



**Archaeological observation, investigation
recording and analysis of land at
Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade
Northamptonshire
September and November 2017**

Report No 17/144

Author: Tim Sharman and Paul Thompson

Illustrator: Joanne Clawley



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Author: Tim Sharman and Paul Thompson

Illustrator: Joanne Clawley

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

STAFF

Project Manager: Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA

Text: Tim Sharman BA

Paul Thompson BA AMA

Fieldwork: Tim Sharman BA

Jon Elston

Illustrations: Joanne Clawley BA MSc

The pottery: Tora Hylton

Other finds: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-304149	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis of land at Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade, September 2017		
Short description	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), during groundwork on land at Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire. The remains of a possible medieval stone wall, a post-medieval building, a post-medieval pit and a ditch of unknown (probably pre-medieval) date were revealed.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Former garden		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	Medieval, post-medieval and unknown		
Significant finds	Pottery and a copper alloy ring / hoop		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade		
Easting Northing	TL 476005 251582		
Area (sq m/ha)	c 0.06 ha		
Height aOD	c 113m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Ant Maull (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr S Rose		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	13/09/2017		
End date	22/11/2017		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	ENN 108620	Pottery, copper alloy ring / hoop	
Paper		Watching brief forms, permatrace plan and section drawings, report	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
	Unpublished client report		
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis of land at Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire September and November 2017		
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**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording
and analysis of land at Threeways
13 Hartwell Road, Roade
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Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out archaeological observation, investigation and recording, during ground works on land at 13 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire. The remains of a possible medieval stone wall, a post-medieval building, post-medieval pit and a ditch of unknown date were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton was commissioned by Mr S Rose to carry out a programme of observation, investigation and recording of groundworks on land at Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road, Roade, Northamptonshire (NGR 476005 251582) (Fig 1).

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological resource. Works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Clements 2017), advice from the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012)

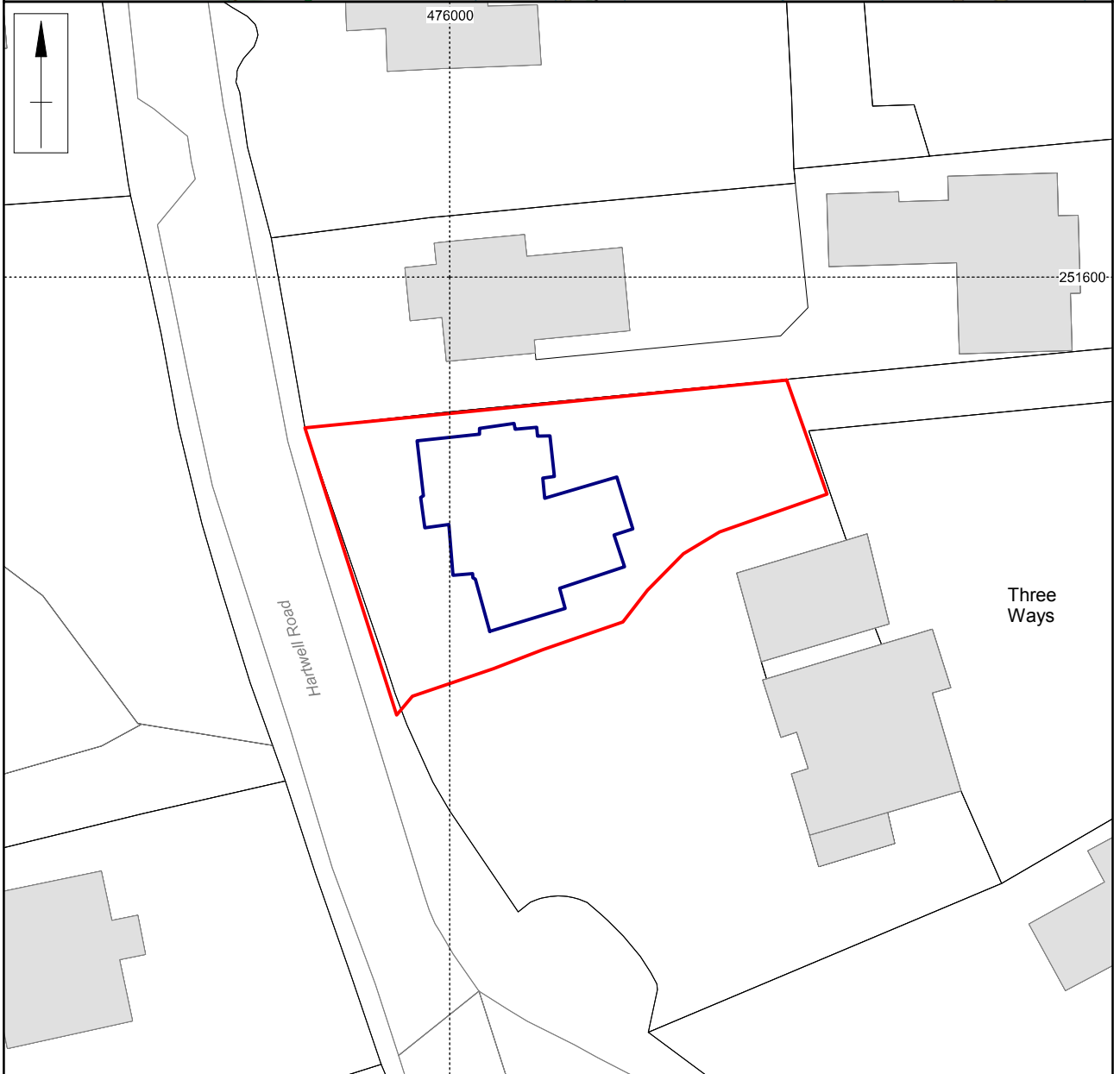
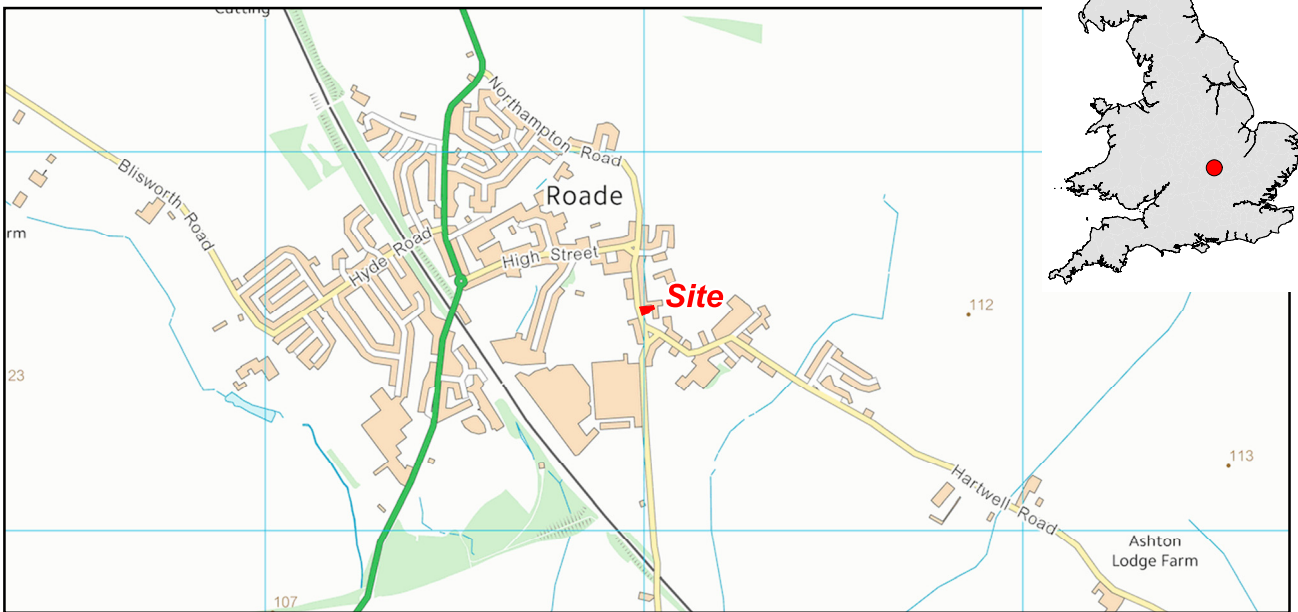
Planning permission had been received for the construction of one new dwelling and associated access (Planning Application S/2016/1823/FUL).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, the main objective of the investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in its wider cultural and environmental setting.

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.



0 25m

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Site location
 Building footprints

Scale 1:500

Site location Fig 1

Specific research objectives were to be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (EH 1991 and 1997; Hey and Hind 2014) as relevant, depending upon the results of this work.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the north of Threeways, 13 Hartwell Road within the village of Roade, located 8.5km to the south of Northampton. The site is generally flat and lies at c113m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), the geology of the site has been mapped as comprising Blisworth Limestone formation bedrock, near to the boundary of overlying superficial deposits of Oadby Member diamicton with sands and gravels to north (BGS 2016).

The new dwelling is located within the western half of the site fronting on to the Hartwell Road. The site occupies 0.06ha and is bounded to the west by the Hartwell Road and to the east, the garden and existing structures of 'Threeways' to the south and another garden plot to the north (Fig 1).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

No Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records (HER), National Monument Records (Historic England) or nationally designated sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks or Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Conservation Areas) are recorded as being within the development area.

Previous archaeological works in the local area include a trial trench evaluation c200m south of the development site at Ashton Road, where an undated ditch and gully along with remnant furrows were identified (Chinnock 2015).

A watching brief following the above evaluation on the same site at Ashton Road revealed more of the large undated enclosure ditch and five pits dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD (Jarvis and Sharman 2015). Remnants of furrows from medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system were again observed and recorded.

Many of the HER records relate to Listed buildings situated in the historic core of the village, to the west, and along with the other results have been reproduced in Table 1 below.

Prehistoric and Roman

Very few prehistoric or Roman sites have been recorded in the vicinity. Cropmarks 800m to the north-west of the site (HER 9069) may represent the possible remains of prehistoric or Roman settlement, though no archaeological investigation has been undertaken, further un-investigated undated cropmarks lay c1km to the west and c600m to the south-west (HER4706). Roman finds have been recovered within the parish of Roade, including a bronze pin found near the school and other finds of greyware pottery, two urns, a coin and a bronze strap end of which the exact locations are unknown (HER 4707, 4725/1/1).

Medieval

Roade was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Rode*, with some of the land within the parish belonging to the King, although this lay waste. The site itself lies close to the eastern edge of the historic core of Roade and 400m south-east of the 12th century church. St Mary the Virgin church is built in the Norman and Early

English styles. It contains a *piscina*, an ancient altar-tomb without inscription, and some memorials to the Hoe and Henshaw families. Much of the medieval village core developed in a somewhat irregular pattern along the main street to the south of the church.

Post-medieval

The open fields of Roade were in-closed in 1819 with Roade remaining a relatively small rural farming community until the early 19th century, when the construction of the London to Birmingham railway brought large numbers of navvies to the village (VCH 2002). The Fox and Hounds public house (now a doctor's surgery) was open by the 1840's probably to cater for the larger number of navvies.

The manor belonged to St James' Abbey and was given at the Dissolution in AD 1539 to R. Fermor, Esq. It passed in the time of James II (1633 - 1701) to S. Hoe, Esq. and belongs now to the Duke of Grafton, who is chief landowner. The manor-house is now a farmhouse called the Hyde. There is a Baptist and a Wesleyan chapel in the village.

Table 1: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

HER No	Details of results
6745	London to Derby Road
4706	Possible settlement , undated. Undefined cropmarks; possible enclosure
4707	Un-stratified Romano-British find
4717/1	St Marys Church
4716/1/1	Possible medieval/post-medieval manor house. The name 'Hall Close' could indicate a possible post-medieval manor house. There are various 'Hall' names from the 1720s which could possibly be derived from an isolated manor site or may purely be from the enclosure of part of 'Hall Field'
4717/1/2	Possible churchyard cross. Documentary reference to a possible churchyard cross at Roade
4725/0/0	Romano-British finds from 'near Roade'. Un-located finds from 1867, including a greyware pottery vessel, two urns, a coin of Antoninus Pius, a bronze strapend and a piece of metal
4717/0/18	Roade Baptist Church and attached school room. Non-Conformist (Baptist) chapel, partly of 1736-7. Listed Building no 11/135
4717/0/21	No 39 (Candida Cottage), High Street. Mid-late 17th century, renovated by Charles Rennie Mackintosh c 1917 for W J Bassett-Lowke. Mackintosh designed furniture for the cottage, now in Brighton Art Gallery and Museum. Listed Building no 11/137
4717/0/8	No 8 (Bramber Cottage), High Street. Listed Building no 11/126
4717/0/9	No 6 (Browns Lodge) Church End. Listed Building no 11/127
4717/0/10	No 22 High Street. Listed Building no 11/132
4717/0/11	No 24 (The Retreat) High Street. Listed Building no 11/133
4717/0/12	No 28 High Street. Listed Building no 11/134
4717/0/13	Nos 9 and 11/13 (The Old Forge) High Street. Listed Building no 11/136
4717/0/2	No 1 Hartwell Road. Listed Building no 11/128
4717/0/3	No 4 Northampton Road. Listed Building no 11/142
4717/1/1	Church of St Mary the Virgin. Listed Building no 11/124 (Grade II*)
4717/1/3	Chest tomb approx 1m south of church. Listed Building no 11/125
9069/0/1	Possible enclosure, undated. Cropmark
9069/0/2	Possible enclosure, undated. Cropmark
9069/0/3	Possible enclosure, undated. Cropmark
9069/0/4	Possible enclosure, undated. Cropmark

HER No	Details of results
9069/0/5	Possible pit, undated. Cropmark
9279/1	Hardingstone to Stony Stratford Turnpike. Toll Road
6297/1/11	Roade Cutting. A 1.5 mile long and 60ft deep cutting was dug through limestone on clay to carry the London and Birmingham Railway in 1838. It was deepened and widened in 1875 to take extra tracks for the Northampton Loop. The latter had to be strengthened with 'grid iron' girders after a landslip in 1891
4717/2	Roade Vicarage
4717/2/2	Vicarage Garden

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a). Methodology follows the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017).

The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken over the area of the new build development and garage (the footprint), and its associated access route and garden landscaping area (Fig 1). The work recorded the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

The archaeological fieldwork also comprised, in agreement with Liz Mordue (NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor), observations of the building's excavated footings and reduction of the ground within the area defined by the footings, so as to capture in effect, the footprint of the building. A toothless grading bucket was used for the removal of topsoil and subsoil down to the final footings level or identified archaeological deposits whichever was first encountered. This was followed by hand cleaning and investigation of possible features.

