Written Scheme of Investigation for Mitigation work on land at Rockingham Forrest Park (Jacks Green), Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe Northamptonshire January 2019

Author: E. Poulus

Illustrator: G. Arkley

Project Manager: Ant Maull / Paul Thompson
Site Code: TBC
Event no. TBC
NGR: TL 03857 97490

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ 01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

Project Design:
Mitigation on land in the Rockingham Forrest Park (Jack's Green), Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire

SITE NAME:	Land in the Rockingham Forrest Park (Jack's Green), Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire
NATIONAL GRID REF:	503857 297490
CLIENTS:	CgMs Heritage
DATE:	21 January 2019
EVENT NUMBER:	TBC
PLANNING APP:	14/02225/FUL
CONTRACTOR: Kent House 30 Billing Road Northampton NN1 5PN	MOLA

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 MOLA has been commissioned by CgMs Heritage to carry out archaeological mitigation works on land at the Rockingham Forrest Park (Jack's Green), Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire (NGR 503857 297490) in advance of a change of use to tourist accommodation of the site. This would comprise caravan lodges and camping pitches, with supporting access infrastructure, hard standing bases with drainage and service provision, visitor facilities and landscape planting.

1.2 The Northamptonshire Planning Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2018) has written the Brief for archaeological mitigation works to determine, record, and protect the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the site, based on the results of trial trenching evaluation carried out in August and September 2018. This archaeological work will ensure that a proper record is produced and maintained of any archaeological resource affected by the proposed development. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; DCLG 2012), with Condition 9 of the Outline Planning Permission, and with the Briefs produced by Planning Services Northamptonshire County Council (Planning Services Northamptonshire County Council 2018).

1.3 This Project Design has been prepared by MOLA to describe the proposed methodology to be undertaken for the archaeological works. It has been produced in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and Standard and Guidance documents (CIfA 2014b, c and d). The procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015a) was also adhered to.

1.4 An accession number will be requested prior to the commencement of works. This will be used as the site code.

2 BACKGROUND

Location, topography and geology

2.1 The development site is located to the south of the Roman road between Wansford and Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire (14/02225/FUL). The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 03831 97470 (Fig 1) and covers an area of c6ha. The development area lies on a gentle south to south-east facing slope between the 65m and 70m contours. The access track to the north lies at a similar elevation on a north-easterly slope, at one point running across the head of a small dry valley. The area is bounded to the east by an area of uneven ground where low ridges reflect the extent of the iron quarrying in the area. Deeper adits have been left where ironstone and clays have been removed from seams at over 9m deep. To the south is farmland of Apethorpe and to the west farmland in the area of what was the former RAF Kings Cliffe Airfield.

2.2 After trial trenching evaluation in August and September 2018, several areas were selected for mitigation. These comprise a 500m by 10m long tract of a planned haul road, a 20m by 25m area around a probable Iron Age pit alignment, an area around a probable Iron Age enclosure, four areas of 5m by 5m (subject to extension) around clusters of postholes found during trial trenching and a north-south aligned area stretching down from the haul road track to the southern limit of the development area.

2.3 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock of the survey area to be Blisworth Limestone (formerly referred to as Great Oolite), capped in places by Blisworth Clay. On the highest part of the survey area these strata are concealed beneath glacial till (BGS 2018).
The present day topography is generally a low undulating landscape of shallow dry valleys and broad ridges.

Archaeological and historical background

2.4 The following historic background contains selected summarised data extracted from the Heritage Assessment compiled in 2015 by CgMS (Dawson 2015).

Prehistoric

There are undated crop marks, including probable prehistoric field boundaries and droveways parallel to Apethorpe road (NHER 2872, 2873). These do not fall into the development area and are possibly part of a prehistoric landscape south of Apethorpe Road. More prehistoric activity is likely north of Kings Cliffe Road recorded in crop marks as ditches and a possible enclosure to the west (NHER2827/HNER 2831)
Along the access road possible prehistoric enclosures as well as iron working evidence were identified from aerial photographs and investigated in a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation (NHER2826/0/1, 2826/0/4, 2826/0/6; ENN 12971, 14640). Iron Age settlement activity was recorded at Shortwood Farm (NHER 8266).

Roman

The Wansford to Kings Cliffe Road originates in the Roman period (NHER2870). Settlement, funerary monuments and ironworking have all been recorded in the vicinity from this period.

Saxon, Medieval and Early Post-Medieval

In the Saxon and early medieval period the proposed development area lay on the boundary between the townships of Yarwell, Nassignton and Sulehay. Within the

development area are traces of surviving ridge and furrow (NHER6111). Outside the proposed development area is the remains of the Parochial Forest (NHER 2253). Parallel ditches related to the forest may extend into the Eastern margin of the proposed development area (NHER2253)

Late Post Medieval and modern

The maps suggest that the development area comprised open farmland within retained forested areas.

In 1942 the Ministry of Defence constructed RAF Kings Cliffe airfield. The proposed development site occupies part of the eastern periphery of the former RAF Kings Cliffe airfield, constructed in 1942 and in use till 1959 when it reverted to agricultural land. Within the development area a Callender Hamilton T2 hangar was situated. The technical sites and hangars have been razed, though some structure bases, perimeter track and ancillary structures are still present. The airfield is famous for its association with Glenn Miller who played his last hanger concert here on 3rd October 1944. A rebuilt memorial to him was erected on the site of the former T2 Hanger within the proposed development area (Dawson, 2015).

Previous Archaeological Work

2.5 Previous archaeological works on the site comprised a magnetometer survey, carried out in 2018 (Walford 2018). This survey identified anomalies indicative of enclosures and boundaries in the southern open area and anomalies indicative of palaeochannels and highly magnetically enhanced activity adjacent to the northern access track.

2.6 This survey was followed by a trial trench evaluation (Shipley and Cronogue-Freeman 2018). During this evaluation a low density of archaeological remains were encountered including a probable Iron Age pit alignment and part of an Iron Age enclosure. An extensive irregular boundary ditch of uncertain date and two undated parallel boundary ditches or possible trackway drainage ditches were also recorded. A low number of pits and postholes were also recorded that were likely to be of Iron Age date although direct dating evidence was limited.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation and mitigation exercises are 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;
- 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.

3.2 Specific research objectives will be drawn from national and regional research frameworks as relevant depending upon the results of the work (EH 1991 and 1997; Knight *et al* 2012)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological mitigation works will focus on extending the areas covered by the trial trenches to clarify the nature and dating of several features identified during the trial trench evaluation. An open area excavation will take part across the area which will be affected by the haul road, the area surrounding the probable Iron Age pit alignment seen in Trench 1 and the probably Iron Age enclosure seen in Trench 6.

A strip, map and sample evaluation will take place along the southern boundary and parallel boundary and the area of post holes in Trenches 5, 7, 10 and 12. This will be in each case the form of a 5m x 5m box which will be extended with an additional 5m strip should the significance of the archaeology warrants further investigation.

4.2 All works will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014b), and the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance documents (CIfA 2014b, c and d). All works will conform to Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015a). The site archive should be organised so as to be compatible with other modern archaeological archives produced in Northamptonshire. Artefacts, environmental and organic material must be labelled, processed and analysed All site recording procedures are detailed in MOLA's in-house *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014), which is issued to all staff.

4.3 Mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous supervision of a qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist. The stripping process will entail removal of the topsoil and subsoil in strips across the area of interest down to the level of the first archaeological feature.

4.4 Areas with archaeological features will be hand-cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features, and will be accurately measured in and marked out using Leica Viva GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid to produce a base plan. This plan will be prepared at an appropriate scale and presented for review of the client and the planning archaeologist.

4.5 Archaeological features will be hand excavated sufficiently to characterise the remains and determine their date and function to inform upon the previous site work (Shipley and Cronogue-Freeman 2018). Excavated sections will be targeted to confirm stratigraphic relationships where these are and are not visible in plan, and to obtain a representative sample of larger features. Sampling levels for pre-modern features will be as follows for both open area excavations and strip, map and record areas. Any changes must be agreed by the CAA.

- **All discrete features:** 50%
  Where they are shown to form part of recognisable structures, contain deposits of particular value or significant artefact or environmental assemblages they will be fully excavated.
- **Linear features associated with domestic settlement, industrial structures or areas of specific activity**: an initial 25% excavation away from intersections with other features or deposits to obtain unmixed samples of material, with slots being a

minimum of 1m width. Where significant patterns of deposition occur up to a further 25% by length will be excavated to investigate those patterns and fully understand the complexity and stratigraphy of the site. If features are believed to terminate within the area the terminals will also be investigated.
Structural remains such as eaves drip gullies, beam slots and post-holes demonstrated to be part of a buildings construction require total excavation.
All industrial features including domestic ovens and hearths should be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis.

- **Linear features not directly associated with settlement:** Sufficiently to allow an informed interpretation of their date and function. Excavation slots must be at least 1m in width. All relationships will be investigated to determine the sequence of activity. The interval between excavation slots will be spaced as evenly as possible.
- **Boundary ditches belonging to field systems:** 5%

  Excavation away from intersections with other features or deposits to obtain unmixed samples.
- **Deep features such as wells**: will be investigated to their full depth. This may require the adoption of appropriate Health and Safety procedures. Deep features will be stepped back by at least 0.5m at an appropriate depth depending on the stability of the soil, but no deeper than 1.2m. Very deep and/or unstable features may require mechanical box-sectioning.

4.6 All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of evaluation will be fully recorded. Recording will follow standard MOLA Northampton procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features will be given a separate context number. Deposits will be described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. The location of deposits will be planned at 1:20, although sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy may be drawn at a scale of 1:10. All levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.

4.7 A photographic record will be maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels. Overall shots of the site will be taken prior to excavation. Detailed shots of individual features and feature groups will be taken as appropriate. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication will include a north arrow and suitable photographic scale. The photographic record will be based on the guidance provided within the *Northamptonshire archaeological Archive Standards* Appendix A1.10 Digital Images (NCC 2014).

4.8 Finds will be collected from the individual deposits and appropriately packed and stored in stable conditions, by context and in accordance with recognised best practise (Watkinson and Neal 2001; Walker 1990). Adequate arrangements must be made within a suitable time scale for the conservation of artefacts. Where fragile or unstable finds are recovered appropriate steps must be taken to stabilise them. All conservation, including initial stabilisation must be undertaken by recognised, named specialists.

4.9 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate Department for Constitutional Affairs and environmental health regulations followed. The County Archaeological Advisor and the local Coroner must be informed immediately upon discovery of human remains. Where human remains are encountered as part of the investigation, they should be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. If they are removed, it is essential that the post-excavation assessment contains an analysis of the remains and a statement for the final deposition of the assemblage. The qualified statement must address future research potential, where applicable, and the options for reburial.

4.10 MOLA will review the site's palaeo-environmental potential as an early action within the investigation programme to assess an appropriate sampling strategy. Should any work be deemed necessary, the sampling strategy will conform to Historic England guidelines (HE 2015b). Bulk environmental soil samples would normally be taken from appropriately/securely dated sealed archaeological features or deposits for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts. The volume of such samples will be context and sediment specific and will be 40 litres or 100% of feature fills (whichever is less). Any samples will be processed at MOLA Northampton, using the flotation technique to retrieve seed, charcoal and mollusc remains. All the resultant residues will then be hand sorted to retrieve bones and other finds.

4.11 The excavated area and spoil heaps will be scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. The requirements of the Treasure Act (1996) will be adhered to. Finds coming under the definition of 'treasure' as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the Coroner and dealt with under the procedures of the Treasure Act and Code of Practice. This includes both precious metals and base metals where they are of prehistoric date. Suitable measures will be taken to ensure their security where removal cannot take place (i.e. they are within a human burial). Any finds falling under the provision of the Treasure Act will notified to the Portable Antiquities Scheme within 48 hours of discovery.

5 POST-EXCAVATION, REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

5.1 The post-excavation aspect of the project will be undertaken following the methodology set out in MoRPHE (HE 2015a) and the CIfA (CIfA 2014e). All finds will be cleaned, catalogued and prepared for storage in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Presentation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage, Guidelines no.2* (Walker 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992).

5.2 All finds will be cleaned, marked, sorted and analysed in accordance with the approved recording system and the practices and standards described in *Preparation of Archaeological Archives; Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (1993), the *CiFA Standards and Guidance for Finds Work* (2014) and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011) and NCC (2014).

5.3 A report will be produced no later than six weeks after the completion of the fieldwork which will include all current stages of the work. Any variation to the reporting timetable due to the site evidence/specialist input will be discussed with the CAA. The report will be prepared following the CIfA Standard and Guidance documents (CIfA 2014b, c and d). The report will include an introduction; the archaeological background to the project; the aims and objectives of the open area excavation and strip map and recording; a non-technical summary; the scope of the project; and the methodology used. The evidence will be presented with details of results. The report will consider results in terms of survival and potential. The text will be supported by the use of illustrations and photographs. The report will consider any archaeological remains in the context of the regional and national research frameworks.

5.4 All medieval and earlier artefacts should be reported on by a suitably qualified specialist, named in the contractor's method statement or specification. Specialist reports will be added as necessary, with acknowledgements, bibliography and contents included. All Saxon and later ceramics should be classified in accordance with the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series. The MPRG's *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* will be adhered to (Slowikowski *et al* 2001).

5.5 Accompanying illustrations will include a location plan at national, regional and local levels. A location plan of all interventions on the site, based on Ordnance Survey, will show main archaeological features. Scaled site plans and sections will be reproduced.

5.6 A report on the project will be published in an appropriate place: a recognised local or national journal or monograph series. The final report and place of publication will be approved by the CAA. The appropriate editor should be consulted and an estimate of publication costs obtained and included in the overall project costs. In the event that the results do not warrant formal publication, a copy of the detailed report of the results should be prepared and presented to the CAA, within six weeks of the completion of site works (unless there are reasonable grounds for more time).

5.7 Copies of the report will be supplied to the local planning authority and the Historic Environment Record (HER), and any other relevant parties. A final copy should be presented following confirmation of acceptance of the draft digital report. A single hard copy should also be presented to the HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

5.8 The physical site archive will be available for deposition within six months of completion of the fieldwork, under HER event number (number TBC). The site archive will be accompanied by the research archive, which will comprise the text, tabulated data, the original drawings and all other records generated in the analysis of the site archive. The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared for deposition in accordance with the *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* (NARC 2014) as well as with national guidelines by Walker (1990), Brown (2011), the CIfA (2014f) and the Museum and Galleries Commission (1992). Any material requiring special curation will be handled under the recognised guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 2001). Specifications for the long term storage of remaining digital archive material is currently under review at MOLA and final storage will be agreed at completion of the project.

There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of the county. Provision should therefore be made for retaining the project archive until such time as a suitable depository is available and arrangements have been made for the transfer of the archive.

5.9 All projects conducted by MOLA contain an Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) registration form in the front pages of the report. This data is used to keep the online database up to date with the most recent projects conducted by MOLA. When completed the digital report will be uploaded to OASIS for submission to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

5.10 it is the policy of Planning Services to ensure that the results of archaeological work in Northamptonshire are made available to the public through a variety of media. The Project manager is encouraged, therefore, to provide a strategy for site presentation, which would include (where appropriate) the issue of press releases, articles to local and national media, an "open day" for visitors or a parish-based presentation of the excavated remains. All public outreach events must be conducted following consultation with and approval by, the Client. In relation to the promotion of archaeological research, Project Managers are requested to provide a short article (where appropriate) for the planning web site. The main aim of the article is to capture the attention and imagination of the general Northamptonshire public. The articles would ideally contain photographs of recognisable archaeological activity, such as settlement, burial and cultural artefacts.

6 KEY PERSONNEL AND TIMETABLE

6.1 MOLA is a CIfA registered organisation, under the overall management of **Janet Miller BA MA MCIfA FSA, Chief Executive Officer**. MOLA Northampton is under the overall management of **Steve Parry BA MA FSA MCIfA, Director**.

6.2 The project will be carried out under the management of **Ant Maull Cert Arch, Project Manager** and **Paul Thompson HND BA AMA, Assistant Project Manager**. The fieldwork will be supervised by one of MOLA's qualified and experienced supervisors supported by Project Assistants drawn from MOLA's team of permanent and temporary staff. The number of staff may fluctuate, depending upon the material found and will be deployed accordingly. All staff will be suitably competent to undertake the tasks to which they are appointed.

6.3 **Tora Hylton, Finds Manager** will examine small finds and appoint specialists as required. Specialist analysis will be undertaken by period and artefact specialists from MOLA, or regularly used by MOLA. Other project staff will be appointed as appropriate and may include key staff from the table below:

Flint	Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD (MOLA)
Prehistoric pottery	Andy Chapman BSc MCIfA FSA (MOLA)
Roman pottery	Adam Sutton BA MA PhD
Medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BTech (Freelance specialist)
Ceramic building material	Rob Atkins BSocSc, Dip Arch *MCIfA*
Daub and burnt clay	Mary Ellen Crothers BA MA
Glass	Claire Finn BA MA PhD
Other finds all periods	Tora Hylton
Human bone analysis	Chris Chinnock BA MSc PCIfA
Animal bone analysis	Adam Reid BSc MSc ACIfA
Beetles, charred plant remains	Sander Aerts BA MA
Conservation/x-ray photography	MOLA London

6.4 The responsibility for monitoring the progress of the project throughout its life, to ensure adherence to the Brief and Project Design and the maintenance of professional standards, lies with the County Archaeology Advisor. So that arrangements for monitoring can be made the CAA will be notified of the archaeological contractor engaged to undertake the work and be given two weeks notification of the start date of the project in writing. Monitoring requirements will also be included in the project timetable with the agreement of the CAA.

The fieldwork is programmed to start on or after Tuesday 8th of January 2018 and is planned to continue for two to three weeks.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 A site specific risk assessment and safety plan (RAMS) will be prepared before the start of the project and will be updated throughout the project if appropriate. All site staff are inducted in the site specific risk assessment and made aware of potential hazards before they commence the works on site.

7.2 MOLA is a responsible employer and all work is conducted in accordance with MOLA's established Health and Safety Policy. This provides a practical framework for the implementation of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1992 and other relevant legislation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, D H, 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Second edition,* Archaeological Archives Forum

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014c *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014d *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014e *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials,* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014f *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Dawson, M, 2015 *Heritage Assessment Jack's Green, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire,* CgMs Heritage Ltd

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government

EH 1991a *Exploring Our Past*, English Heritage

EH 1997 *Research Agenda* (draft 8th April 1997), English Heritage

HE 2015a *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide,* Historic England

Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Historic environment of the East Midlands*

MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections,* Museums and Galleries Commission

MOLA, 2014 *Archaeological fieldwork manual,* MOLA Northampton

NARC, 2014 *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard*, Northamptonshire County Council

NCC, 2014 *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* (Standards Working Party of Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Working Group)

NCC, 2018 *Brief for a programme of archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication of land in the Rockingham Forest Park, Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire* Planning Services Northamptonshire County Council

Shipley, A and Cronogue-Freeman, C, 2018 *Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Jack's Green, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire, August 2018* MOLA Report **18/135**

Slowikowski, A, Nenk, B, and Pearce, J, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper **2**

Walford, J, 2018 *Archaeological geophysical survey at Jack's Green, Kings Cliffe Northamptonshire, April 2018* MOLA Report **18/59**

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*, UK Institute for Conservation

MOLA Northampton
4/1/2019
Amended 21/1/2019

503500

504000

298000

297500

Area 1

Area 2

King's Cliffe Airfield

Great Byards Sale

Jack's Green

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

0 100m

Site location

Strip, Map and Record

Open Area Excavation

Targetted post hole investigation

Archaeology

Geology

Geology (evaluation)

Excavated trench

Underground service

Pipeline / cable

Scale 1:2500 (A3)

Proposed works, including former trial trench locations & magnetometer survey interpretations Fig 2