

**LAND OFF THE GROVE,  
MOULTON,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NGR REF: 478454 266484**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING***  
**(OASIS ID: independ1-310904)**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

**Prepared by Margaret Taylor-Sutton MA, BA (Hons) ACIFA**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Summary</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Planning and Project Background</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Archaeological Background</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Methodology</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>

**Appendices:**

**Context Descriptions**

**OASIS Form**

## Summary

*This Summary report details and presents the result of a phased program of ground work investigation and subsequent monitoring of work associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land off of The Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire (Grid Reference: 478454 266484. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site by Margaret Taylor-Sutton MA, BA (Hons) [ACIFA] on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 in conjunction with Independent Archaeology Consultants.*

*The monitored groundworks were undertaken after Craig Small groundworks specialist marked out the area for topsoil reduction. The initial phase of excavation was to remove the topsoil from within the patio area and footprint of the proposed dwelling. The excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator an 8 ton Kybota. The second phase of excavation subject to advice from Liz Mordue, Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council was for four trenches to be excavated within the patio area of the proposed new build.*

*No archaeological finds or features were encountered, but only modern disturbance within the natural ground.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Independent Archaeology Consultants was commissioned by PJT Custom Build Ltd of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire to undertake a preliminary investigation prior to the groundworks for the construction of a residential dwelling and linked garage. The site is located on land off The Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire (National Grid Reference: 478454 266484). The preliminary investigation for the proposed new build was a topsoil reduction within the patio area and footprint. The second phase was monitoring a series of four test trenches excavated within the proposed development area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014). The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring* (ClfA 2014) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant ClfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

## 2 PLANNING and PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A planning application for the construction of a new development of off The Grove, Moulton Northamptonshire, Planning reference (DA/2016/1111) was submitted to the Northamptonshire County Council and permission was granted in 2016. The development comprises a detached dwelling with a linked garage.
- 2.2 The development site is located in the central part of the small village of Moulton. The village is situated at the southern end of the parish approximately 5miles north of the town centre of Northampton. The development site encloses an area of some 400m<sup>2</sup> at an average height of 98m AOD. The geology which Moulton village lies on is Northampton Sand Formation Stone or Ironstone which is utilised in building

construction. The geology of the area is also dominated by a Boulder Clay ridge running east west rising to a maximum height of 122 metres south of Moulton Grange within the vicinity of the development site. The land is divided by historic field boundaries of stone walls and hedgerows; the northern boundary of the site is a water meadow 'Busby's Meadow' designated a Pocket Park by Northamptonshire County Council. Within the vicinity further north-west is the location of the Medieval Manor House and within the area of the meadow in the north-west corner are the Medieval and post-medieval earthworks.

- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by HER. Therefore, an archaeological watching brief was required prior to any construction on the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission and was in line with standards described in NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).



Figure 1. Site Location: Reproduction of 1885 25" Map series. Map taken From Moulton Conservation Pg.5 (See bibliography)

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The proposed development site falls within an area of archaeological interest. Discoveries of Roman and Iron Age settlements have been made around Moulton and it is believed that the Romans may have used areas within the valley for fishponds. However no remains have been discovered within the vicinity of the conservation area of Moulton.
- 3.2 It is believed that Saxon Monks built a wooden church in Moulton in the c. 7<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1884 during the restoration of the Parish Church of St Peter and St. Paul's a carved Saxon stone was discovered beneath a pillar in the church. The broken Cross is believed to have formed part of an earlier Anglo-Saxon Church dating back to the c 9<sup>th</sup> century AD. The present church building underwent a building recording in 1993 (ENN14363), but earlier investigations have been carried out in the church around 1978 (ENN101117) (ENN8161) and (ENN8166).
- 3.3 Moulton is rich in its Medieval history; in a reference in the Domesday Book of 1086 Moulton's watermill is mentioned, and the village name was spelt 'Moltone'. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century Moulton had a castle and manor house which were owned by the Fitzjohn

## Land off The Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

- family. The site for this possible manor house has been the subject for an archaeological investigation (ENN12202).
- 3.4 It is therefore correct to assume that the archaeological potential within the vicinity of the site is moderate to high with a particular reference to the Medieval period.
- 3.5 The farm just to the south of the development site underwent a building survey in 1984 (ENN102108).
- 3.6 In 2014 an archaeological evaluation took place in a field some 200m east of the development site. A number of Saxon pits and some undated features were being uncovered (ENN108130).
- 3.7 In the same field a watching brief took place the following year. Again a number of features could be dated based on the presence of Saxon pottery, while other features were largely undated (ENN109129).
- 3.8 In Grove Street, some 100m northeast of the development site, the remains of earthworks from a medieval or post medieval water supply system were investigated in 1979 (ENN8162).
- 3.9 Some 100m south of the site a metal detecting survey took place in 1980, and a large number of Roman, medieval and post medieval metal objects were uncovered (ENN106061).
- 3.10 In Church Street, West Street and Overstone Road an extensive building recording project was carried out in the 1980s, and a large number of older buildings were fully documented (ENN102130).
- 3.11 At Manor Farm, some 50m northwest of the development site, an archaeological recording project was carried out in 1999, and a number of possibly medieval or post medieval ponds were investigated (ENN 101470).

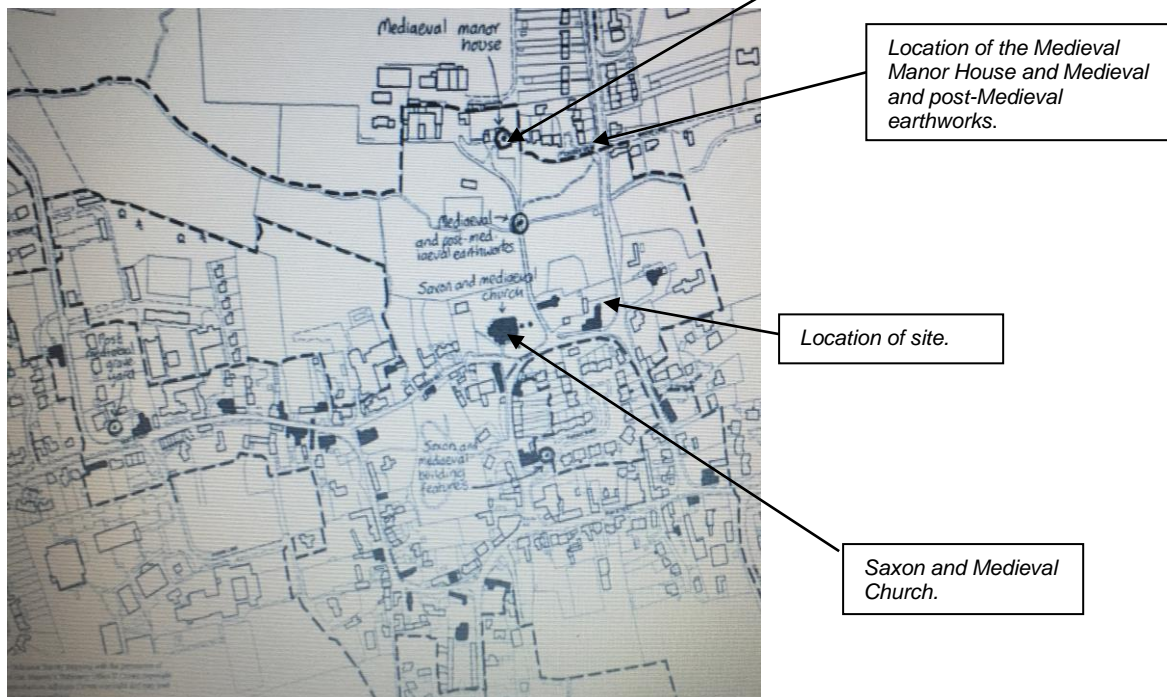


Figure 2. Map showing recorded Archaeological sites. Map taken from Moulton Conservation Pg. 4 see bibliography

#### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The archaeological investigation of the proposed new build was undertaken on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 by Margaret Taylor-Sutton on behalf of Independent Archaeology Consultants. The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks had two phases. The first phase was a topsoil reduction. The second phase of investigation was the progression of a series of test trenches to provide a representative sample to confirm the absence of any archaeological features or finds during this groundworks phase.
- 4.2 The excavation method was undertaken using a 0.8 ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth blade ditching bucket.
- 4.3 During all stages/phases of the investigation no archaeological remains were disturbed. The monitoring and investigation exposed and allowed for the recording of any architectural or archaeological features relating to any previous human activity. No disturbance other than a modern disturbance occurred during the test trench groundworks.
- 4.4 A colour digital photographic record was maintained. A selection of digital photos was also included in this report (See appendices).

#### **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 The watching brief was undertaken to confirm the presence/absence of any archaeological remains that may be present within the footprint of the proposed build.
- 5.2 The area was excavated systematically using a strip methodology reducing the ground level to the proposed foundation solution of the proposed build specification at 600mm (0.60m).

##### **Test Trench 1**

- 5.3 Test trench 1 was excavated in the south-west corner of the site within the patio area (*Figure 4*). It was orientated north-south and was approximately 14m in length. The trench was excavated to a depth of 600mm (0.60m) below reduced ground level to road level. The exposed sub-soil which had a depth of between 0.10 and 0.15 metres was variable across the site, see context description for inclusions. The natural geology was reached at approximately 0.10 metres and comprised of an orange sandy gravelly clay, with sand and gravel lenses, in addition to a dark grey mudstone formation that smelt very organic. These mixed natural deposits had been disturbed by modern intervention. A modern frogged red brick was present in the dark grey mudstone deposit. The depth of the trench was approximately 1 metre below reduced ground level. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the excavation process.

##### **Test Trench 2**

- 5.4 Test trench 2 was 3.5 metres east of test trench 1. It was orientated north-south and was approximately 7m in length. The trench was excavated to a depth of 600mm (0.60m) below reduced ground level (*Figure 5*). Underlying the shallow sub-soil deposit was the orange sandy gravelly clay and the dark grey mudstone formation. Fragments of modern ceramic building materials (CBM) was present in the grey mudstone deposit. The depth of the trench was approximately 0.95 metres below reduced ground level. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the excavation process.

### Test Trench 3

5.5 Test trench 3 was 2.5 metres further east of test trench 2. The exposed sub-soil deposit overlies the disturbed natural geology (*Figure 6*). A complete engineering brick was present in the dark grey mudstone. The depth of the trench was 0.85 metres below reduced ground level. At the north-west corner of the trench was the remains of a concrete drain casing. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the excavation process.

### Test Trench 4

5.6 Test trench 4 was 7 metres east of test trench 3. It was orientated north-south and was approximately 7m in length. The required reduced level at 600mm (0.6m) was reached at a much higher level at 0.28 metres due to the incline dropping east towards The Grove. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the excavation process (*Figure 7*).

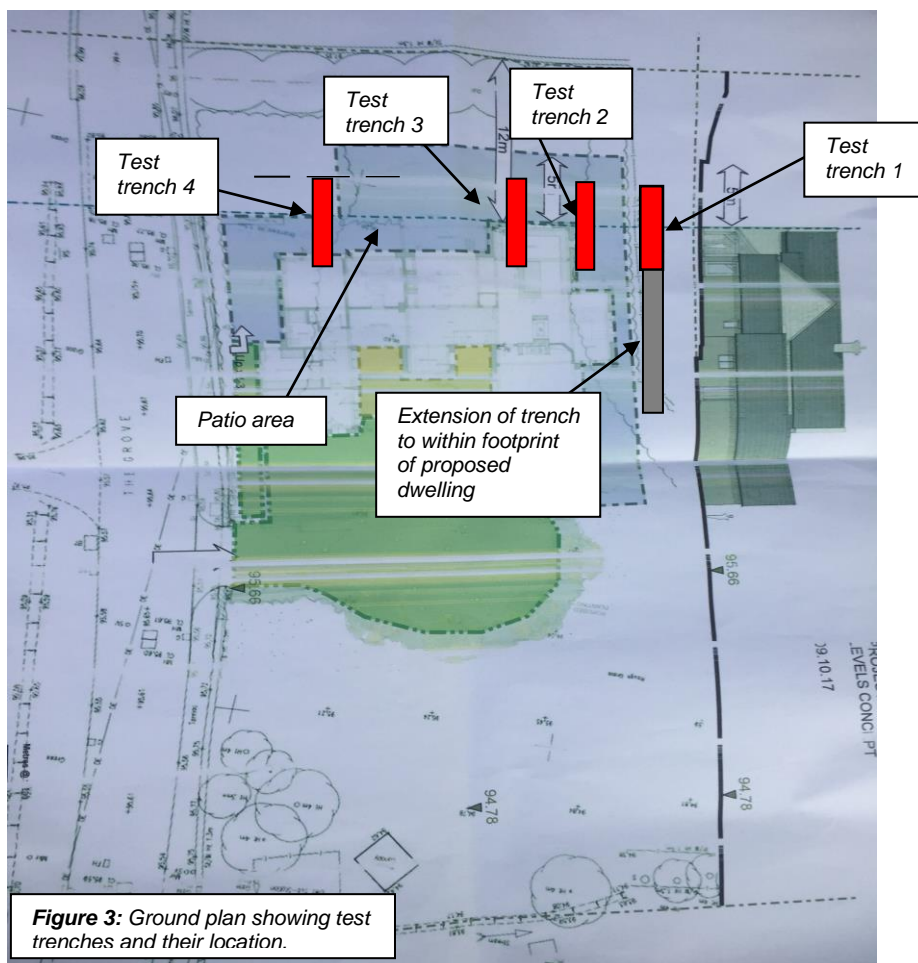


Figure 3 Ground plan showing test trenches and their location



Figure 4: View of trench 1 looking north



Figure 5: Trench 2 view looking north-west





Figure 6: Trench 3 facing north showing concrete casing north-west corner of trench



Figure 7: View of trench 4 looking south showing incline running east towards The Grove



*Figure 8: Overview photo of the site*



*Figure 9: Overview photo of the site*

## **6 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring located on land off The Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire consisted of four test trenches. This test trench phase did not identify any archaeological features or deposits within the area of the proposed new build. The natural deposits were reached a high level revealing modern disturbance

with redeposited natural material containing modern frogged red brick and one complete engineering brick.

**7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring*. Reading 2014.

English Heritage 1997. *Archaeology Division Research Agenda*. London.

English Heritage 2001. *First Aid for Finds*. London.

English Heritage 2005. *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010*.

Moulton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management plan. Daventry District Council. March 2017.

Moulton Village- Village Design Statement 2014.

Moulton Conservation Area Appraisal and Design Guide. Daventry District Council Planning Department. May 1997.

**APPENDICES**

**Context Description**

<b>Context No:</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>(100)</b>	The topsoil was a mid to dark brown fine sandy, silt deposit. It comprised reworked natural materials and man-made inclusions. A very fine clean matrix with occasional to moderate angular and sub-angular clasts or clastic sedimentation and occasional flecks of degraded (CBM). The depth of this thin topsoil deposit to the next horizon was 0.10 metres to the underlying sub-soil deposit.
<b>(101)</b>	The underlying sub-soil was a mid-yellow to buff brown, fine sandy clay deposit variable across the site. This clayey matrix contains frequent fine to large rounded, sub-rounded, angular and sub-angular gravels, fine to large clastic material/sandstone fragments. One shard of blue and white ware with a thick buff fabric, one shard of white glaze ware with a buff fabric. One fragment of brown glaze tile and a metal object possibly a nail. Occasional frags of glass and slate. Occasional modern red brick frags, medium to large fragments of salt glazed drain pipe. The depth of the deposit to the next horizon was 0.10 to 0.15 metres to the underlying disturbed natural geological deposits.
<b>(102)</b>	The underlying natural deposits comprised a loose sandy gravel within an orange Clayey matrix, with sand and gravel lenses. Contained occasional modern (CBM)
<b>(103)</b>	A dark grey clay mudstone formation possibly the result of marine or water lain sedimentation This deposit contained one complete engineering brick and frogged red brick.

***OASIS ID: independ1-310904***

**Project details**

Project name	Land off the Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief for a new development.
Project dates	Start: 22-02-2018 End: 23-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DGMN17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DA/2016/1111 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Significant Finds	CL Modern
Significant Finds	CL Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAVENTRY MOULTON Land off the Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire
Postcode	NN3 7UE
Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 4784 2664 52.81664057704 0.19401368857 52 48 59 N 000 11 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 97m Max: 99m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Nothamptonshire County Council
----------------------------	--------------------------------

## Land off The Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Monitoring

---

Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off the Grove, Moulton, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Place of issue or publication	Peterborough
Entered by	Christer Karlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	6 March 2018