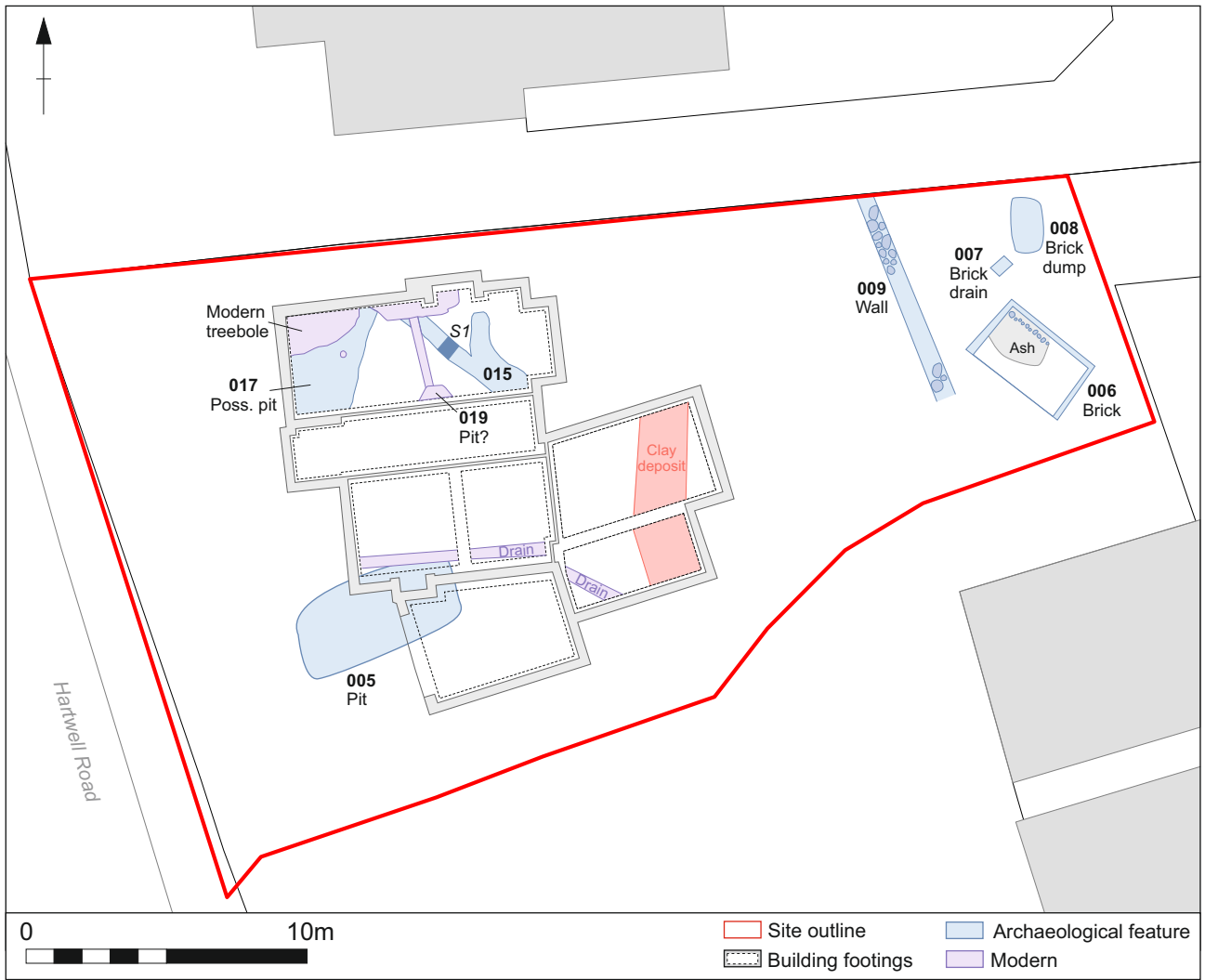
The observations took place on the 13th-14th, 26th-27th of September and the 16th, 20th and 22nd of November in generally good weather conditions. The groundwork areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features, where present. Recording followed standard 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. The photographic record comprises digital images.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

Stratigraphy across the site comprised topsoil, subsoil and natural. Appendix 1 displays the general site stratigraphy found across the site as well as contexts encountered during the ground works.

The natural substrate (003) mostly consisted of firm orange-brown sandy clay with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. Above lay a c0.2m deep subsoil layer (002) comprising a yellow-brown sandy clay loam with occasional small limestone inclusions. The topsoil (001) consisted of a c0.4m deep layer of loose dark grey-brown silty loam with frequent small-medium limestone pebble inclusions together with small fragments of coal and charcoal.



Scale 1:250

Areas of archaeological observation Fig 2

5.2 Archaeological features

Two main areas on the development site revealed features, the east c30m from the frontage and the west c6m from the frontage (Fig 2). Although undated the earliest feature found during the below ground work in the west area was a shallow ditch or gully of pre-medieval or even earlier date. In the east area a straight wall of probable medieval date was revealed originally running right across the site but now only observed in two locations within the site.

A large clearly post-medieval pit in the west area was recorded but not excavated as it was not going to be damaged by further ground removal. A post-medieval narrow brick building was found in the east area of the site but its date cannot be narrowed down further with any certainty. An ash layer was observed inside this building and a brick drain was recorded to the north of this building.

The ditch

In the north east of the proposed development area where the footprint of the new building was being excavated, a north-west to south east orientated gully or small ditch [015] was observed and sectioned. The fill (014) comprised firm mid brown sandy clay that had been mixed with chalk fragments. This 'U' shaped shallow ditch with straight sides was cut into the natural [003].



Reduced area, north side of house, looking east.
Ditch [015] can be seen above the 1m scale diagonally
from top right to middle left Fig 3



Ditch [015] section looking north-west Fig 4

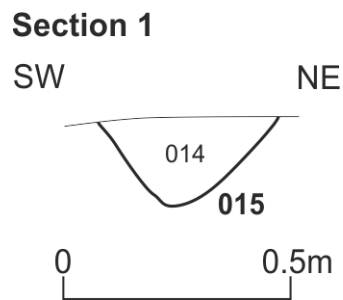


Fig 5: Ditch [015], Section looking north-west

A possible pit [017] in the far west of the footings for the new build was recorded. This was filled with yellow brown clay [016] with occasional small to medium sized rounded pebbles and irregular small charcoal flecks. It was more than 3m wide but did not produce any dating material. This pit was cut by a modern tree bole. A small feature [019] may also be a pit or more probably a tree bole. It was filled with brown clay loam [018] with occasional rounded pebbles.

The wall

In the eastern half of the site following asphalt stripping a c1.0m length of wall [009] was revealed comprising limestone roughly faced c0.80m wide. This shared both orientation and alignment with another three in-situ limestone blocks c3.2m further south-south-east (Fig 2).



Wall [009] looking east Fig 6



Wall [009] looking south Fig 7

The pit

Cutting through the subsoil (002) was a sub-rectangular shaped large pit [005] over 1.4m wide and more than 5.5m in length. Its north-western corner and west side were beyond the below ground works so could not be ascertained with certainty. The fill (004) comprised relatively loose light yellow brown sand and rare limestone fragment as well as much coal and charcoal.



Pit [005] below and left of the 1m scale Fig 8

The building

At the east end of the site a set of narrow building footings [006] was observed following asphalt stripping. This comprised limestone on inside with brick exterior facing. The north and south wall appear in plan to be only one brick width thick. This building measured approximately 3.2m long by 2.2m wide and was aligned north-west to south east. No above ground remains survived, all were foundations. Within the building a layer of grey ash was visible with charcoal fragments. This may relate to the buildings function.

A small brick drain [007] c2.0m to the north of this building [006] was observed and may have served the building during its use.

To the north of the building [006] and the drain [007] lay an irregular rectangular area c3.0 by 2.0m comprising a layer of brick rubble and loam [008].



Building [006] looking east and drain [007] at the top left Fig 9



Building [006] eastern wall, looking north-west Fig 10

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Tora Hylton

Three sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 47.6g were recovered from topsoil [001] and subsoil [002] deposits. Chronologically the earliest sherd is a small un-diagnostic fragment of Lyveden / Stanion ware (CTS 320) which dates to the 13th /14th century. Post-medieval pottery is represented by two wheel thrown sherds of iron glazed coarseware (CTS 426). The sherds are coated internally with a thick glossy iron rich glaze and they are from pancheon type vessels which date to the 18th /19th century.

Table 2: Pottery quantification

Fill/cut type	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Description	Date
001	2	45	Iron glazed coarsewares	Pancheon type. CTS*426	cAD 1700 - 1800
002	1	2.6	Lyveden / Stanion ware		cAD 1225 - 1400?
Total	3	47.6	-	-	-

*Northamptonshire County Type Series

6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton

A fragment from a copper alloy ring/hoop was recovered from topsoil [001]. The ring is cast, it has a circular cross-section and it measures c60mm in diameter and 5mm high. Rings of this type could have had many functions, such as tethering rings, horse furnishings or for attaching chains etc. A post-medieval date is suggested.

7 DISCUSSION

A linear gully or ditch of un-known date was revealed by the contractors asphalt removal to the north of the site where building footings were being excavated. No dating evidence was forthcoming yet this is probably pre-medieval in date due to its different alignment from the known medieval and post-medieval buildings and boundaries in the vicinity.

The archaeological work uncovered a possible medieval stone wall from a boundary wall. It is on the same alignment as the rear property boundary c6.2m to the east and is clearly on a different alignment of the present surrounding houses. This possibly relates to the medieval manor and is likely to be a boundary wall due to its length and dimensions. A field boundary is shown in this location on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

The large sub-rectangular pit is interpreted as being post-medieval due to the presence of recent slate and brick fragments in the upper fill (not retained). It is most likely a rubbish pit. Its relationship to the narrow building or surrounding properties could not be ascertained.

A narrow rectangular building most likely post-medieval in date was recorded with an associated drain. This is possibly a temporary outbuilding although its use or function is uncertain the interior layer of ash may indicate a wash-house for heating water. This building may be early Victorian as it does not appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 or later maps. The brick rubble spread is interpreted as a demolition or levelling layer associated with the demise of this building.

The small number of finds corroborates the contaminated and mixed nature of the topsoil and subsoil of this site as post-medieval in date. They are indicative of rural domestic occupation however so few finds means discussion is meaningless.

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MOLA
19th December 2017

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
001	Topsoil	Generally loose, dark grey brown silty loam with frequent small limestone inclusions. Frequent small charcoal fragments.	Across entire site. c0.4m thick	Pottery and Copper alloy ring or hoop
002	Subsoil	Compact yellow brown sandy clay loam with rare small limestone fragments.	Across entire site. c0.3m thick	Pottery
003	Natural	Firm orange brown sandy clay with frequent flint and chalk inclusions.	Across entire site.	-
004	Fill of pit [005]	Loose light yellow brown sand. Rare limestone and slate fragment and numerous charcoal fragments.	2.4m wide and 3.0m in length	-
005	Cut of pit	Linear / elliptical cut for pit	2.4m wide and 3.0m in length	-
006	Building	Limestone stones on inside and brick facing to exterior.	3.2m long by 2.2m wide	-
007	Drain	Four bricks mortared in place	0.5m long by 0.4m wide	-
008	Brick rubble layer	Brown loam with 45% brick rubble fragments evenly distributed. Demolition layer or levelling spread.	c4.0m long by c2.0m wide	-
009	Stone wall	Orientated north-south. Possible boundary wall or building footing.	c0.80m wide	-
010	Fill of pit [011]	Orange brown sandy clay with frequent flint and chalk inclusions. Redeposited natural.	0.8m long by 0.5m wide	-
011	Cut of pit	Linear cut for pit. Same feature as [005]	2.4m wide and 3.0m in length	-
012	Fill of pit [013]	Mid brown clay with frequent charcoal flecks.	0.80m long by 0.15m deep	-
013	Cut of pit	Small bowl-shaped profile	0.80m long by 0.15m deep	-
014	Fill of gully or ditch [015]	Firm mid brown sandy clay mixed with chalk fragments	0.35m long by 0.10m deep	-
015	Cut of gully or ditch	Linear cut for gully	0.35m long by 0.10m deep	-
016	Fill of pit [017]	Yellow brown clay with occasional small to medium sized rounded pebbles. Irregular small charcoal flecks.	At least 3.5m long by 3.0m wide.	-

017	Cut of pit	Large irregular cut for pit or tree bole	At least 3.5m long by 3.0m wide. Only one edge found in area of disturbance	-
018	Fill of tree bole [019]	Mid brown clay loam with small occasional stones randomly distributed	1.0m long by 0.6m+ wide	-
019	Cut of tree bole	Irregular sub-circular cut	1.0m long by 0.6m+ wide	-



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