



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation  
at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington  
Peterborough City  
May 2018**

Report No. 18/67

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molanort1-318533</b>	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City, May 2018		
Summary	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Kier Construction (Eastern) to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City, prior to the proposed development of the site. One trench was excavated, which showed evidence of the site having been truncated and subsequently levelled during the construction of the playing field. Two land drains and one plough scar were noted, otherwise no archaeological features were found.		
Project type	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Desk based assessment		
Current land use	Playing Field		
Future work	None		
Monument type/period	None		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Peterborough Unity Authority		
Site address	Ken Stimpson School, Peterborough City		
Postcode	PE4 6JT		
OS co-ordinates	TF 16758 03813		
Area (sq m/ha)	060m <sup>2</sup>		
Height aOD	c14m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)		
Project Brief originator	Rebecca Casa Hatton, Peterborough City Council Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Paul Thompson (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Kier Construction (Eastern)		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	21/05/2018		
End date	24/05/2018		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>		Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Peterborough Museum KSW18	-	
Paper			Site records; background data, photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City, May 2018		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports 18/67		
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
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# Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington Peterborough City May 2018

## Abstract

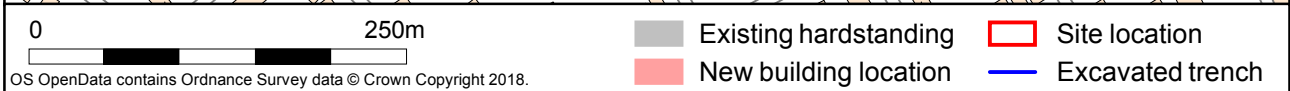
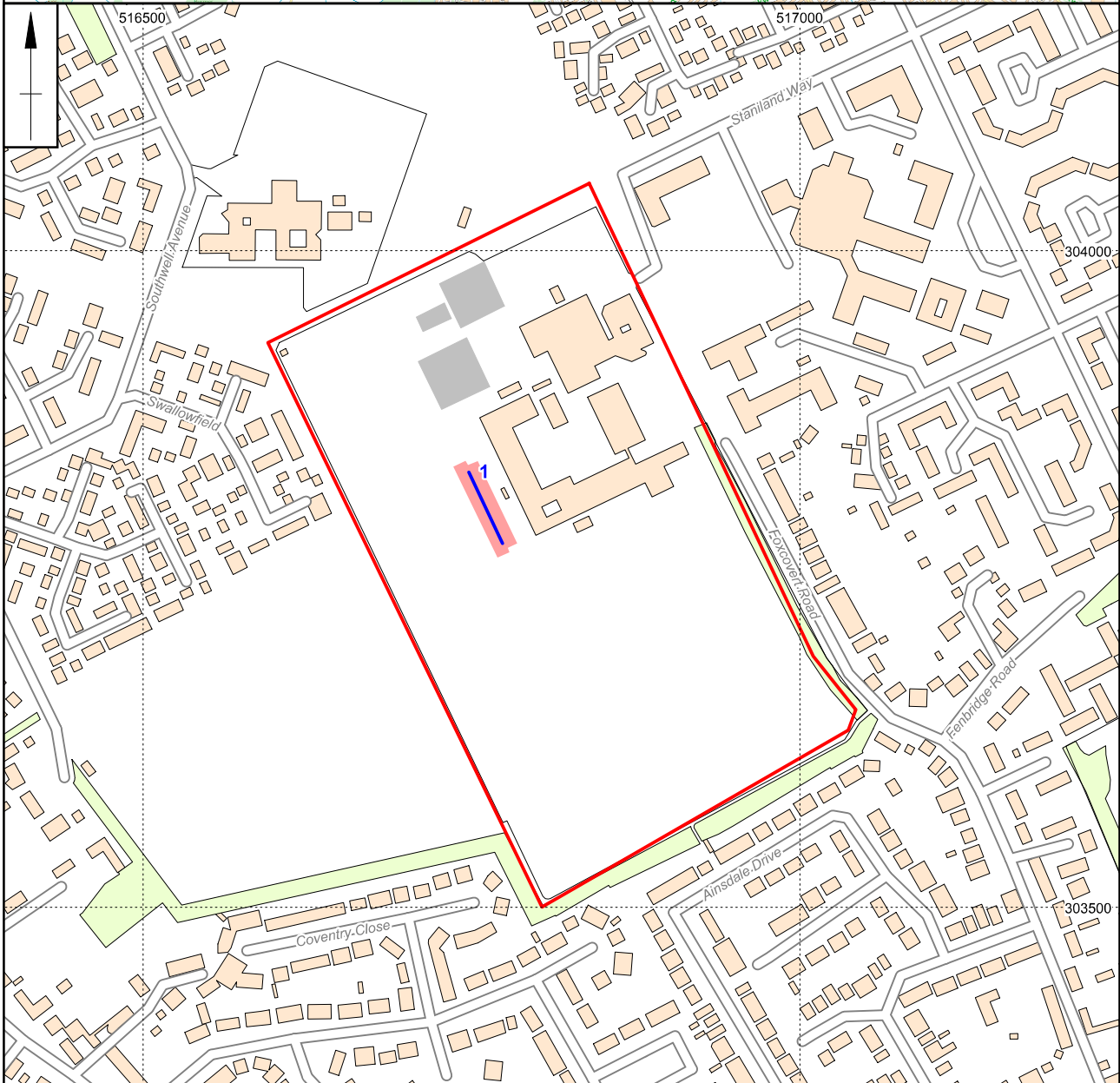
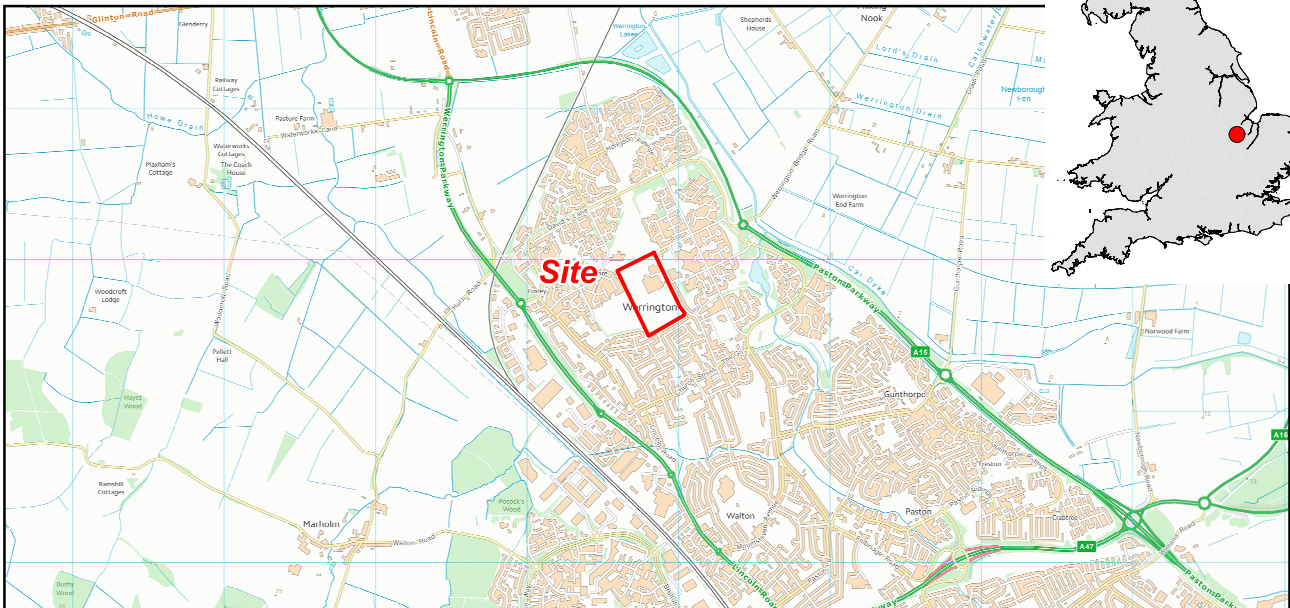
*MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Kier Construction (Eastern) to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City, prior to the proposed development of the site. One trench was excavated, which showed evidence of the site having been truncated and subsequently levelled during the construction of the playing field. Two land drains and one plough scar were noted, otherwise no archaeological features were found.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Kier Construction (Eastern) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City (Fig 1; NGR TF 16758 03813). The archaeological evaluation was part of a pre-determination proposal for development on the site. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition had been placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken. In accordance with Policy 12, paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012). The site lies outside and to the north of the Werrington Conservation Area.

The specification and methodology for the works were set out in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2018) in accordance with the requirements of the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist, Rebecca Casa Hatton. The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (2014b), *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and the regional standards guidelines (Gurney 2003). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England procedural documents (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

An Accession Number has been received from the Peterborough Museum (KSW18) and will be used on the finished report and archive.



OS OpenData contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2018.

Scale 1:5000

Site location and excavated trench Fig 1

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development was located on the north side of Peterborough City. The site is a school playing field with an area of c1.5ha (Fig 2). The site is bounded to the north by Stimpson Walk and a school beyond. To the west lies a further playing field and residential estate. To the east lie the school buildings with Werrington Library and Vivacity Leisure Centre. On the south side of the site lies more residential housing.

The topography of the site was relatively flat and level. The site lies at c14m above Ordnance Datum. The bedrock across the site is Oxford Clay Formation which is overlain by river terrace deposits (BGS geindex – bgs.ac.uk2018). The soils have been recorded as typical brown calcareous earths, Badsey 2 (LAT 1983).



Site pre-excavation, looking south-east Fig 2

### 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The following historic background contains selected summarised data of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Peterborough extracted from the desk-based assessment (Crothers 2018). All the monuments within a 0.5km search radius of the site are summarised in the Appendix. Numbers in brackets refer to the Peterborough HER reference numbers.

The site does not contain any designated archaeological assets such as Scheduled Monuments or Registered Battlefields and there are no known non-designated assets. A Scheduled Monument, Car Dyke, lies beyond the 500m Historic Environment Record (HER) search radius to the east of the site.

The area was host to low level occupation during the prehistoric and Roman periods. Prehistoric flints (HER2192 and HER2196) have been found in the area through previous archaeological works nearby and through fieldwalking on land to the north-west. Two Bronze Age ring ditches (HER645 and HER645a) lie to the north-east. Werrington Iron Age enclosure (HER497 and HER563) lies adjacent to the north-west of the site and was abandoned during the 1st century AD but was resettled later in the Roman period. Werrington Roman settlement (HER596) lies close to the north-west, from which a trackway leads eastwards towards Car Dyke, which was a significant waterway during the period.



The Saxon and medieval settlement of Werrington lies along Church Street and a possible medieval moated site lies to the west (HER356). Ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography to the south-east of the site and the bases of furrows have been observed during trial trench evaluation immediately to the north-west. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site lay within open farmland throughout the post-medieval period.

No listed buildings lie within the proposed development site. There is one Grade I Listed Building and twenty-four Grade II Listed Buildings within the historic core of Werrington to the south-east of the site.

Previous archaeological work, which comprised a magnetometer survey (HER51326) took place at Ken Stimpson School in 2005 which identified small anomalies. Some of these were attributed to buried metal objects but none are thought to be of archaeological significance. In addition, no readily detectable archaeological features were present (Bartlett 2005).

Trial trench evaluation (HER51787) also took place in the grounds of Ken Stimpson School in 2005 in advance of the construction of new school buildings. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered (Coates 2005).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the trial trench evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation specifically aims to characterise:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- the potential relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential for the recovery of finds to assist in the development of artefact studies within the region;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions, including the presence/absence of palaeosoils, palaeochannels, and buried land surfaces;
- understanding the character of deposits, their formation within cut features, and the site formation processes generally;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains;
- and to inform any future decisions by the planning authority regarding approaches to archaeological preservation, conservation and mitigation.

Specific research objectives could have been drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents for the East of England as relevant dependent upon the results of the evaluation (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Glazebrook 1997; Medlycott 2011). It was not possible to address any of the research aims set out in these documents due to the negative result of the evaluation.

#### **4 TRIAL TRENCH METHODOLOGY**

The footprint of the new building was subjected to trial trench evaluation. This comprised a single 60m trial trench along the axis of the development (Fig 1).

The trench was accurately measured in using Leica Viva Survey Grade RTK GPS using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of  $\pm 0.05\text{m}$  to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist at all times. The trench was excavated by machine fitted with a toothless bucket to reveal undisturbed natural horizons.

All deposits encountered during the course of evaluation were recorded, having been given a unique context number. Recording followed standard fieldwork procedures (MOLA 2014). A photographic record was maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels. Images of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. All photographs, except general images and those for publication included a north arrow and suitable photographic scale.

The trench was backfilled with its up-cast material and compacted by the mechanical excavator. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing (ClfA 2014c).

#### **5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

The natural substrate was heavily truncated and comprised orange gravels and light yellow-grey clay with occasional chalk inclusions (4). The natural was present at 0.61m below the current ground level at the north-western end and rose to 0.51m at the south-eastern end. Within the natural two land drains and a plough scar could be observed. The land drains contained mid brown sandy clay, they measured c0.20m wide and c0.15m deep. The plough scar was c0.10m wide. The natural was overlain by made ground (Figs 3 and 4).

At the north-western end the natural was overlain by limestone gravel in a black sandy matrix layer (3), 0.13m thick, and orange-brown sand layer (2), 0.16m thick (Fig 5). In the remainder of the trench the natural was overlain by a levelling layer (5) comprising medium-sized stones within a light grey-brown sandy matrix, 0.36m thick at the north-western end of the trench, becoming thinner to the centre of the trench (Fig 6). It is absent around the centre of the trench where the natural is overlain by a dark brown-grey clay loam with frequent small stone inclusions, 0.10m thick (6). Levelling layer (5) reappears in the south-eastern half of the trench, 0.17m thick. The topsoil, medium brown clay loam, was between 0.17m and 0.34m thick. The made ground and topsoil contained modern debris containing plastics, metal pieces, brick and tile fragments.



General view of trench, looking south-east Fig 3



General view of trench, looking north-west Fig 4



Baulk at north-west end of trench, looking north-east Fig 5



Baulk near centre of trench, looking north-east Fig 6

## 6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation revealed that during the construction of the playing field the area had been truncated and levelled with sandy gravel. In the made ground modern debris including plastics, metal pieces, brick and tile fragments were encountered.

The desk based assessment (Crothers 2018) noted an Iron Age enclosure and a roman settlement adjacent in the north-west of the site. If there had been any evidence of further Iron Age or Roman activity it was lost during the construction of the playing field. The historic map regression revealed that prior to the site's use as a playing field for the school the area had been fields (Crothers 2018). Two land drains and a plough scar were the only indication found of its previous use.

No archaeological remains were identified during the trial trench evaluation at Ken Stimpson School, Werrington, Peterborough City.

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**APPENDIX I: Context inventory**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
1	Topsoil	Medium brown clay loam with plastic, iron, brick, tile and glass inclusions	0.17m-0.34m thick	-
2	Made ground	Orange-brown sand	0.16m thick	-
3	Made ground	Medium sized limestone gravel in a black sandy matrix	0.13m thick	-
4	Natural	Orange gravels and light yellow-grey clay, occasional chalk inclusion	-	-
5	Levelling layer	Stone dump with sand matrix	0.13m-0.36m thick	-
6	Levelling layer	Dark brown-grey clay loam with tin, plastic and stone inclusions	0.10m thick	-



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