a), and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development area is situated on the south-eastern edge of Daventry and lies within the Long March Industrial Estate. The site is bounded to the west and north by industrial units, to the south by the small access road of West March and further industrial units and to the east by the A425 Southway. The site formerly was largely overgrown with areas of planted semi-mature broadleaf trees, though these have since been cut down.

The site is of distinct topography, being highly contoured and rising to a central plateau, with the ground being from around 107m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to around 116m aOD. The geology of the site has been mapped as comprising mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation (BGS 2016).



Scale 1:1000

Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site is not known to have been subject to any intrusive archaeological investigations, and the general area in the vicinity of the site has also not been extensively studied.

The site lies on the southern edge of Daventry within an area identified by the HER as Daventry township; the HER also records that the area once contained medieval cultivation ridge and furrow earthworks. Whether the earthworks remain extant is not known.

To the north-east of the site is Borough Hill, a Bronze Age-Iron Age hillfort.

Around 700m to the east of the site is a fortified enclosure known as Burnt Walls Camp. This comprises the remains of a roughly triangular enclosure bounded on the south-west by a bank and external ditch. There is a causeway across the ditch near the south end which may be an original entrance. This enclosure may be of possible Iron Age or medieval date.

To the south of the site, across the A45, is an area centred on SP 58050 61060, containing the site of a probable medieval moated hunting lodge, known as John o Gaunt's Castle which stood in Dantre Deer Park. Stone building foundations were discovered in the 19th century. Part of the moat plus another enclosure possibly connected with the site survives as slight earthworks. In the same area to the south of the development site, a documentary reference is known of a long barrow at the east end of Daventry Wood Hill. It is now considered that this reported barrow was probably part of the park pale or part of the above moated site.

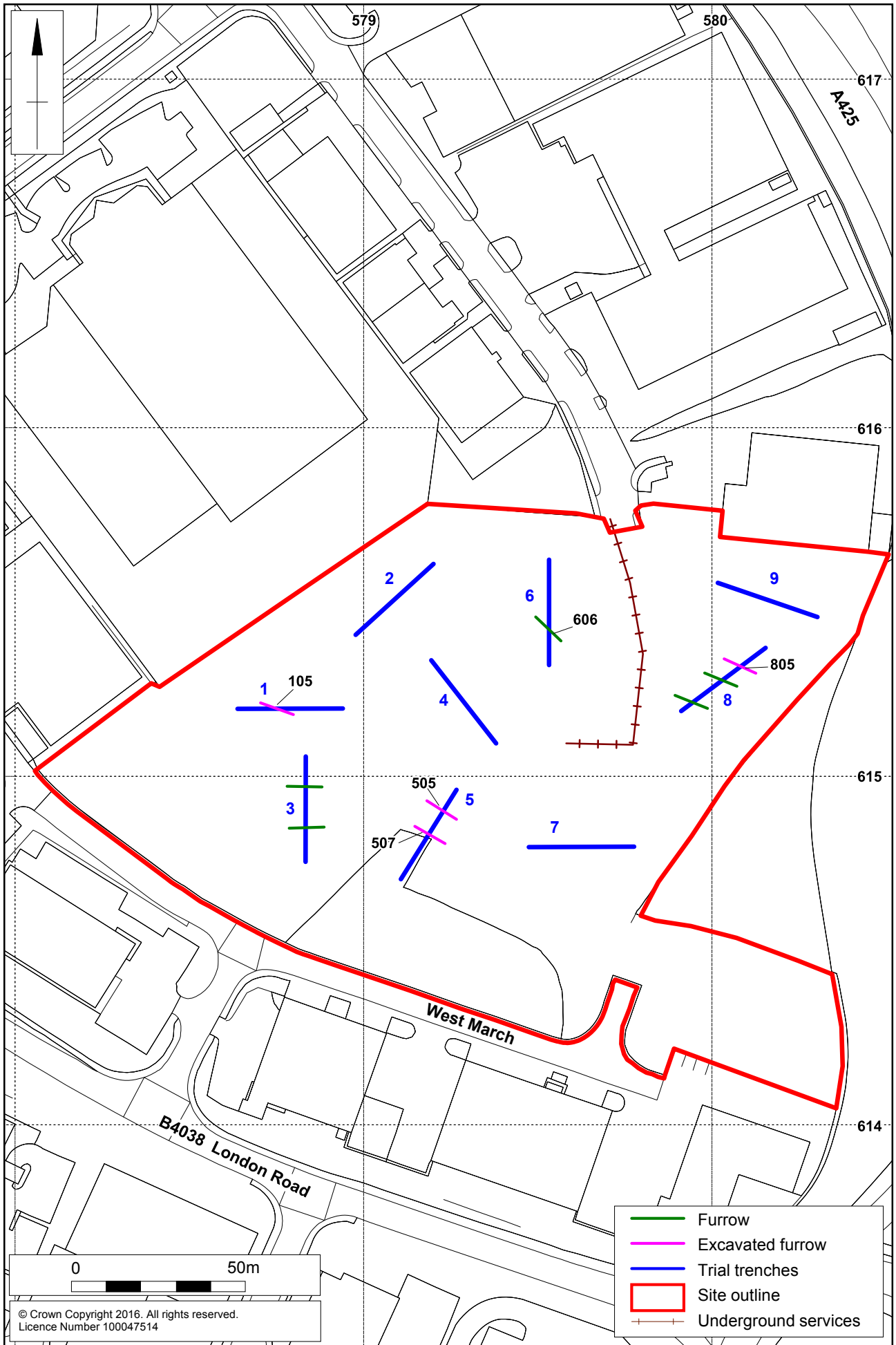
The development area lies to the north of the Old Stratford to Dunchurch turnpike. It was included in an assessment of the potential Daventry ring road undertaken by ASC in 2007. Before the development of the A425 in 1971, the site is depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps as lying in a large field facing onto London Road. The former Weedon and Leamington Line railway, constructed before 1900, passed the site to the north-east. By 1971, with the construction of the A425, the area of the development site on the high ground is depicted on maps as being under tree cover. After this time and up to the present day, the industrial buildings of Long March Estate were constructed.

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 within their cultural and environmental setting (Mathers 2016a and 2016b). The evaluation was also designed to provide information that will allow for the effective targeting of further investigation of the site, if required, prior to or during the early phases of its development. The trenching specifically aimed 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;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- Establish 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 would have been drawn from the East Midlands regional framework (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012; Cooper 2006) or other national research agendas, had the results of the excavation required it.



Scale 1: 1,500

Excavated trenches and location of features Fig 2

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Nine trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, with all the trenches 30m long (Fig 2)

The trenches were positioned to cover a full and varied sample of the development area, while taking into account a number of on-site constraints.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed separately under archaeological direction to reveal archaeological features or, where these were absent, the natural substrate.

The location of the trenches was surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. A full photographic record comprising digital images was maintained.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA Northampton procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. On completion of the evaluation and following appropriate monitoring, all trenches were backfilled with their up-cast and then lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing under accession code ENN108236, in accordance with the county guidelines (NARC 2014), as well as Walker (1990), Brown (2011), the ClfA (2014c) and the Museum and Galleries Commission (1992).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

A full list of deposits by trench can be found in the context inventory (Appendix).

The natural substrate varied across the site but mainly comprised mixed blue-grey and orange-brown clays with patches of stone and occurred between 0.30m and 0.60m below the present ground surface.

Subsoil was visible within most trenches and varied substantially in depth from between 0.05m to 0.30m; it mainly comprised mid brown-orange-grey clay.

The topsoil remained consistent across the site and comprised mid grey-brown silty clay and was between 0.10m and 0.30m thick

Small patches of made ground were identified in Trenches 2 and 6.

5.2 The archaeological features

Post-medieval furrows

Nine furrows, which were remnants of a former ridge and furrow field system, were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8; all were on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment (Fig 2) and were between 1.0m and 1.85m wide. A sample of four were excavated [105], [505], [507] and [805]; all were between 0.10m and 0.15m in depth with fills comprising mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments, with pottery dating to the post-medieval period being recovered from [507] and [805] (Figs 2 - 5).



Furrow [505], looking south-east

Fig 3



Furrow [507], looking south-east

Fig 4



Furrow [805], looking south-east

Fig 5

6 THE POST-MEDEIVAL POTTERY by Tora Hylton

Two abraded sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 39g were recovered from Trenches 5 and 8. A fragment of feathered slipware (CTS 409*) was located within furrow [506]. The sherd retains a vestige of glazed decoration in the form of a pale yellow lead glaze with a feathered dark brown trailed slip. The piece probably originates from a press moulded plate and dates to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The second sherd was recovered from furrow [804]. It represents a pancheon type vessel in an iron-glazed coarseware fabric (CTS 426) which dates to the late 18th/19th century.

7 DISCUSSION

Trial trench evaluation identified a total of seven furrows on parallel north-north-west to south-south-east alignments, which are remnants of a former ridge and furrow field system. The Northamptonshire HER records the site as being in an area of ridge and furrow cultivation and it is likely that the furrows identified represent remains of this activity, with the fills containing post-medieval pottery. No other archaeological features were observed.

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MOLA Northampton
2nd June 2016

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
1	1.8m x 30m E-W			0.30-0.40m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.05-0.20m thick	-
102	Sub soil	mid brown-orange-grey clay	0.10m thick	-
103	Natural	Mixed mid grey-blue and mid orange-brown clays	-	-
104	Fill of [105]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Brick fragments
105	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear with shallow U-shaped profile and concave base	1.10m wide 0.10m deep	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
2	1.8m x 50m SE-NW			0.40-1.15m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.10-0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.15-0.20m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid brown and grey clays with bands of mid orange-brown clays	0.20-0.40m	-
204	Made ground	Concrete and redeposited soil at extreme NE end of trench	0.20m thick	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
3	1.8m x 30m N-S			0.40-0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.20-25m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow clay	0.05m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid-dark brown and grey clays	-	-
304	Fill of [305]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Brick fragments (Not retained)
305	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear (Not excavated)	c1.0m wide	-
306	Fill of [307]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Brick fragments (Not retained)
307	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear (Not excavated)	c1.0m wide	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
4	1.8m x 30m NW-SE			0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.15-0.30m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Same as 102 – only visible in some parts of trench	0.10-15m thick	-
403	Natural	Mid brown-grey clays	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
5	1.8m x 30m NE-SW			0.40-0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.15m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.05-0.15m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown-grey clays and patches of mid orange-brown clays and stone	-	-
504	Fill of [505]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Brick fragments
505	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear with shallow U-shaped profile and concave base	0.10m deep 1.0m wide	-
506	Fill of [507]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Post medieval pottery, brick fragments
507	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear with shallow U-shaped profile and concave base	0.15m deep 1.15m wide	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
6	1.8m x 30m N-S			0.50-0.60m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.20m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.20-0.30m thick	-
603	Natural	Mid grey-brown clays and mid orange-brown clays and stone	-	-
604	Made ground	Layer of crushed stone and soil	0.20m thick	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
7	1.8m x 30m E-W			0.40-0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.10-0.15m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0.15-0.30m thick	-
703	Natural	Mid brown-grey clays	-	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
8	1.8m x 50m NE-SW			0.50-0.60m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.20m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.20-0.30m thick	-
803	Fill of [804]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Post-medieval pottery, brick fragments
804	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear with shallow U-shaped profile and concave base	0.10m deep c1.7m wide	-
805	Fill of [806]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal and brick fragments	-	Brick fragments
806	Remnant furrow	NNW-SSE linear – unexcavated	c1.0m wide	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment			Depth of natural
9	1.8m x 30m NW-SE			0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.10-0.20m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Same as 702	0.20-0.30m thick	-
903	Natural	Mid brown-blue grey clays and mid orange-brown clays	-	-



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk