



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**A Strip, Map and Sample Investigation  
on land to the rear of No. 4,  
The Avenue, Moulton,  
Northamptonshire.**

**NGR: SP 79196 65782**

Sophie Clarke



ULAS Report No. 2014-100  
©2014

**A Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on  
land to the rear of No. 4, The Avenue,  
Moulton,  
Northamptonshire  
NGR: SP 79196 65782**

**Sophie Clarke**

**For: Duncan Brebner**

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 25th May 2013.....

**University of Leicester**  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

**ULAS Report Number 2014-100**  
©2014  
**Accession Number NH\_AvMoul\_2014**

## **CONTENTS**

Summary .....	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Background.....	1
3. Objectives .....	3
4. Methodology.....	3
5. Results.....	3
6. Archive.....	5
7. Publication .....	5
8. Bibliography .....	5
Appendix 1 OASIS Information .....	6

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1. Site Location.....	2
Figure 2 Site layout, supplied by client. ....	2
Figure 3. Location of excavation area, highlighted in green. Plan supplied by client...4	
Figure 4. Excavation area, looking north-west. ....	4
Figure 5. Excavation area, looking west.....	5

## **A Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on land to the rear of No. 4, The Avenue, Moulton, Northamptonshire**

**NGR: SP 79196 65782**

**Sophie Clarke**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the rear of No. 4, The Avenue, Moulton, Northamptonshire. The work took place on the 19th of May 2014 in advance of the construction of two new dwellings and garages. The site is located in close proximity to known Roman remains (MNN6064) and has the potential to contain remains of a similar date.*

*The footprint of the new houses was stripped of topsoil and subsoil layers under archaeological supervision, but no archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the groundworks.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by Sophie Clarke of ULAS. The site archive will be retained by ULAS under the provisional Accession Number NH\_AvMoul\_2014 and will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council Museum Service in due course.*

### **1. Introduction**

In accordance with NPPF (section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) this document forms the report for a Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land to the rear of no. 4, The Avenue, Moulton, Northamptonshire. The work was carried out in advance of proposed groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings and garages within a former garden plot (Planning Application Number DA/2011/0203 & 2013/0478).

The work was carried out in compliance with advice given by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Northamptonshire County Council that a scheme of archaeological work should be implemented as a condition upon the granting of the planning consent, in view of the considered potential of the site to contain archaeological remains. The work was commissioned by Duncan Brebner and followed the methodology outlined in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on land to the rear of no. 4, The Avenue, Moulton, Northamptonshire* (ULAS 14/392 – hereinafter the WSI).

### **2. Background**

The site is located in Moulton, approximately 5 miles north-east of Northampton, between the villages of Moulton to the west and Overstone to the east (SP 79196 65782; Fig. 1).

The development area lies within the back garden of No. 4, The Avenue, at a height of approximately 100m above OD, on land which slopes down from east to west. The area covers approximately 0.19ha and was formerly an orchard.



Figure 1. Site Location

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 100029495

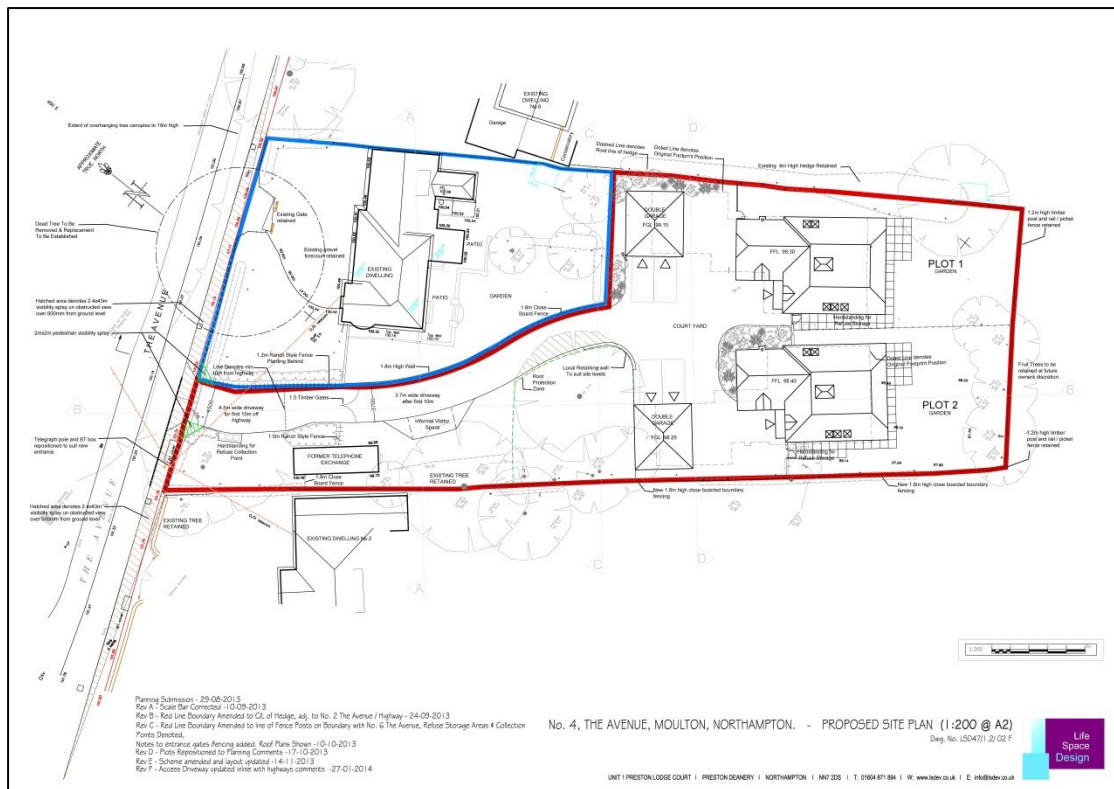


Figure 2 Site layout, supplied by client.

