



**A programme of archaeological observation,
investigation and recording of works on land
south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire
April 2016 – May 2017**

Report No. 17/103

Project Manager: Adam Yates

Authors: Tim Sharman

Illustrator: Olly Dindol



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Project code: ENN 108293

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Author: Tim Sharman

Illustrator: Olly Dindol

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MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Adam Yates BA MCifA

Text: Tim Sharman BA

Fieldwork: Chris Jones

Tim Sharman

Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD

Illustrations: Olly Dindol BSc

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molarnort1 - 293028	
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire		
Short description	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by CGMS Consulting Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire, prior to the construction of seven residential dwellings with associated landscape and infrastructure. During the works, a former field boundary of possibly modern date and the possible remains of a petrol station and were found.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None known		
Current Land use	Former area of grassland		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Modern		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c 0.32ha		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 59317 725000		
Height OD	c 130m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Chris Clarke (CgMs Consulting)		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Adam Yates (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body			
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19/04/2016		
End Date	23/05/2017		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	ENN108293	None	
Paper		Watching brief forms, permatrace plans	
Digital	MOLA Northampton	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire, April 2016 – May 2017		
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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 The field boundary ditch
 - 4.3 The layer of modern demolition rubble
 - 5 DISCUSSION
- BIBLIOGRAPHY

Figures

Front cover: The site looking north-west

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Areas of archaeological observation

Fig 3: Ditch [605], south-west facing section

Fig 4: Ditch [005]/[605], looking north-west

Fig 5: Ditch [005]/[605], section looking north-east

Fig 6: Layer of modern demolition rubble (006) looking south-east

Fig 7: Plot 1, south-eastern corner, footings trenches, looking north-east

Fig 8: Plot 2, north-western corner, footings trench section, looking north-west

Fig 9: Plot 3, north-western side, footings trench section, looking south east

Fig 10: Plot 4, south-eastern corner, footings trench section, looking north west

Fig 11: Plot 5 garage, footings trenches, looking north

Fig 12: Plot 6, exploratory trench, looking north

Fig 13: Retaining Wall trench looking south-east

Rear cover: The site prior to excavation work, looking south-east

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire

April 2016 – May 2017

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by CGMS Consulting Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire, prior to the construction of seven residential dwellings with associated landscape and infrastructure. During the works, a former field boundary of possibly modern date and the possible remains of a petrol station and were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) had been commissioned by CGMS Consulting Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication on land south of Main Road, Crick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 3917 72500, Fig 1) The archaeological work was carried out during development. The archaeological works were undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council and in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2015).

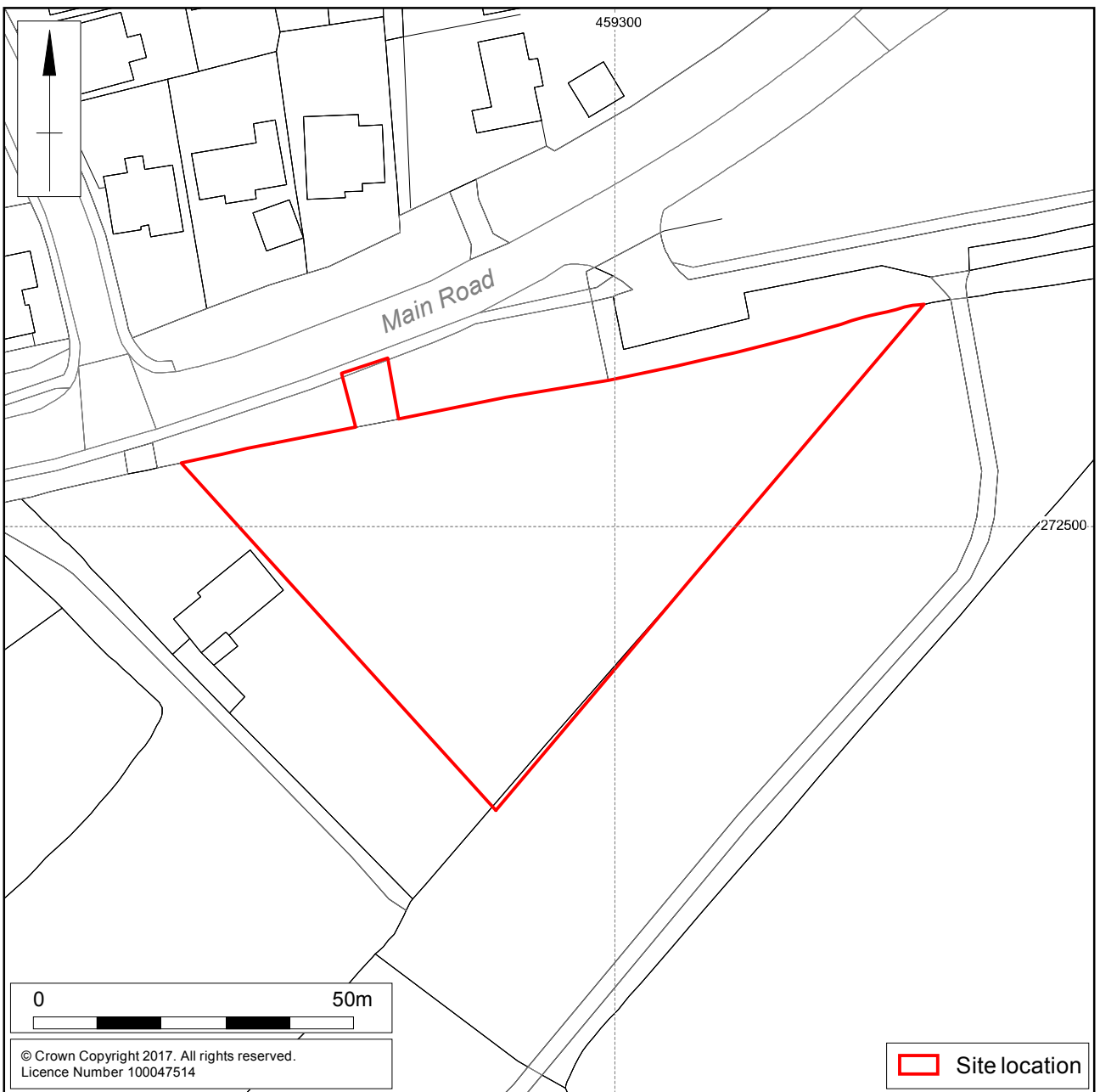
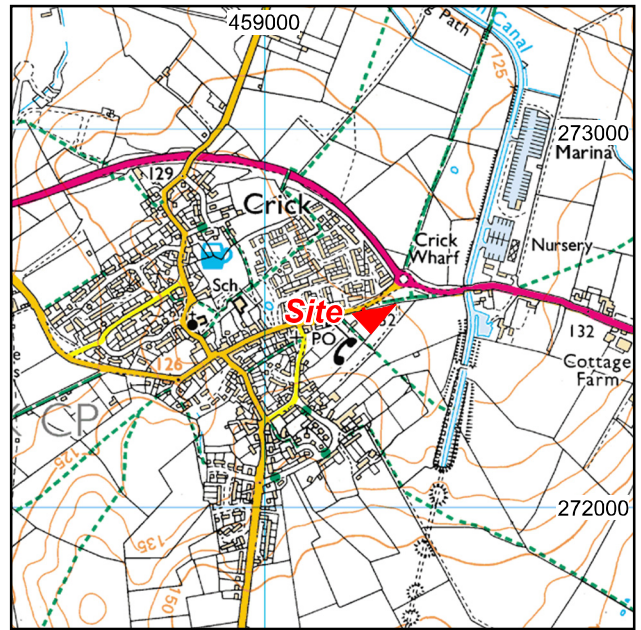
Works were in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The site is located on land to the south of Main Road in the historic village of Crick (SP 59317 72500). Crick is situated about 18km north-west of Northampton. The development area comprises a small triangular plot of land c0.32ha in size. The site is bounded by Main Road and a footpath to the north and by undeveloped arable land to the south-west and south-east. On the western side, the area is bordered by a single detached dwelling and garage. The study site lies close to, but beyond, the historic core at Crick.

The site is essentially level, lying at approximately 130m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying sedimentary bedrock geology comprises Dyrham Formation siltstone, edged to the east by Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2015). The soil type comprises slowly permeable seasonably waterlogged clayey soil, sometimes overlain by fine loamy soil, of the Denchworth formation (LAT 1983).

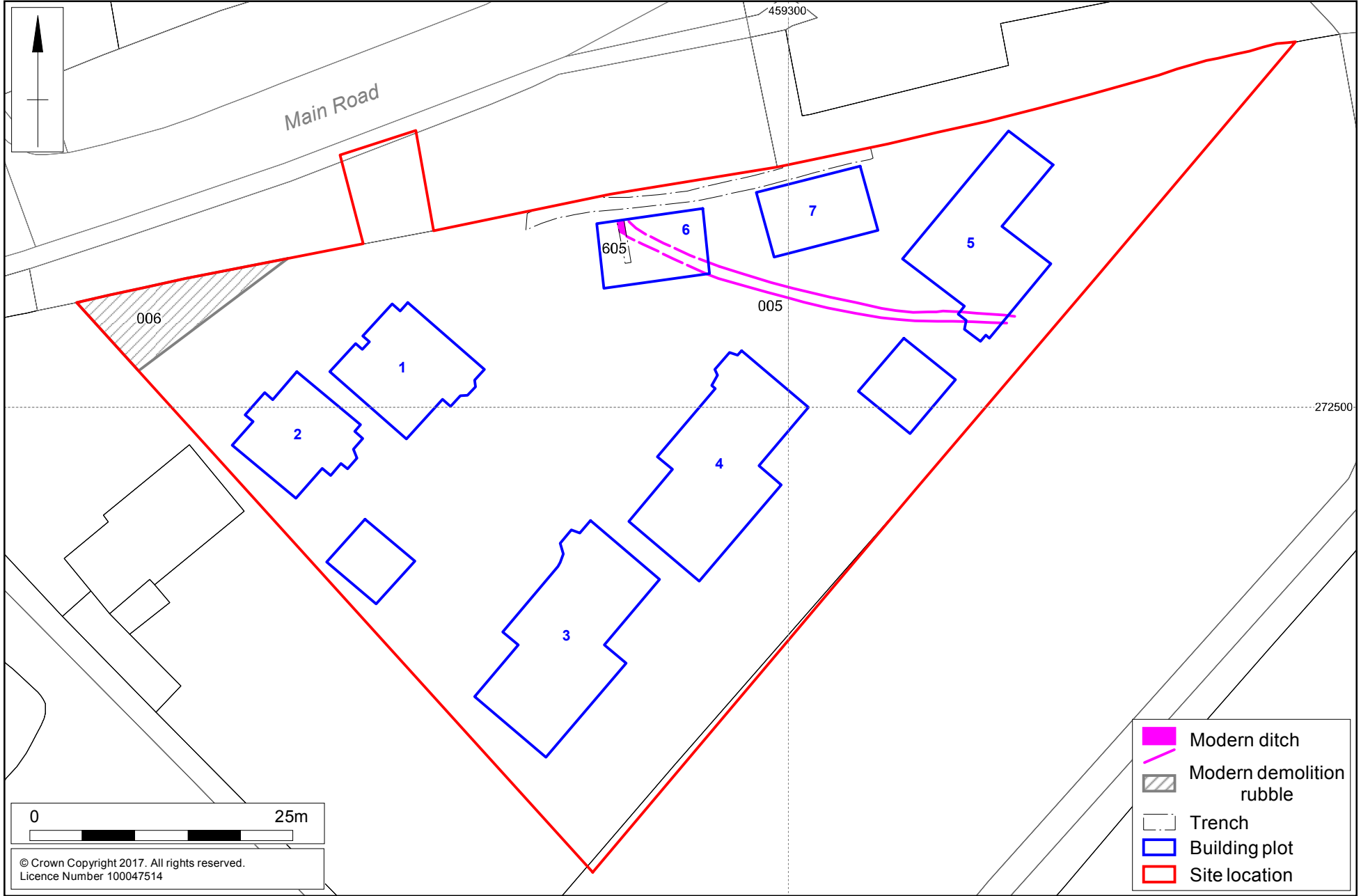


Scale 1:1000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:500 (A4)

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2



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- Modern ditch
- Modern demolition rubble
- Trench
- Building plot
- Site location

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A Desk-Based Assessment had previously been undertaken by CgMs Consulting Ltd, which utilised a search of the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER), aerial photographs and historic map regression to assess the archaeological potential of the site (Butler 2015). The following historical summary is drawn from that document.

There are no records on the HER relating to the prehistoric periods within the development site or within a 500m radius of it. Extensive settlement was uncovered during works for the Daventry Rail Freight Terminal, c2.5km west of Crick (Masefield *et al* 2015). Iron Age enclosures have also previously been identified in land off Watford Road, c750m to the south-west of the site (Clements and Simmonds 2015).

There are no records of finds or activity of the Roman period within the development site or within a 500m radius of it. Again, some activity is known from the wider area. The Roman road of Watling Street passes c1.7km west of the study site, and a possible Roman settlement site has been identified 750m west of the site, from finds of Roman pottery on Church Street.

There are no features of Anglo-Saxon or early medieval date recorded within the site or from within a 0.5km radius. A quantity of late Saxon St Neots ware pottery was found during trial trenching c250m west of the study site.

Settlement at Crick is first documented in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The core of the medieval settlement lay c500m west of the study site, around the Grade I Listed village church (St Margaret of Antioch). This church includes elements dating from the 12th century, although it is now predominantly of 14th-15th-century date. The medieval settlement is thought to extend to around 100m west of the study site. Settlement evidence from this date survived as earthworks of hollow-ways and a series of long closes aligned east-west, bounded by low scarps. These were located c150m north-west of the study site. Butler (2015) suggests that the date of abandonment of this part of Crick village may have occurred around 1380. Previous trial trench excavation of the plots have supported this date, giving evidence for occupation between the 13th and 14th centuries.

Crick contained two manor houses in the medieval period. Vyntner's Manor lay c450m south-west of the site, and contained a chapel dedicated to St Nuvien. The site lies in an area which would have been part of the open field system during this period, although Butler notes that ridge and furrow have not previously been mapped on the study site.

Historic maps from 1779 to the mid-20th century do not indicate any notable changes to the development of the site or its layout. The 1955 Ordnance Survey marks a structure that has been erected on the western edge of the study site. This structure was removed by the 1991 Ordnance Survey map, although another building was now in existence on the western edge of the field. Aerial photographs from 2004-2010 show that the site remained undeveloped, edged by mature trees.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the observation and recording works were to:

- mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;

- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks as relevant depending upon the results of the work (Cooper 2006, Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012).

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological fieldwork comprised the continuous observation of removal of overburden to the required formation depth or the highest archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. This was followed by the investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are revealed. The monitoring and recording covered all development groundworks, including services, access, and landscaping. Two of the plots (6 and 7) were excavated without archaeological supervision though a retaining wall on the northern sides of the plots was observed (Fig 13). A trench was excavated subsequently in Plot 6 to determine whether any features were present (Fig 12).

The archaeological monitoring and recording work recorded the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

A toothless grading bucket was used for the removal of topsoil and subsoil down to the final formation level or identified archaeological deposits.

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a). All works conformed to the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015). All site recording procedures are detailed in MOLA Northampton's in-house manual (MOLA 2014), which is issued to all staff.

The archaeological investigation and recording took place in variable weather conditions on 24 separate days between 19 April 2016 and 23 of May 2017 during the stripping of topsoil and subsoil from the site, followed by the excavation of access roads, footings trenches, a retaining wall and associated works for seven new detached dwellings (Plots 1-7).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

Three types of natural substrate were encountered: On the floor of the footings trenches in Plots 1-5 and the retaining wall trench, at a depth of c1.7m below the surface a layer of mid blue-grey clay (105, 205, 305, 405, 505, 705) was noted (Figs 7-11, 13). Overlying this was a c1m deep layer of mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay (104, 204, 304, 404, 504, 704) (Figs 7-11,13), above which was a layer of orange-brown silty clay (003, 103, 203, 303, 403, 503, 603, 703) (Figs 7-13).

Overlying the natural substrate was a 0.25m deep layer of dark yellow-brown sandy clay loam subsoil with a few small stone inclusions (002). The topsoil consisted of a 0.3m thick layer of dark brown loam with a few small stone inclusions (001).

4.2 The field boundary ditch

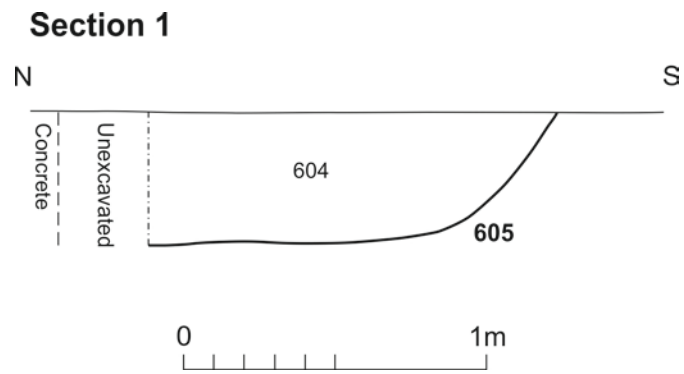
In the north-eastern part of the site, initial topsoil and subsoil stripping revealed a ditch [005]/[605], c40m long aligned in roughly an east to west direction. Some fragments of modern glass bottles and tins (not retained) were present on the surface of this feature (Figs 2-5). A sondage excavated within the previously unobserved Plot 6 revealed the ditch to be 1.4m wide by 0.45 deep with a U-shaped profile (Figs 2, 4-5). The fill (004)/(604) consisted of a dark grey-brown sandy clay loam with occasional small rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone together with numerous fragments of tree branches and roots were also present within the fill.

4.3 The layer of modern demolition rubble

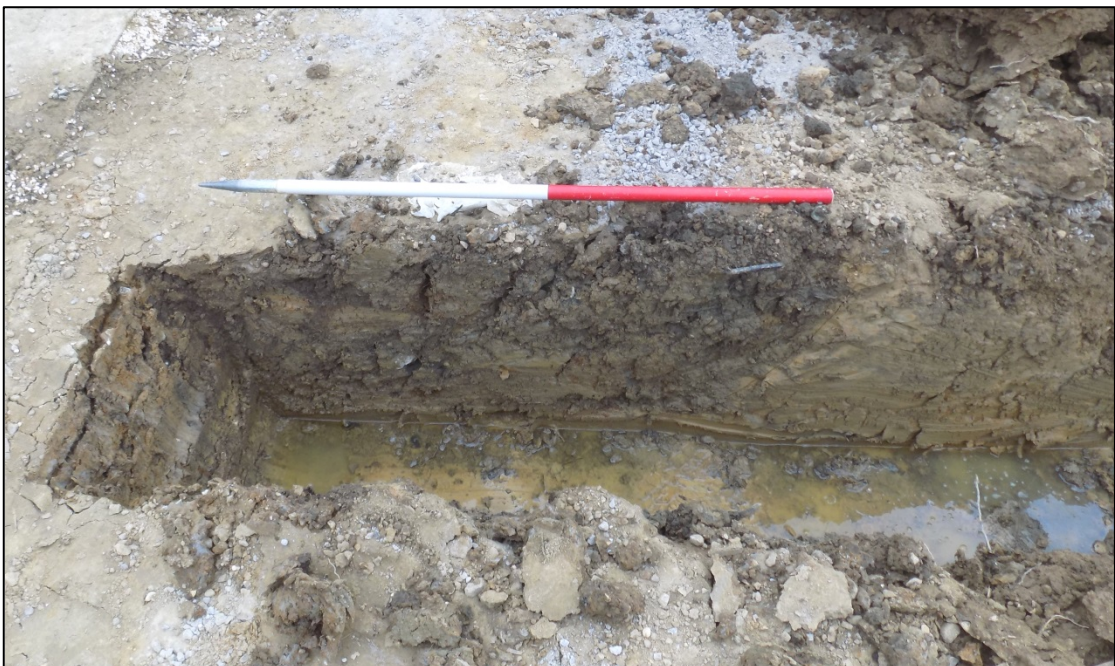
In the extreme north-western corner of the site a layer of modern building rubble (006) including brick, glass and metal was revealed during the initial soil strip (Figs 2, 6).



Ditch [005]/[605], looking north-west Fig 3



Ditch [605], south-west facing section Fig 4



Ditch [005]/[605], section looking north-east Fig 5



Layer of modern demolition rubble (006) looking south-east Fig 6

5 DISCUSSION

The linear ditch revealed in plan in the north-eastern corner of the site and in section within Plot 6 was probably a field boundary and drainage ditch. It is most likely to be of modern (possibly early 20th-century) date. This feature does not appear on the historic mapping sequence, and it is therefore likely that it was a short-lived feature.

The spread of modern building rubble in the extreme north-western corner of the site is possibly the remains of a demolished petrol filling station. Work commenced on the construction of this structure just before World War II but was abandoned following the outbreak of war due to fuel rationing and shortages. The demolition of the structure took place at some time after the cessation of hostilities (A Rhodes, site manager, pers comm).

No pre-modern archaeological features were present at this site.

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MOLA

15 August 2017, updated 21 August

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Development Area: 110m long x 55m wide east to west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
001	Layer	Dark brown loam with a few small stone inclusions	0.3m thick	-
002	Layer	Dark yellow-brown sandy clay loam with a few small stone inclusions	c 0.25m thick	-
003	Natural layer	Orange-brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
004	Ditch fill	Dark grey-brown sandy clay loam with a few small-med limestone fragments	c0.5m thick	-
005	Ditch	Linear U-shaped ditch	c40m long by 1.4m wide by 0.5m deep	-
006	Layer	Spread of modern demolition rubble in NW corner of the site	c 0.3m thick	-



Plot 1, south-eastern corner, footings trenches, looking north-east Fig 7

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Plot 1: c10m long x c10m wide north-east to south-west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
103	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
104	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
105	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	Unknown	-

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Plot 2: 11m long x 9m wide north-east to south-west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
203	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
204	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
205	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	Unknown	-



Plot 2, north-western corner, footings trench section, looking north-west Fig 8

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Plot 3: 19m long x 11m wide north-east to south-west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
303	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
304	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
305	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	Unknown	-



Plot 3, north-western side, footings trench section, looking south east Fig 9



Plot 4, south-eastern corner, footings trench section, looking north west Fig 10

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Plot 4: 18m long x 11m wide north-east to south-west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
403	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
404	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
405	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	Unknown	-

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Plot 5: 18m long x 11m wide east to west			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
503	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
504	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
505	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	Unknown	-



Plot 5 garage, footings trenches, looking north Fig 11

MAIN ROAD, CRICK

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Sondage, Plot 6: 3m long x 0.6m wide north to south			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
603	Layer	Orange-brown silty clay	c 0.5m thick	-
604	Fill of ditch	Dark grey-brown sandy clay loam with a few small-med limestone fragments	c 0.5m thick	-
605	Ditch	Linear U-shaped ditch	c40m long by 1.4m wide by 0.5m deep	-



Plot 6, exploratory trench, looking north Fig 12



Retaining wall trench looking south-east Fig 13

MAIN ROAD, CRICK

Area	Length, width & alignment			
Site	Retaining wall trench (N side of Plots 6, 7): 35m long x 3m wide x 2.5m deep			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts
703	Natural layer	Orange brown silty clay	c0.5m thick	-
704	Natural layer	Mottled orange/grey-brown silty clay	c1m thick	-
705	Natural layer	Mid blue-grey clay with occasional medium to large sized fragments of limestone	At least 1m thick	-



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk