



**Archaeological test pit investigation
at the former Castle House
Marefair, Northampton
May 2016**

Report No. 16/112

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: Olly Dindol



© MOLA Northampton
Project Manager: Jim Brown
Site Code: ENN108366
NGR: SP 74972 60432

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

**Archaeological test pit investigation
at the former Castle House
Marefair, Northampton
May 2016**

Report No. 16/112

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	28/06/2016	Pat Chapman	J Brown	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: Olly Dindol

© MOLA Northampton 2016

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

STAFF

Project Manager: Jim Brown BSc PGDip MCIfA

Text: Fieldwork: Jonathan Elston

Fieldwork Jonathan Elston
Piotr Kieca MA

Illustrations: Olly Dindol BSc

Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS molanort1-255947	
Project title	Archaeological test pit investigation at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton, May 2016		
MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council to carry out an archaeological test pit investigation on land at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton. A total of five test pits were excavated, three lay within the footprint of the former building with the remaining two located in a courtyard area to the north with the aim of identifying the extent of the modern truncation and if any archaeological deposit survived on the site. Only truncation of the natural substratum was observed within the footprint of the former building, however the courtyard test pits revealed a buried medieval wall, pits, garden soils and an 19th-century building beneath up to 3.0m of overburden.			
Project type	Archaeological test pit investigation		
Previous work	Watching Brief (Leigh 2014)		
Current land use	Disused grassed area behind hoarding		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Occupation, medieval & post-medieval		
Significant finds	Pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	The former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton		
Easting Northing	SP 74972 60432		
Area (sq m/ha)	70m x 30m		
Height aOD	c 69m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire County Council Planning		
Director/Supervisor	Jonathan Elston		
Project Managers	Jim Brown		
Sponsor or funding body	Northamptonshire County Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	15/05/2016		
End date	20/05/2016		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	ENN108366 Northamptonshire Records office	Site records (1 archive box), pottery	
Paper		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
Digital			
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological test pits at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton, May 2016		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Report 16/112		
Author(s)	Jonathan Elston		
Page numbers	21 pages of text and figures		
Date	June 2016		

Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 BACKGROUND**
 - 2.1 Location, topography and geology**
 - 2.2 Historical and archaeological background**
- 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**
 - 5.1 General comments**
 - 5.2 Medieval occupation**
 - 5.3 Post-medieval occupation**
 - 5.4 Modern disturbance**
- 6 THE POTTERY** by Paul Blinkhorn
- 7 DISCUSSION**
- BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX**

Tables

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Figures

Front cover: Test pit 3, looking north-east

Fig 1: Site location and test pits

Fig 2: Speed's Map of Northampton 1610

Fig 3: Noble & Butlin's map of 1747

Fig 4: Roper and Cole's map of 1807

Fig 5: Wood and Law's map of 1847

Fig 6: Location of test pits and previous excavations

Fig 7: Test Pit 3, looking north

Fig 8: Test Pit 3, section and plan

Fig 9: Pit [309], wall [310] and pit [312], looking north-west

Fig 10: Modern truncation [306], looking west

Fig 11: 19th-century building in test pit 2, looking north

Fig 12: Test Pit 2, section and plan

Fig 13: Walls [210] and [209], looking east

Fig 14: Modern truncation in test pit 2, looking west

Fig 15: Test Pit 1, looking south

Fig 16: Test Pit 4, looking north-west

Fig 17: Test Pit 5, looking west

Archaeological test pit investigation at the former Castle House Marefair, Northampton June 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton were commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council to carry out an archaeological test pit investigation on land at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton. A total of five test pits were excavated, three within the footprint of the former building with the remaining two located in a courtyard area to the north with the aim of identifying the extent of the modern truncation and if any archaeological deposit survived on the site. Only truncation of the natural substratum was observed within the footprint of the former building, however, the courtyard test pits revealed a buried medieval wall, pits, garden soils and a 19th-century building beneath up to 3.0m of overburden.

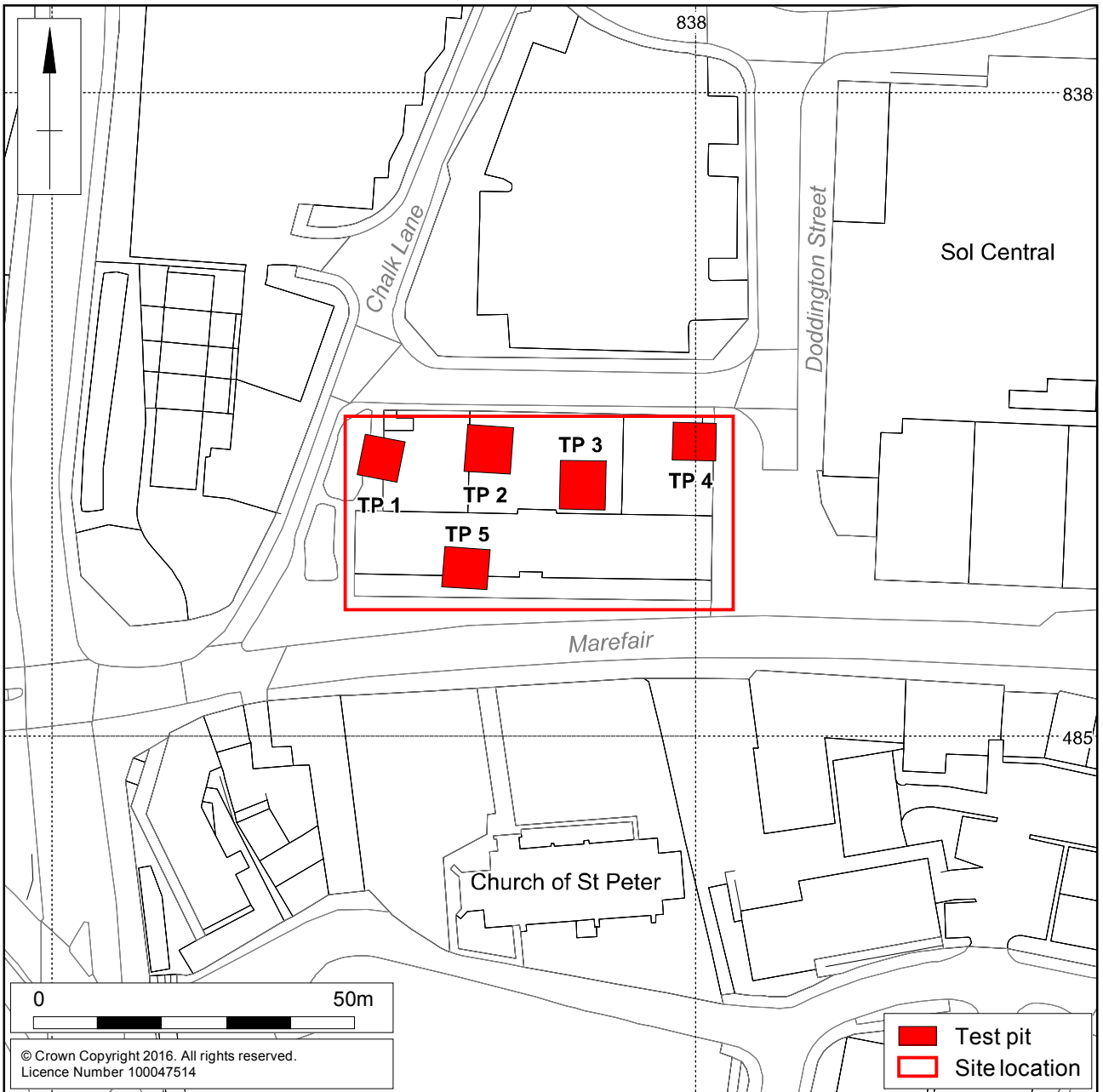
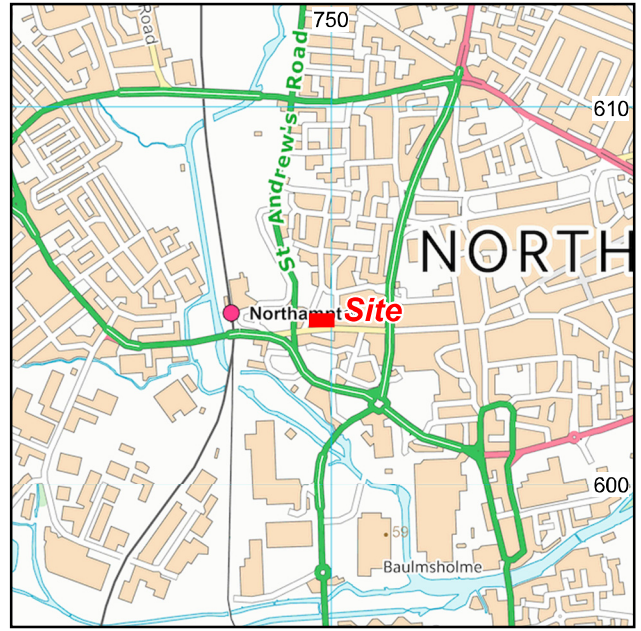
1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2016 MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council to conduct an archaeological test pit investigation on land at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton (Fig 1, NGR: SP 74972 60432). At the time of the works the site was unused grassland secured behind a timber-boarded fence line.

The work was in response to consultation between advisors to Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council Planning that resulted in a brief being issued by the Archaeological Planning Advisor (NCC 2016 a-b) to determine the site's potential for survival of archaeological remains within the development area.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest due to its location within the Saxon *burh* that formed the historic core of the town of Northampton. A programme of archaeological work was required because of its proximity to a Saxon palace complex to the south of the site, the monastic precinct of St Peter and the medieval Royal Castle

The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA Northampton (MOLA 2016) and carried out following the guidelines suggested by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* and *Code of Conduct*, (CIfA 2014a and b). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015) and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).



Scale 1:1000

Site location and test pits Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

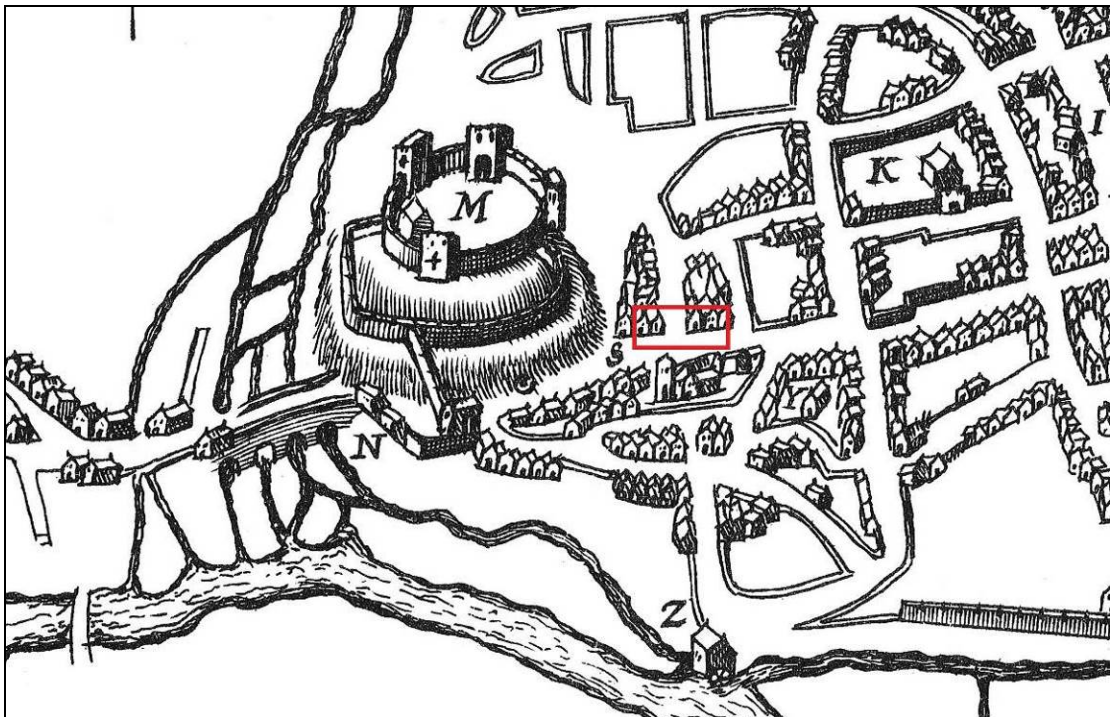
The proposed development area comprises a 70m by 30m plot of land bounded to the south by Marefair, an arterial road from the early town, and to the west by Chalk Lane. There is a surface car park to the north and Doddridge Street to the east. The site lies within a natural loop of the River Nene upon the upper slopes of the river valley terrace. The hilltop location, c.69m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), overlooks the River Nene to the south and a tributary to the west towards which the ground slopes down sharply.

The site topography was generally flat and was disused grassland after the demolition of Castle House.

The geology across the site is Northampton Sand and Ironstone, with Upper Lias Clay beneath (BGS 2001).

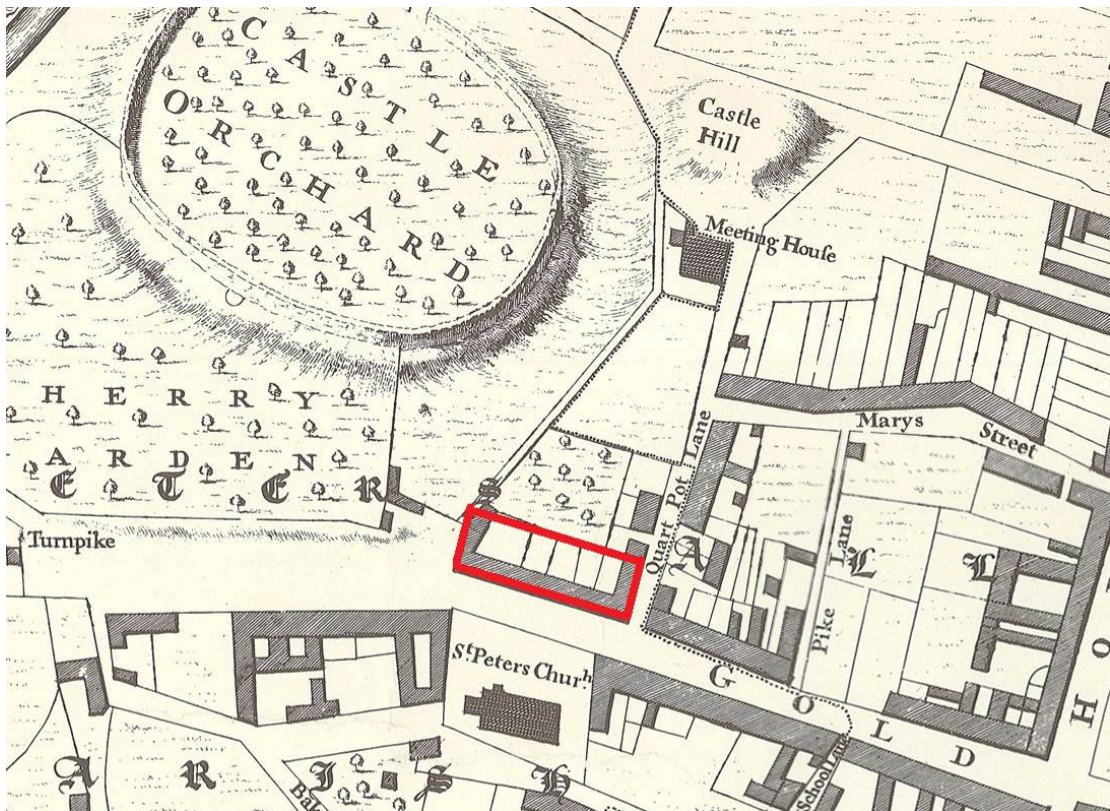
2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest being within the Saxon *burh* at the historic core of Northampton (HER1160). The predicted line of Northampton's Saxon defences follows the lower contour of the hillside within the curve of the River Nene (HER1160/2). A Saxon palace complex and deeply stratified urban archaeological remains were excavated on the slopes of the valley, 80m to the south of Marefair and directly adjacent to the west of the area is the site of Northampton's medieval Royal Castle (HER1160/268), M on Speed's map of 1610, where the Castle House site is roughly outlined in red (Fig 2).



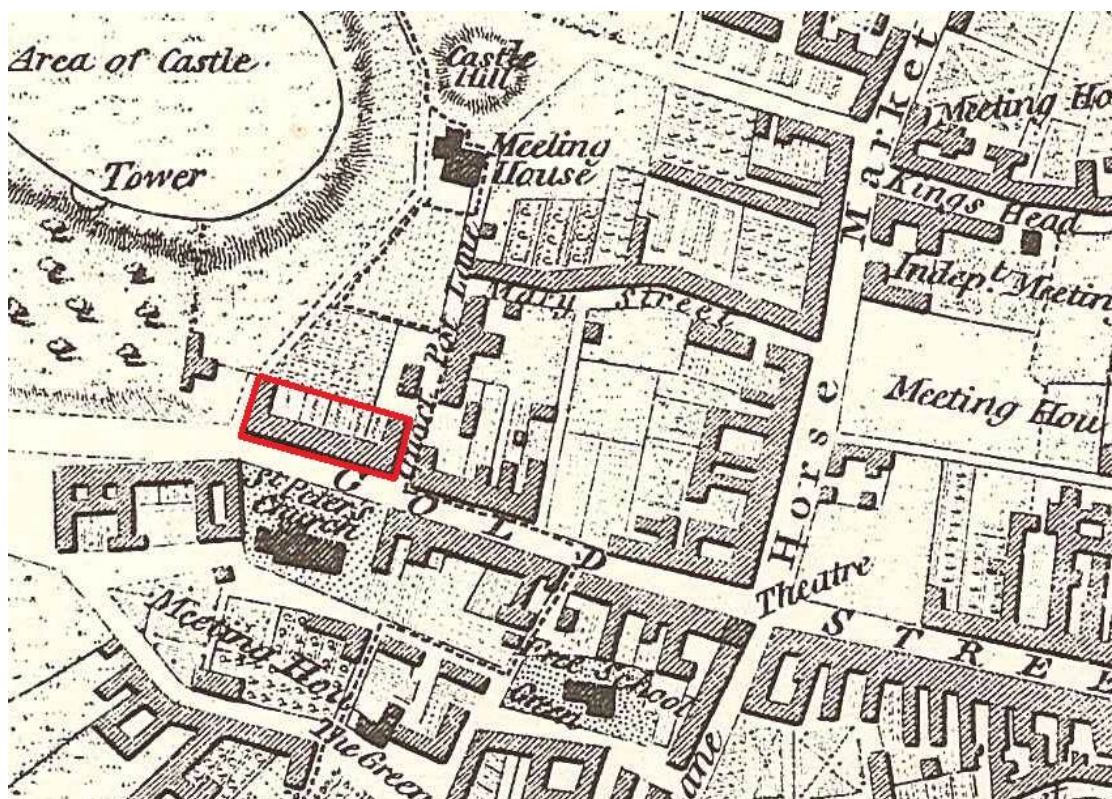
Speed's Map of Northampton 1610

Fig 2



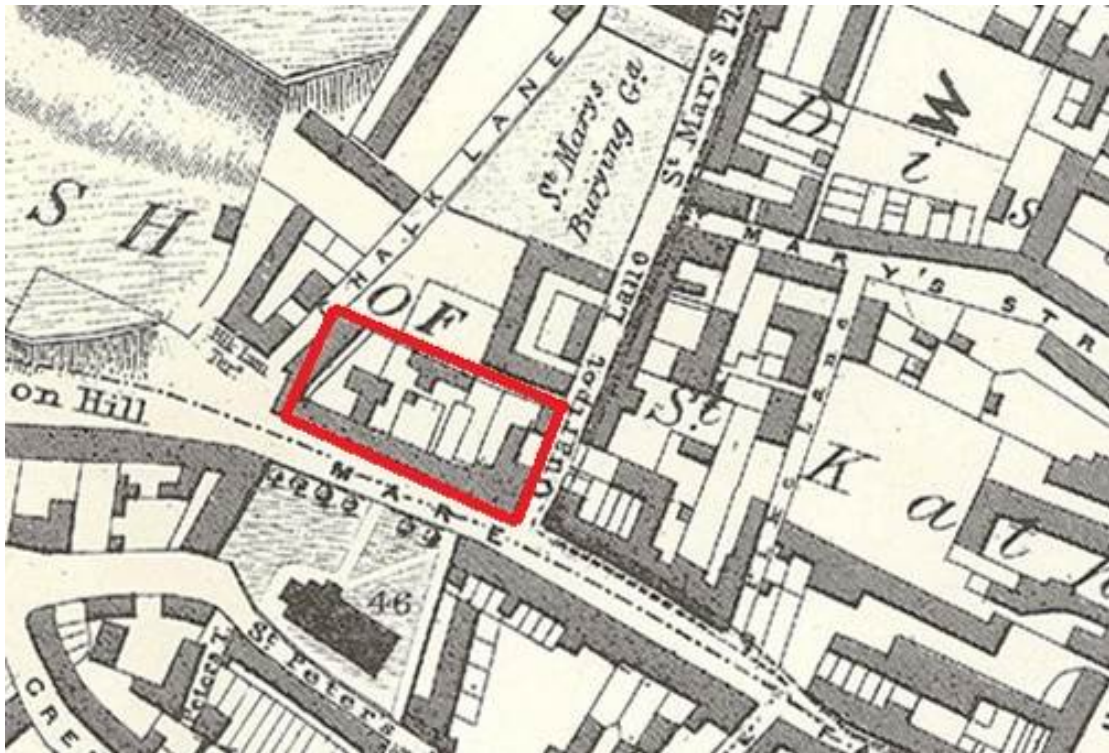
Noble and Butlin's map of 1747

Fig 3



Roper and Cole's map of 1807

Fig 4



Wood and Law's map of 1847

Fig 5

The cartographic evidence for the site starts with John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig 2), which shows the area around the site as wide streets with built up frontages. These are likely to be the result of Northampton's expansion during the late medieval period surviving into the 17th century and would have masked the earlier medieval structures. By 1747 the street frontage along Gold Street has become formalised with plots to the rear shown by Noble & Butlin (Fig 3). The street layout stays unchanged on the 1807 Roper and Cole Map of Northampton (Fig 4) until 1847 where Wood and Laws Map shows buildings to the west and north have been built in within the rear plots of land (Fig 5).

Archaeological excavations within the Saxon burh close to the present site have been conducted at Chalk Lane, to the north-west (William & Shaw 1981); on Black Lion Hill to the south-west (Shaw 1985); on St Peters Street (J Williams 1979); at the Saxon palace complex (J Williams 1985) and prior to the construction of Sol Central, adjacent to the east (Miller *et al* 2006). During the construction of Sol Central further archaeological investigation was carried out immediately behind Castle House on the east side of Chalk Lane car park that confirmed the presence of a disused burial ground belonging to the former Doddridge Church.

In the late 1970s an excavation was undertaken in the south-east part of the present site towards Quart Pot Lane (the southern end of Doddridge Street) by the Northampton Development Corporation. The excavations identified archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods (F Williams 1979), after which Castle House was constructed.

The digging out of the foundations for Castle House was observed (Leigh 2014) during which it was noted that within the footprint of the former building the natural substratum was extremely truncated, specifically where the basements and pile foundations were present. No archaeological material was identified or observed but the investigation was limited by the depth of excavation and safety requirements which prevented closer examination.

It was concluded that the construction of Castle House had probably involved ground reduction for the basements that resulted in the removal of any remaining archaeological material beyond the area excavated in 1977 (F Williams 1979).

Despite the damage recorded within the footprint, good preservation is known to the north of Castle house (Miller *et al* 2006) which may extend into the courtyard behind the former building.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the archaeological investigation was to recover information to assist in making future decisions regarding the planning requirements of the site.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development area;
- To assess the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits encountered;
- To provide any further information that may inform the needs for archaeological mitigation requirements during the development of the site, and in a manner consistent with the expectations of the local authority.

The project addressed the research aims outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA Northampton (Brown 2016) and was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *East Midlands Heritage; A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment* (Knight *et al* 2012).

4 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation comprised the excavation of five test pits measuring 5.0m by 5.0m, with stepped-out edges required for safety to reach the depth of natural geology or horizon of archaeological interest (Fig 6). Three of the test pits were located within the footprint of the former Castle House building where the natural stratum was expected to be heavily truncated with the remaining two test pits in the former courtyard targeting an area where archaeological remains survive intact beneath modern ground make up deposits. The test pits were repositioned slightly due to site conditions, restrictions for access and proximity to the boundary fence line.

The test pits were surveyed using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$

The excavation of the test pits used a JCB (4CX) mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision, to reveal archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area and scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum find retrieval. The test pits were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Archaeologically sensitive horizons will be subject to limited

hand excavation and auguring. All archaeological deposits identified during the course of the investigation were recorded following standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014).

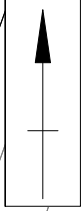
Any 19th-century features were mapped in extent, profile and recorded photographically. Archaeological features or deposits predating these were investigated and characterised. Deposit sequences were recorded using sectional details and drawings. Discrete features were half sectioned and slots excavated through linear features were a minimum of 1.0m in width. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record without first undertaking a full investigation.

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. Levels were related to the Ordnance Datum. Photographs were taken of all any relevant deposits using high resolution digital images and on 35mm monochrome print film.

Archaeological features were plotted on an overall plan at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:10. All levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.

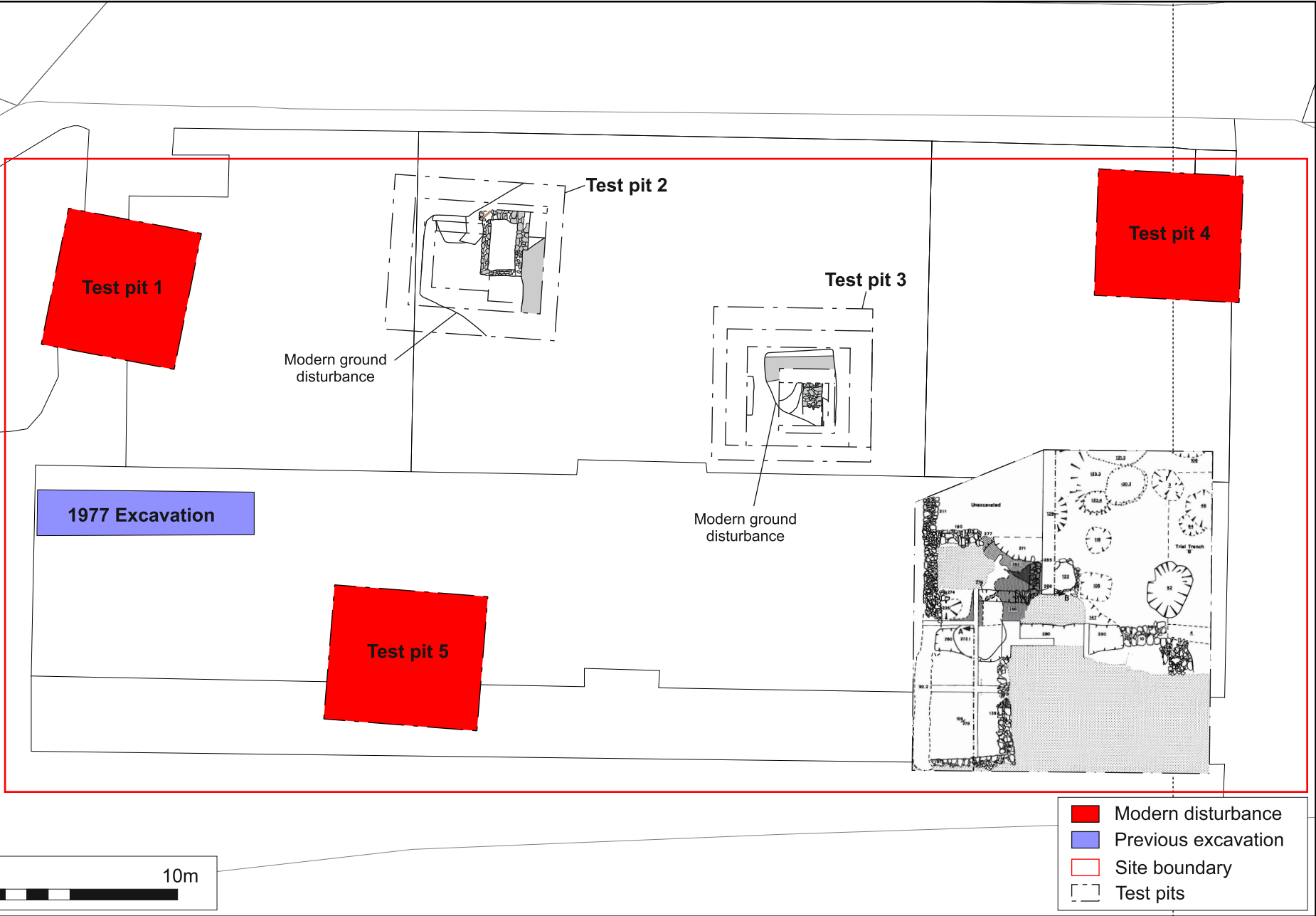
Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (ClfA 2014c; Walker 1990; Watkinson & Neal 2001). No contaminated finds or samples were retained. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected. Material that comprised a large quantity of a standard product, such as brick or tile, was retained as a sub-sample representing their typical composition. Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care in line with procedures outlined in First Aid for Finds (UKIC 1998).

Scale 1:250



Location of test pits and previous excavations

Fig 6



- Modern disturbance
- Previous excavation
- Site boundary
- Test pits

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General comments

The natural substrate consisted of orange-brown ironstone to the west, pale yellow-brown sands to the south and east, and reddish-brown clay with frequent small pebble inclusions to the north. It was reached at an average depth of 2.0m to 3.0m below the current ground surface, with the exception of Test Pit 2, which was at a depth of 1.50m. Demolition deposits were present across the site, and were overlain by loose mid brown topsoil, between 0.20m and 0.30m thick.

Test Pits 2 and 3 located within the yard area of the former building identified archaeological deposits dating to the medieval period, comprising a wall, pits and garden soils. Test Pit 2 also revealed a 19th-century ironstone building on its north-eastern edge. Test Pits 1, 4 and 5 located within the footprint of the former Castle House building encountered modern disturbance identified during its demolition (Leigh 2014), showing that the truncated natural stratum had removed any archaeological features that may have been present (Fig 6).

The feature dimensions and orientation are recorded in context index tables (Appendix).

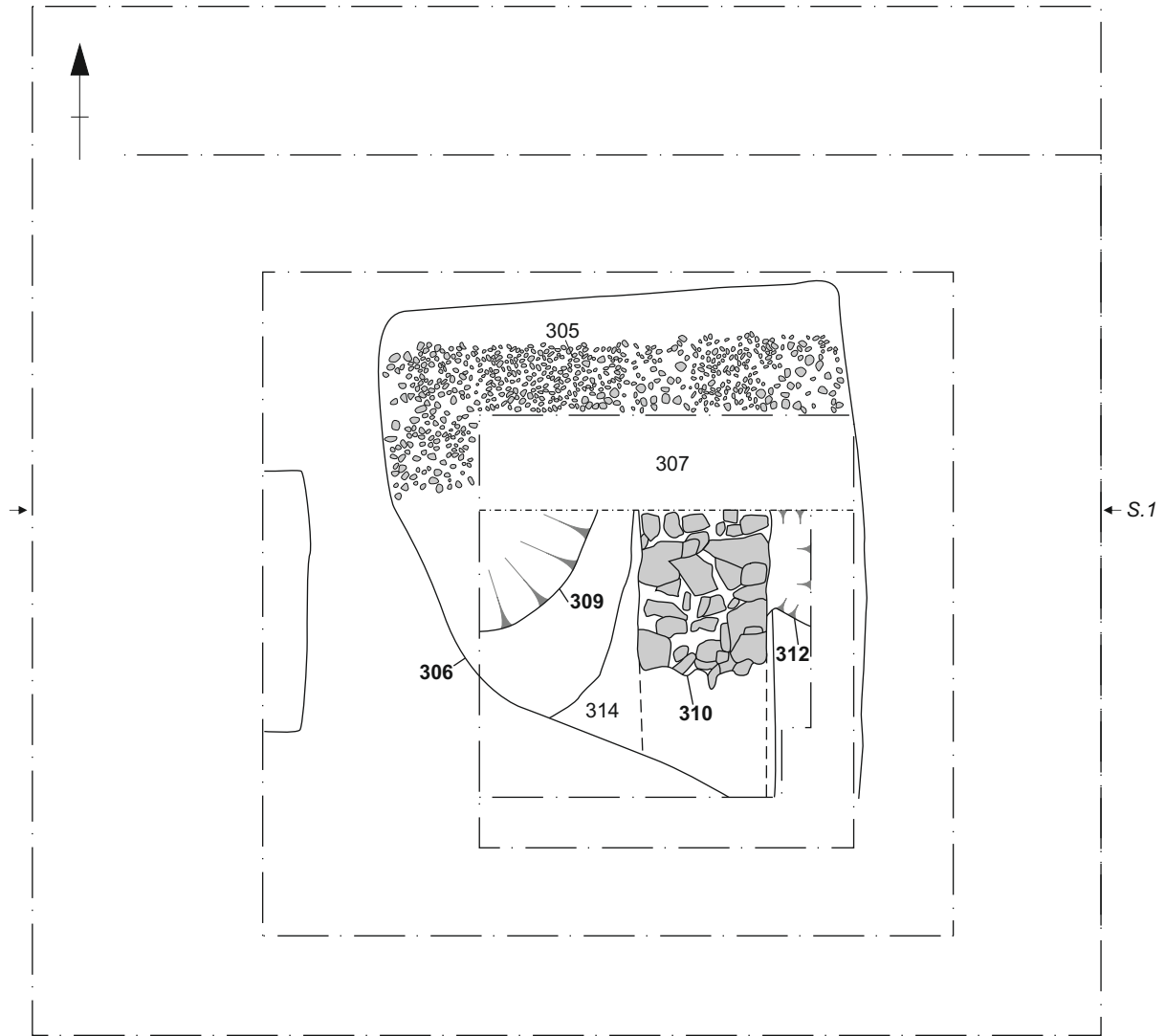
5.2 Medieval occupation

Medieval activity comprised two pits [309] and [312] located in Test Pit 3, which had been cut by an ironstone wall [310]. A loamy garden soil (314) was present around the pits and wall, a similar garden soil (212) was also encountered in Test Pit 2 (Figs 7 and 8).

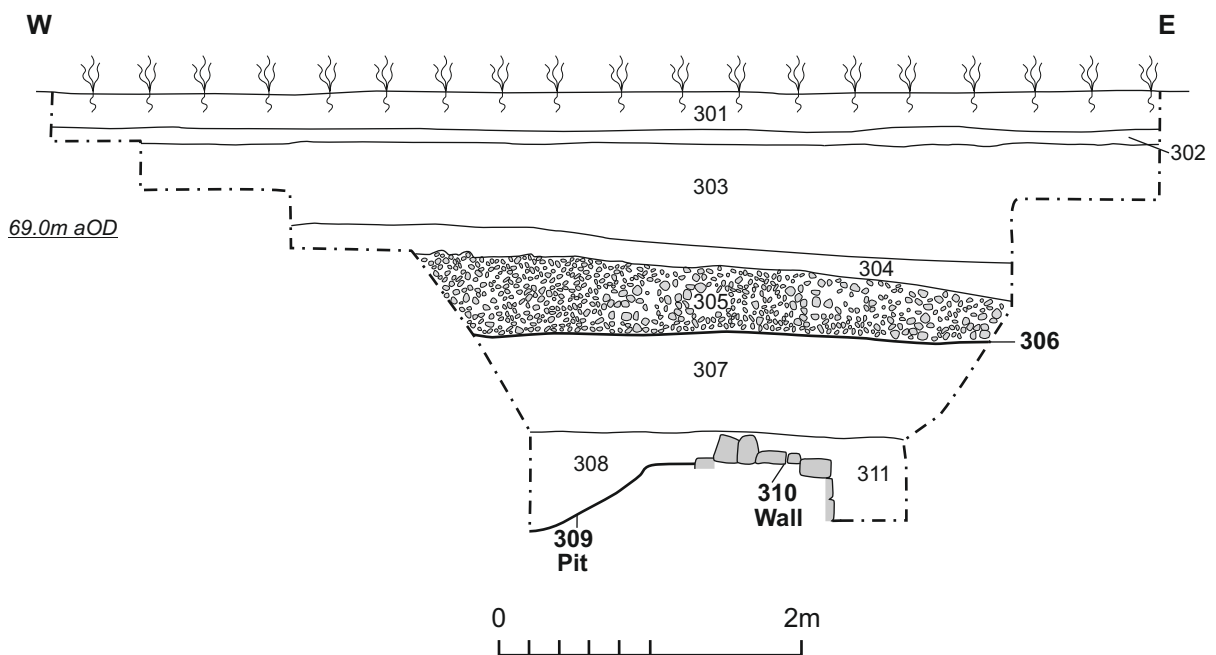


Test Pit 3, looking north Fig 7

Test Pit 3



Section 1



Scale 1:50

Test Pit 3, section and plan Fig 8

Test Pit 3 was located in the south-west area of the yard. There was a ridge of natural geology (313) at 67.84m above Ordnance Datum, comprising reddish-brown clay with frequent ironstone fragments. The natural had been cut by a circular pit [309], in the north-west corner of the test pit, with approximately a quarter of the pit visible. Pit [309] had a wide bowl-shaped profile. It was excavated to a depth of 0.80m where the edge of the pit extended beyond the test pit. The fill of mid grey-brown silty sandy clay (308) contained frequent small ironstone fragments and produced pottery dated to the 12th century (Fig 7, left side).

A second pit [312], in the north-east corner of the trench, had only its southern edge visible (Fig 9). The western edge was truncated by wall [310] that also cut the eastern edge of pit [309]. Pit [312] had a near vertical edge, visible to a depth of 0.75m, and had a fill of grey-brown silty sandy clay (311). The proximity of the pit to the test pit edge prevented further excavation, but auguring established that it had an overall depth of 1.60m. Pottery dating from the 12th century was recovered from the feature.

Wall [310] was 1.30m long by 0.80m wide, aligned north to south and was constructed from irregularly shaped ironstone fragments that were roughly coursed. The east side of the wall was visible in pit [312] and continued below the excavated depth of 0.70m (Fig 9). A layer of dark grey sandy soil (314) around the wall contained pottery dating from the mid-13th century and may indicate a date when the structure was in use.



Pit [309], wall [310] and pit [312], looking north-west

Fig 9

The southern end of the wall had been truncated by Castle House and it is likely it would have continued to the south and was part of the structure identified by the excavations in 1977 (F Williams 1979). Overlying the pits and wall was dark grey-brown silty sandy garden soil (307), up to 0.50m thick, which contained pottery dating

to the late 15th century. The soil layer had been truncated vertically by modern demolition deposits that cut sharply down from north to south [306] that has been infilled with layers of orangey-brown stone, sand and concrete rubble (302-305) that were seen cutting the base of the test pit on its southern edge (Fig 10).



Modern truncation [306], looking west

Fig 10

Test Pit 2 located on the west side of the yard area (Fig 6) also contained a garden soil layer dating to the 13th century that survived in the southern part of the area. A building wall in ironstone in the north-east corner of the test pit has been dated to the 19th century.

There was a garden soil (212), 0.40m thick, of dark grey sandy clay loam, similar to soil horizon (314) in Test Pit 3, which contained pottery dating to the 13th century (Fig 11). The geological horizon lay immediately below at 68.39m aOD, no archaeological features were revealed.

5.3 Post-medieval occupation

In the north-east edge of Test Pit 2 was a corner of a building constructed from ironstone blocks that cut the medieval garden soils and could be part of the structure shown on the 1847 map (Fig 5) on the northern edge of the site. The building consisted of two main walls [208] and [209] that had two smaller walls [211] and [210] forming a rectangular structure, possibly a lean-to on the south-west corner of the main building that was 3.0m long by 2.0m wide (Figs 11 and 12). This was sealed beneath demolition deposits 1.20m thick overlain by topsoil 0.25m thick.



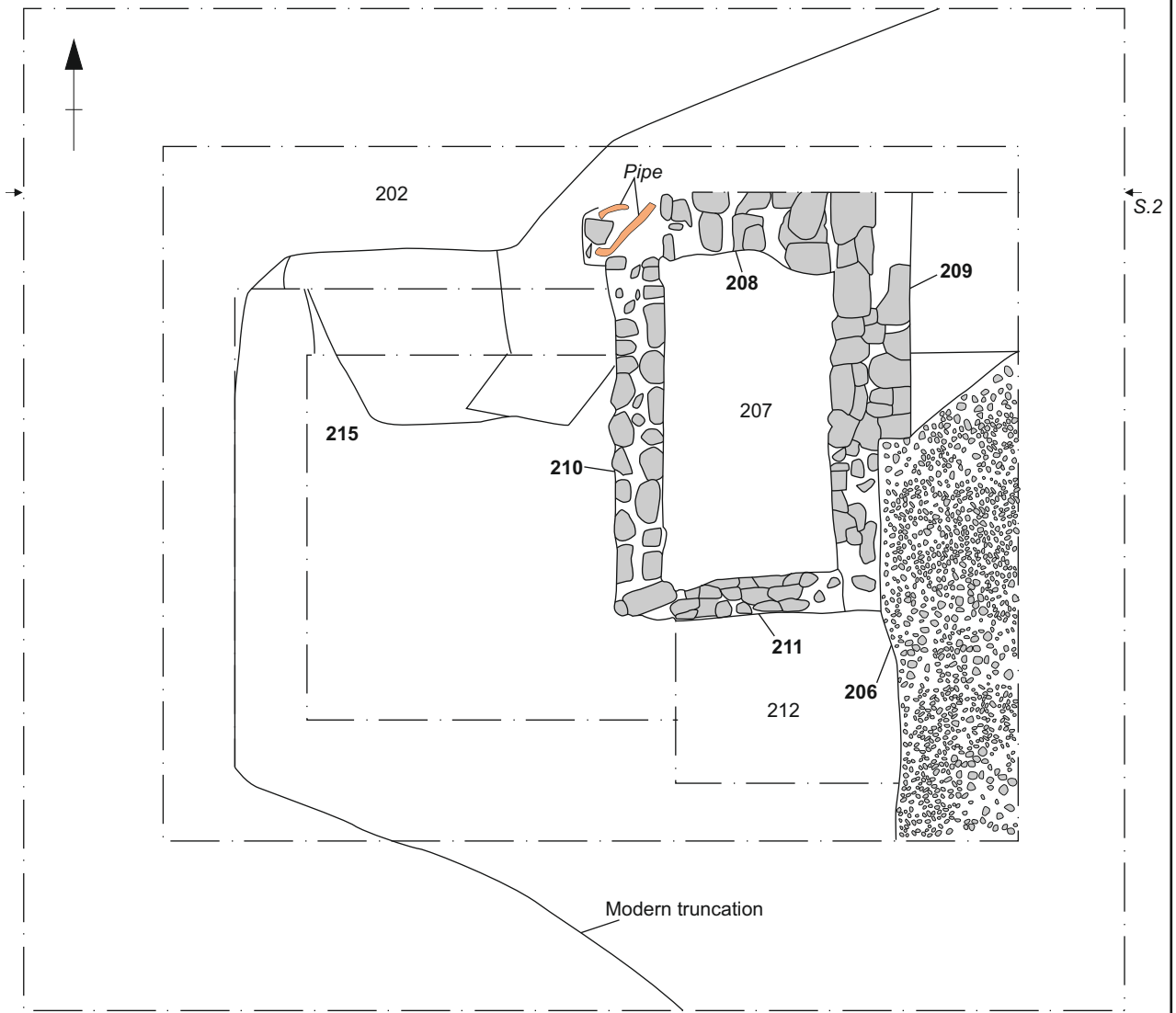
19th-century building in Test Pit 2, looking north

Fig 11

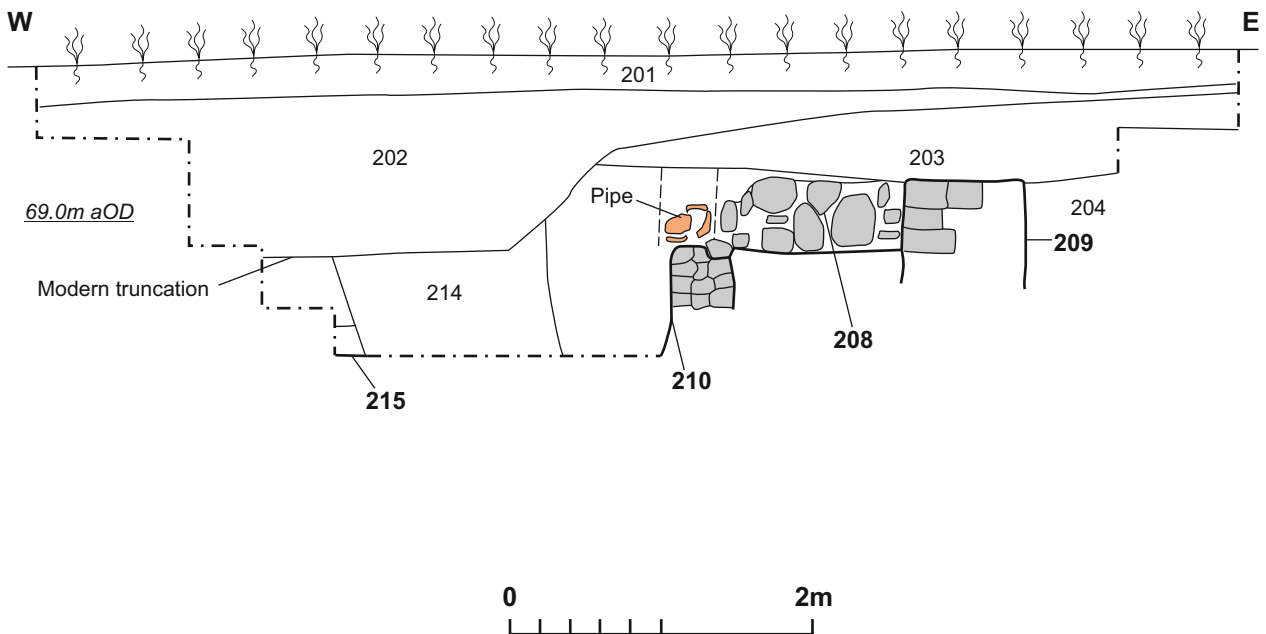
Wall [208], aligned east to west, was partially beneath the northern edge of the test pit. It was constructed from roughly-faced and squared ironstone fragments that ranged between 250mm long by 200mm wide by 150mm high up to 400mm long by 300mm wide by 300mm high and was roughly horizontally-coursed. The wall was visible for 1.31m but had been cut by a modern pipe at its western end. The eastern end formed a corner to wall [209] which was aligned north to south that was 3.0m long by 0.60m wide and survived over five courses high, continuing below the level of excavation. Constructed using the same materials and prepared in the same style, wall [209] was bonded together using a hard sandy cement-based mortar.

Walls [211] and [210] formed the opposing sides to the building, constructed from smaller ironstone fragments with frequent broken brick that appeared tacked on to the main walls, likely at a later date. Wall [211] formed the south wall of the building, was 0.38m wide and aligned east to west. It was roughly constructed but the south face was well made indicating it was likely to be seen from outside. Wall [210], aligned north to south, was 0.40m wide and survived to seven courses high (Fig 13). The building was filled by mixed dark-grey silty clay (207) that contained 19th-century stoneware pottery sherds.

Test Pit 2



Section 2





Walls [210] and [209], looking east

Fig 13

The south-eastern corner of the building has been truncated by a large modern pit [206] that was filled with building stone. The western edge of the test pit contained modern demolition deposits from the former Castle House building that were still visible in the base of the test pit at a depth of 2.0m (Fig 14).



Modern truncation in Test Pit 2, looking west

Fig 14

5.4 Modern disturbance

Test Pits 1, 4 and 5 were located in the footprint of the former Castle House building and identified modern disturbance caused by its construction (Fig 6). The natural substratum was truncated on the east, west and south sides of the site to 66.70m above Ordnance Datum.

Test Pit 1, located in the north-east corner of the site, encountered undisturbed ironstone deposits (104) at 66.73m above Ordnance Datum. The natural geology was overlain by a demolition deposit (103) that consisted of large broken concrete fragments, reinforced concrete, brick and metal within a sandy matrix that was 1.80m thick. The demolition deposit was overlain by mixed grey-brown clay (102) that also contained broken brick and concrete, covering the area to a depth of 0.50m thick. The topsoil overlay this and was 0.30m thick (Fig 15).



Test Pit 1, looking south

Fig 15

Test Pit 4, located in the north-east corner of the site (Fig 6), was excavated to 66.88m above Ordnance Datum where the natural geology was pale yellow-brown sands (405). The sand was overlain by dark grey silty clay (404) that contained brick fragments and was 0.55m thick. Overlying the clay was a mixed demolition layer (403) that was very loose rubble with ironstone fragments, broken concrete slabs, metal struts and bricks that was up to 2.0m thick.

Sealing the rubble was a layer of dark grey silty clay (402) that contained building stone and brick fragments that was 0.40m thick. The topsoil that covered the area was mid grey sandy clay (401) that was 0.25m thick (Fig 16). The test pit had an overall depth of 3.38m, a large concrete block on the southern edge and the proximity to the fence line prevented a wider area being opened up.



Test Pit 4, looking north-west

Fig 16

Test Pit 5 located along the southern boundary of the site was excavated to 66.70m above Ordnance Datum, where the natural geology (505) was pale yellow-brown and orange sand (Fig 17).



Test Pit 5, looking west

Fig 17

The natural was overlain by a demolition deposit (504) that was dark grey silty clay with frequent brick fragments, plastic pipe and scrap metal that was 0.30m thick.

Overlying the clay was a rubble demolition deposit (503) that contained concrete rubble, slabs, and broken brick and reinforced concrete fragments. The rubble deposit was up to 1.50m thick and was overlain by a layer of stoney dark grey clay (502) that was 0.60m thick with frequent brick fragments throughout. The mid grey sandy clay topsoil (501) present over the area was 0.12m thick.

The test pit was excavated to a depth of 2.55m below the current ground surface. Through the centre of the test pit, aligned north to south, was a gravel filled service trench that prevented further expansion of the test pit to the east.

6 THE POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 69 sherds with a total weight of 778g. It was all medieval or later and was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 12 sherds, 63g
 F205: Stamford Ware, AD850-1250. 1 sherd, 3g
 F319: Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware, AD1150-1400.6 sherds, 175g
 F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, AD1225-1400. 1 sherd, 11g
 F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, early 13th-16th centuries. 4 sherds, 28g
 F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250-1600. 6 sherds, 49g
 F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 27 sherds, 306g
 F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 63g
 F401: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, AD1450-1550. 1 sherd, 6g
 F404: Cistercian Ware, AD1470-1600. 1 sherd, 6g
 F438: English Stoneware, late 17th-18th centuries. 4 sherds, 150g
 F1000: Misc 19th- and 20th-century Wares. 4 sherds, 18g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the town (eg. McCarthy 1979), and suggests that the main period of activity at the site was from the late 11th/12th centuries to the 14th century. Common late medieval wares, such as Late Medieval Oxidized Ware (F401) and Cistercian Ware (F404), are very scarce.

The bulk of the medieval assemblage comprises jars, along with smaller quantities of bowls and jugs, which is typical of the period. Soil layer (314) included a fragment of a lamp in St Neots ware (F200). These are not uncommon in Northampton (*ibid*). The sherds of English Stoneware (F438) all came from the same vessel, an imitation Rhenish Stoneware jug, usually an early product of the English Stoneware tradition (Gaimster 1997, 211).

The assemblage is in good condition and appears reliably stratified, with the sherd size generally fairly large.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	F206	F200	F330	F319	F360	F320	F324	F329	F401	F404	F438	F1000	Date
Context	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	
207/	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/150	4/18	Modern
211/	-	-	6/56	6/175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	mid-12th century
212/	-	-	-	-	-	1/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	13th century
307/	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/6	1/6	-	-	Late 15th century
308/	1/3	2/7	5/42	-	1/53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12th century
311/	-	7/27	1/49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12th century
314/	-	3/29	15/159	-	1/10	-	4/28	6/49	-	-	-	-	Mid- 3th century
Total	1/3	12/63	27/306	6/175	2/63	1/11	4/28	6/49	1/6	1/6	4/150	4/18	

7 DISCUSSION

The construction of the building of Castle House has most likely removed all but the largest archaeological remains along the east, west and south boundary of the site. It is possible that some of the larger features may have survived in isolated pockets within the footprint but they are likely to be heavily truncated.

The yard area was identified as a possible location for the survival of archaeological horizons and the investigation contained intact medieval deposits dating from the 12th to 14th centuries that have been buried beneath up to 2.30m of overburden deposits. The earliest features were pits that dated to the 12th century. An ironstone wall indicates the site went through a change of use during the 13th century and was probably contemporary with the malting ovens excavated in 1977 by Francis Williams (1979) on the southern area of the site.

Surviving garden soils dating to the late 15th century may represent a period of abandonment or the discontinuation of the industrial activity in the area, which may have occurred as Northampton expanded and new street layouts were formalised. as recorded on John Speed's map of Northampton 1610.

The site remained unchanged until the mid-19th century when additional structures were built in the rear plots of the houses fronting onto Marefair. A stone building was identified on the northern boundary of the site dating to this period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ClfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered 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
- Cooper, N J, (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester, **13**
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- EH 1991 *Management of archaeological projects*, second edition (MAP2), English Heritage
- EH 1997 *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda*, English Heritage
- Gaimster, D, 1997 *German Stoneware*, British Museum Publications
- Foard, G, 1995 The early topography of Northampton and its suburbs, *Northamptonshire Archaeol*, **26**, 109-122
- HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England
- Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust, monog, **6**
- Leigh, D, 2014 *A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Castle House, Marefair, Northampton*, MOLA Northampton report, **14/244**
- McCarthy, M, 1979 The Pottery, in JH Williams 1979, 151-242
- Miller, P, Wilson, T, and Harward, C, 2006 *Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement at Sol Central, Marefair, Northampton: Archaeological Investigations 1998-2002*, Museum of London Archaeology Service
- HE 2015 *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MoRPHE), The Project Managers Guide*, Historic England
- MOLA 2014 *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, MOLA Northampton
- MOLA 2016 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological test pit investigation at the former Castle House, Marefair, Northampton*, MOLA Northampton
- Shaw, M, 1985 Excavations on a Saxon and medieval site at Black Lion Hill, Northampton, *Northamptonshire Archaeol*, **20**, 113-138
- Shaw, M, 1996 The excavation of a late 15th-17th-century tanning complex at The Green, Northampton, *Post-medieval Archaeol*, **30**, 63-128
- Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation
- Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 2001 *First Aid for Finds*, RESCUE Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section
- UKIC 1983 *Guidelines for the Presentation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*, Guidelines, **2**, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation
- Williams, F, 1979 Excavations on Marefair, Northampton, 1977, *Northamptonshire Archaeol*, **14**, 38-79
- Williams, J H, 1979 *St Peter's Street, Northampton: Excavations 1973-1976*, Northampton Development Corporation, Archaeol Monog, **2**
- Williams, J H, and Shaw, M, 1981 Excavations in Chalk Lane, Northampton, 1975-1978, *Northamptonshire Archaeol*, **16**, 87-135
- Williams, J H, and Shaw, M, and Denham, V, 1985 *Middle Saxon palaces at Northampton*, Northampton Development Corporation, Archaeological monog, **4**

Maps

BGS 2001 *Solid Geology: UK South sheet, Scale 1:625,000*, British Geological survey

MOLA Northampton
June 2016

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	8.0m x 7.0m N-S	474946, 260440	69.31m aOD	2.50m 66.73m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay with broken brick inclusions.	0.20m thick	-
102	Layer	Mixed grey-brown clay with frequent stone rubble.	0.50m thick	-
103	Demolition layer	Rubble demolition within a sandy matrix. Broken concrete, brick, metal.	1.80m thick	-
104	Natural	Ironstone geology	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	8.0m x 7.50m E-W	474963, 260441	70.30m aOD	1.90m 68.40m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay loam	0.30m thick	-
202	Deposit	Rubble infill from demolition	0.20m thick	-
203	Deposit	Sandy demolition deposit	-	-
204	Layer	Compact yellow-brown sand with ironstone fragments	-	-
205	Fill	Loose sub-rounded building stone and yellow-brown sand	1.0m thick	-
206	Modern pit	N-S aligned modern pit on east side of test pit	1.0m wide 3.50m long	-
207	Layer	Layer within building. Dark grey mottled silty clay	1.30m wide 2.40m long	Pottery 19th century
208	Wall	E-W aligned ironstone wall up to 4 courses high bonded with sandy mortar. North wall	0.41m wide 1.31m long 0.45m high	-
209	Wall	N-S aligned ironstone wall up to 5 courses high stretcher bond with sandy mortar. East wall of building	0.60m wide 3.0m long 0.45m high	-
210	Wall	N-S wall made from ironstone and bricks. West wall 7 courses high	0.40m wide 3.0m long	-
211	Wall	E-W aligned wall made from ironstone and bricks. South wall	0.38m wide 1.50m long	-
212	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy clay loam with frequent pebbles	0.40m thick	Pottery 13th century
213	Natural	Ironstone	-	-
214	Fill	Dark grey silty clay	-	-
215	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit, aligned N-S. unexc	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	7.50m x 7.0m E-W	474978, 260435	70.19m aOD	2.35m 67.84m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay loam	0.30m thick	-
302	Layer	Mottled grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and brick fragments	0.20m thick	-
303	Demolition	Mixed dark yellow brown/ grey-brown sandy soil with concrete, brick fragments	0.70m thick	-
304	Demolition layer	Mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones very compact	0.35m thick	-
305	Demolition deposit	Deposit of sub-angular building stone and yellow-brown sand	0.90m wide 3.15m long	-
306	Cut modern truncation	Truncation/ cut. Steep slope to south cutting the natural and archaeology	7.0m visible	-
307	Soil layer	Dark grey-brown silty sandy garden soil	2.40m wide 2.5m visible length 0.50m deep	Pottery 15th century
308	Fill	Firmly compact mid grey-brown silty sandy clay. Small stones and occasional large ironstone fragments	0.80m thick	Pottery 13th century
309	Pit	Circular pit with bowl shaped profile in north-west corner of test pit.	0.90m wide 0.80m long 0.80m deep	-
310	Wall	N-S aligned ironstone wall, irregular shaped fragments of stone roughly coursed. Possible clay bonding.	0.80m wide 1.30m long 0.7m high (depth of exc)	-
311	Fill	Grey-brown silty sandy clay with occasional small stones.	0.70m deep (exc) 1.6m deep (inc auger)	Pottery 13th century
312	Pit	Possibly rectangular pit aligned N-S. on north-east corner of test pit and cut by wall [310]. Near vertical edge on south side	0.30m wide(slot) 0.75m long 0.70m deep (exc) 1.6m deep (inc auger)	-
313	Natural	Ironstone and reddish – brown clay	-	-
314	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy clay loam with frequent pebbles	0.20m thick	Pottery 13th century

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	7.0m x 7.0m N/A	474996, 260442	70.26m aOD	3.38m 66.88m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay loam.	0.20m thick	-
402	Layer	Mixed sandy clay layer with stone and brick fragments throughout	0.30m thick	-
403	Layer	Demolition layer, very loose sand and ironstone with concrete, brick rubble and metal struts.	2.0m thick	-
404	Layer	Mixed grey silty clay and layer with brick fragments	0.60m thick	-
405	Natural	Pale yellow-brown sands	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
5	7.0m x 7.0m N/A	474960, 260423	69.25m aOD	2.55m 66.70 m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	mid greyish-brown silty clay loam	0.20m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mixed sandy clay layer with frequent stone and brick fragments throughout	0.50m thick	-
503	Layer demolition	Mixed demolition layer with orangey-brown sand and stone. Frequent concrete slabs, bricks	1.60m thick	-
504	Layer demolition	Dark grey clays with frequent brick fragments, plastic pipe	0.20m thick	-
505	Natural	Pale yellow-brown sands	-	-



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