### **3. Objectives**

In addition to the research aims specified in the ULAS WSI the general objectives were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or earlier building remains.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

### **4. Methodology**

A tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to reduce the ground across the footprints of the new buildings. This equated to an area measuring approximately 25m long by 10m wide, reduced to the level of the natural substratum. The work was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision and the spoil was scanned for finds and other artefacts.

Recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS WSI and included notes, sketches and digital colour photographs. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (2008).

### **5. Results**

As noted in the methodology, an area measuring approximately 25m long by 10m wide, to cover the footprints of both new houses, was stripped of topsoil and subsoil layers, down to the level of the natural geological substratum. Topsoil consisted of a layer of dark brown clay silt, measuring approximately 0.25m deep, which overlay a layer of mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil of 0.2-0.25m depth. The natural geological substratum beneath the subsoil consisted largely of orangey yellow mudstone clay, with an area of ironstone appearing towards the eastern side of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the strip and no pottery or other finds were observed within the removed spoil.

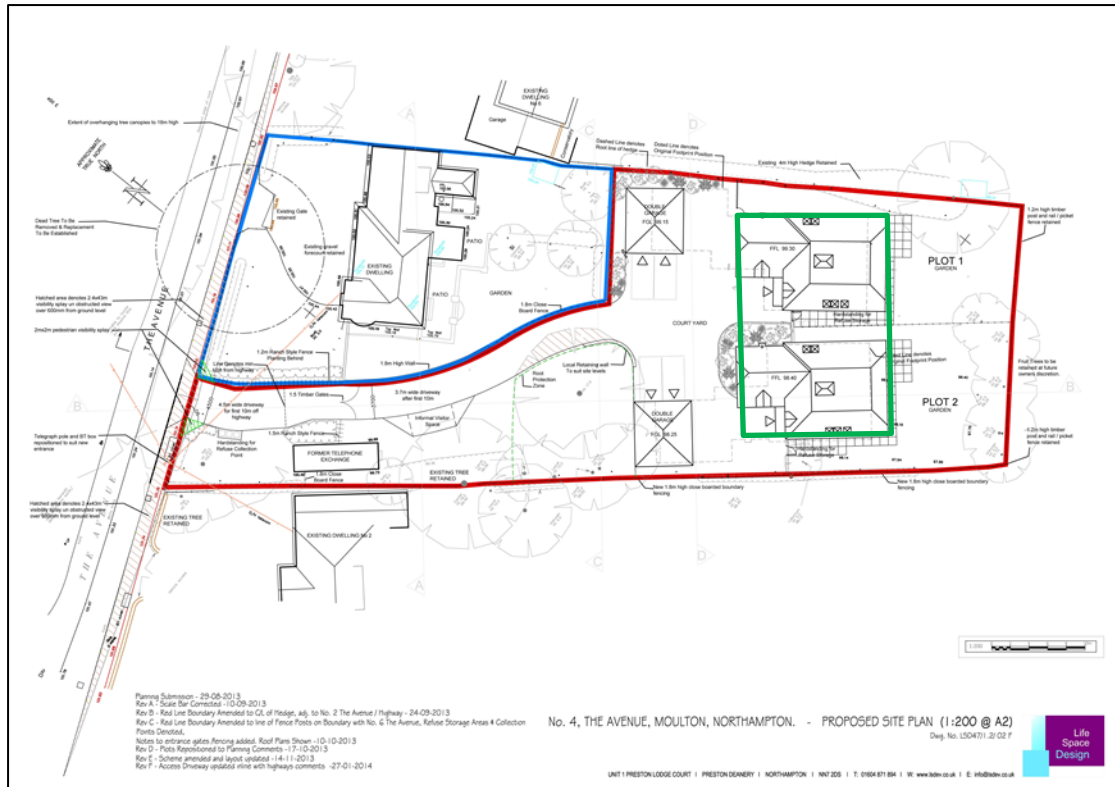


Figure 3. Location of excavation area, highlighted in green. Plan supplied by client.



Figure 4. Excavation area, looking north-west.



Figure 5. Excavation area, looking west.

## 6. Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

- 1 pro forma recording form,
- 1 contact sheet of 6 digital photographs,
- 1 cd of digital photographs.

## 7. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

## 8. Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Written Scheme of Investigation for a *Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on land to the rear of no. 4, The Avenue, Moulton, Northamptonshire*. 14/392 ULAS



## **Appendix 1 OASIS Information**

Project Name	Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on land to the rear of No. 4, The Avenue, Moulton
Project Type	Strip, Map and Sample Investigation
Project Manager	V Score
Project Supervisor	S Clarke
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SP 79196 65782
Start/end dates of field work	19.05.2014
Archive Recipient	NCC
Study Area	0.19ha

## ULAS Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**W:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



University of  
**Leicester**

Archaeological Services



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION  
2013



2013  
**THE AWARDS**  
AWARD WINNER  
RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR