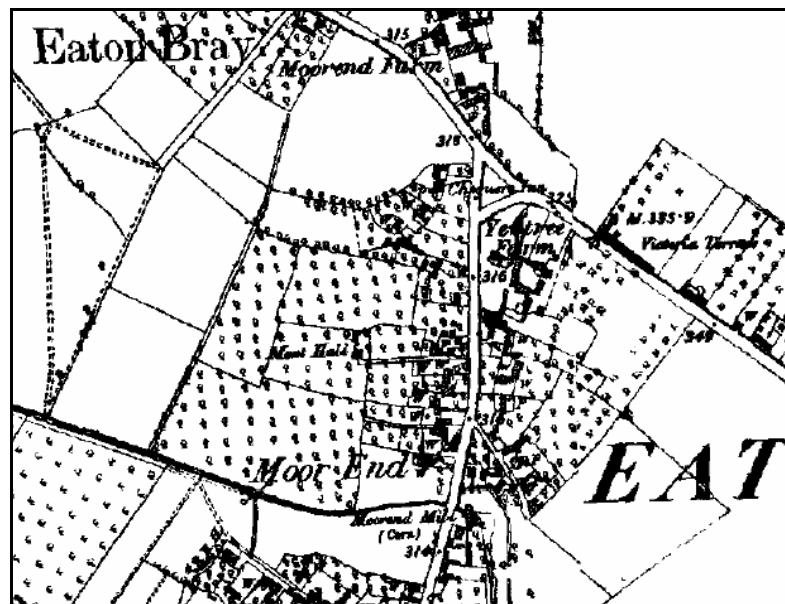




Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation  
at Moat Hall, 36 Moor End,  
Eaton Bray  
Bedfordshire  
September 2007



Paul Kajewski & Emma Rae

October 2007

Report 07/146

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



### STAFF

Project Manager Antony Walsh BA.

Fieldwork Emma Rae BA. Hons.

Adrian Adams

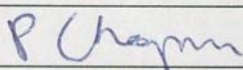
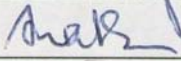

Text Paul Kajewski BA. PGDipp.

Pottery Iain Soden BA, MIFA

Leather Tora Hylton

Illustrations Pat Walsh BA

### QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		2/10/07
Verified by	Tony Walsh		2/10/07
Approved by	Bill Boismier		2/10/07

## OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Archaeological Evaluation at Moat Hall, at 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation, comprising a single trench, was undertaken on land at 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, upon the site of a possible moat recorded in the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record, (HER 3242). The evaluation located one side of the moat and determined it had been backfilled in the twentieth century, most likely to create better access to the property.
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Trial Trenching
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	No previous work, HER (3242)
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown
Monument type And period	Moat, medieval and post-medieval
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Post-medieval pottery, glass and building material
PROJECT LOCATION	
County	Bedfordshire
Site address (including postcode)	36 Moor End, Eaton Bray. Bedfordshire
Easting, Northing (use numerical 100km grid square no.)	SP 9744 2010
Height OD	96m OD
PROJECT CREATORS	
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Project brief originator	Bedfordshire County Council
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology
Director/Supervisor	Emma Rae
Project Manager	Tony Walsh
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Provan
PROJECT DATE	
Start date	13 September 2007
End date	14 September 2007
ARCHIVES	
Location (Accession no.) 2007/137	Content (e.g. pottery, glass, metal work)
Physical	
Paper	Project Monitoring Forms (1), Colour slides (11), black and white contact prints (11), Digital (24)
Digital	PDF of report and illustrations.
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Title	Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire
Serial title & volume	07/146
Author(s)	Paul Kajewski
Page numbers	5
Date	1/10/2007

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS OF FIELDWORK</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>THE FINDS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>7</b>

### APPENDIX 1: SITE DATA

#### Figures

Fig 1: Site location 1:25000

Fig 2: Location of Trench 1:1000

Fig 3: Plan 1: Location of moat within Trench 1, 1:50 and Section 1, 1:20

#### Plates

Plate 1: Pre-Excavation photograph

Plate 2: Section 1, moat ditch [108] looking south

Plate 3: East side of moat, looking south

Plate 4: Eaton Bray Tithe Award Map, 1849 (BCRO MAT13)

Plate 5 & frontispiece: Moor End, Eaton Bray, Ordnance Survey First Edition 1890

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT MOAT HALL

36 MOOR END, EATON BRAY

BEDFORDSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 2007

## ABSTRACT

*An archaeological evaluation, comprising a single trench, was undertaken on land at 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, upon the site of a possible moat recorded in the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record, (HER 3242). The evaluation located one side of the moat and determined it had been backfilled in the twentieth century, most likely to create better access to the property.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation during September 2007 on the site of a proposed garage at 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire NGR SP 9744 2010 (Fig 1).

The work was undertaken in order to inform a planning application for the demolition of existing outbuildings and the construction of extensions including the building of a detached garage. The trial trench was located within the footprint of the proposed garage. The evaluation met the requirements of a brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation issued by Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section, BCCHEs (2007), who monitored the work.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Archaeological background

The following section comprises a summary of Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) listings for Moat Hall (HER 3242) and Eaton Bray village, and the immediate hinterland for a distance of approximately 1.5km.

Evidence for the Iron Age/Roman period is represented by finds of pottery (HER 15831) and two individual coins (HER 11776/11777).

During the medieval period the historic core of Eaton Bray (HER 16884) lay to the north and east. The parish church of St Mary's (HER 964) stands c 800m to the north-west of

the site. The village is long and sinuous, with properties either side of the main roads; the High Street; the Rye to the north and Moor End to the south. The village contains a number of small 'greens', often at road junctions, such as 'Old Green' (HER 11779) and a larger triangular green (Great Green) at the north (HER 15124). The possible moat at 36 Moor End is one of a number of moated sites in and around the village. The largest of these is at Park Farm (HER 531) *c* 1.5km to the north-west of the site; associated with it are a medieval park (HER 13970) and fishpond (HER 10652). Another moat is located 500m north at School Lane (HER 10632) and two others are to the south, over the county boundary in Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire.

Post-medieval and nineteenth-century buildings recorded in the HER include the Two Counties flour mill at Moor End (HER 1179) and Bellows Mill (HER 1687), The White Horse Inn public house (HER 1050) and the Methodist Church (HER 6869).

There is a documentary reference, dated 1574, to a tenement called 'Manor Hall' or 'Harryotts' (CRO MN 108) which may correspond with the site. On the Eaton Bray Tithe Map (dated 1849) the site is shown as 'Moat Hall Piece' (CRO MAT 13; transcription Plate 4 below). Part of the west boundary of the site is shown on the enclosure map of 1860; although the site itself was not shown, as it was counted as old enclosure and therefore outside the remit of the surveyors. The first edition Ordnance Survey map, 6" Scale (1890) names 'Moat Hall' and shows a group of buildings in the north-east corner of the plot (Plate 5). The largest of the buildings corresponds to the position of the surviving house, although externally the current house appears to be of much more recent build.

## **2.2 Topography and geology**

The whole site covers *c* 0.75 ha and is bounded by Moor End to the east and farm land to the north, south and west. The site contains several outbuildings (which are to be demolished). The site lies at the foot of the Chilterns chalk ridge at 96m AOD. The River Ouzel is to the south. The underlying geology is of the Mead Association with superficial deposits of calcareous gley soil with alluvium.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The specific aims of the evaluation, as stated in the specification (NA 2007) were to:

- Establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- Place the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

A single trial trench, measuring 5m long and 1.8m wide was excavated within the footprint of the proposed garage (Fig 2). The trench was excavated using a JCB 3CX mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the first significant archaeological layer, exposing the western edge of the moat ditch, after which excavation continued by hand.

Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology recording procedures were employed. The trench was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, with contexts recorded on pro-forma sheets with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained, with additional digital photographs.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a cross-referenced site archive.

All works were carried out according to the IFA *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* (IFA 1995), and all procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology *Health and Safety at work Guidelines* (NA 2003).

#### 4 RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

A table of archaeological contexts is presented in Appendix 1.

The trench was orientated east-west and measured 5m long and 1.8m wide (Fig 3, Plan 1).

Undisturbed natural geology (109) chalky silty clay and bluish boulder clay, was revealed at the west end of the trench at a depth of 0.3m.

Cut into the natural chalky clay was the western edge of a large steep sided ditch [108], which was interpreted as the cut of the moat. Within the trench the moat ditch measured at least 4.6m wide and 1.25m deep (1.65m below ground level). The eastern edge of the moat ditch was likely to lay *c* 2m beyond the eastern end of the trench.

The moat was not excavated to its base, due to the constraints of the trench, the proximity of the pond to the north, the hedged boundary to the east and the house to the west. The moat ditch contained six fills (Fig 3, section 1). The earliest fill (107) was mid brown silty clay with some orange patches and white chalk flecks throughout. It contained lenses of semi-decayed organic material (leaves and small twigs) and a rim-sherd from a nineteenth-century pancheon. Groundwater began to enter the ditch at this level.

Above (107) was fill (106) consisting of grey/brown silty clay, up to 0.6m thick, with white chalk flecks and occasional charcoal. Above this, at the centre of the ditch, was fill (105) grey silty clay with white chalk flecks, 0.24 thick. Pottery from this fill included one sherd of late medieval coarseware, one sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware and one sherd of underglaze transfer-printed earthenware. The earlier material was clearly residual.

Above (105) was fill (104) grey brown loam, up to 0.44m thick. This appeared to be deliberate backfill of moat and contained large amounts of modern domestic debris, including glass bottles, brick and tile. Pottery sherds recovered were from underglaze transfer-printed earthenwares.

Above (104) were two layers, (103) and (102). Layer (103) overlay the western edge of the ditch and (102) occupied the centre of the ditch. Fill (102) overlay (103). Each layer consisted of dark brown silty loam, *c* 0.4m thick, and contained building debris, including limestone and mortar and brick fragments. This layer contained more nineteenth and twentieth-century pottery, glass bottles and bricks.

The topsoil (101) dark brown silty loam 0.10m to 0.30m thick, overlay (102) and (103).



## **5 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 The Pottery** by Iain Soden

The fieldwork at Eaton Bray Moat recovered a small selection of modern rubbish. This comprised bottles of later twentieth-century date including two for 'Daddies Sauce', for example.

In addition there was a selection of sherds from underglaze transfer-printed earthenwares. Most were unstratified but some were from context (104). These are of later nineteenth-century or twentieth-century date.

There was earlier material in addition as follows:

Context (105) 1 body sherd of late medieval coarseware

1 body sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware

1 body sherd of underglaze transfer-printed earthenware

Context (107) 1 rim-sherd of nineteenth-century pancheon

While this material indicates that older deposits related to the moat and the occupation of the platform still exist, the presence of later material shows that the earlier types are residual, having been disturbed from their parent-contexts.

### **5.2 Leather** by Tora Hylton

Decaying fragments of a leather shoe were recovered from the upper fill of the moat (104). The fragments suggest that the shoe would have been for the right foot and include parts of the toe end and heel with upper, insole and sole attached, the central section is missing. A small sub-rectangular strip, pierced by three circular perforations, supported by rings in a white metal and flanked by a line of marginally placed stitch holes (none of the tread survives) indicate that the shoe would have been front-laced. Although difficult to date with accuracy because of the fragmentary nature of the pieces, it is probable the shoe is the same date as the pottery assemblage (twentieth century).

## 6 CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation confirmed that the large ditch surrounding the property at 36 Moor End Eaton Bray was continuous along its eastern side, supporting the suggestion that the ditch was that of a moat, as previously recorded upon the Historic Environment Record (HER 3242). Estimating from the breadth of excavated feature the full width of the ditch was likely to measure *c* 6.5m. Levels were taken at the deepest point of the hand-dug section and compared to those at the bottom of the open moat to the south (Plate 3) and found to be within 0.05m of each other. Extrapolating from the angle of the ditch recorded in the trench the actual base of the moat is likely to be *c* 0.6m deeper than the level of the hand dug section and that of the open moat, giving maximum depth of 2.25m below current ground level.

The finds recovered from the fills of the ditch, were mainly of pottery, glass and brick which indicate that the ditch was deliberately infilled during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The current house appears to be of recent style, although it occupies the site of a building shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey (1890). The evaluation trench was located adjacent to the access to the property and the backfilling of the moat ditch may have been a relatively recent event during improvement of the buildings and access. The backfilling of a part of such a large monument would have taken large amounts of material. The volume of soil and modern debris in the ditch suggests that material was brought from neighbouring properties as well as within 36 Moor End.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BCCHES 2007 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at Moat Hall, 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Bedfordshire*, Bedfordshire County Council Historic Environment Section.

NA 2007 *Specification for an Archaeological Trial Excavation on Land at Moat Hall, 36 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire*, Northamptonshire County Council

IFA 1995 *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* Institute of Field Archaeologists

NA 2003 *Advisory document on Health and Safety at Work*

Northamptonshire Archaeology

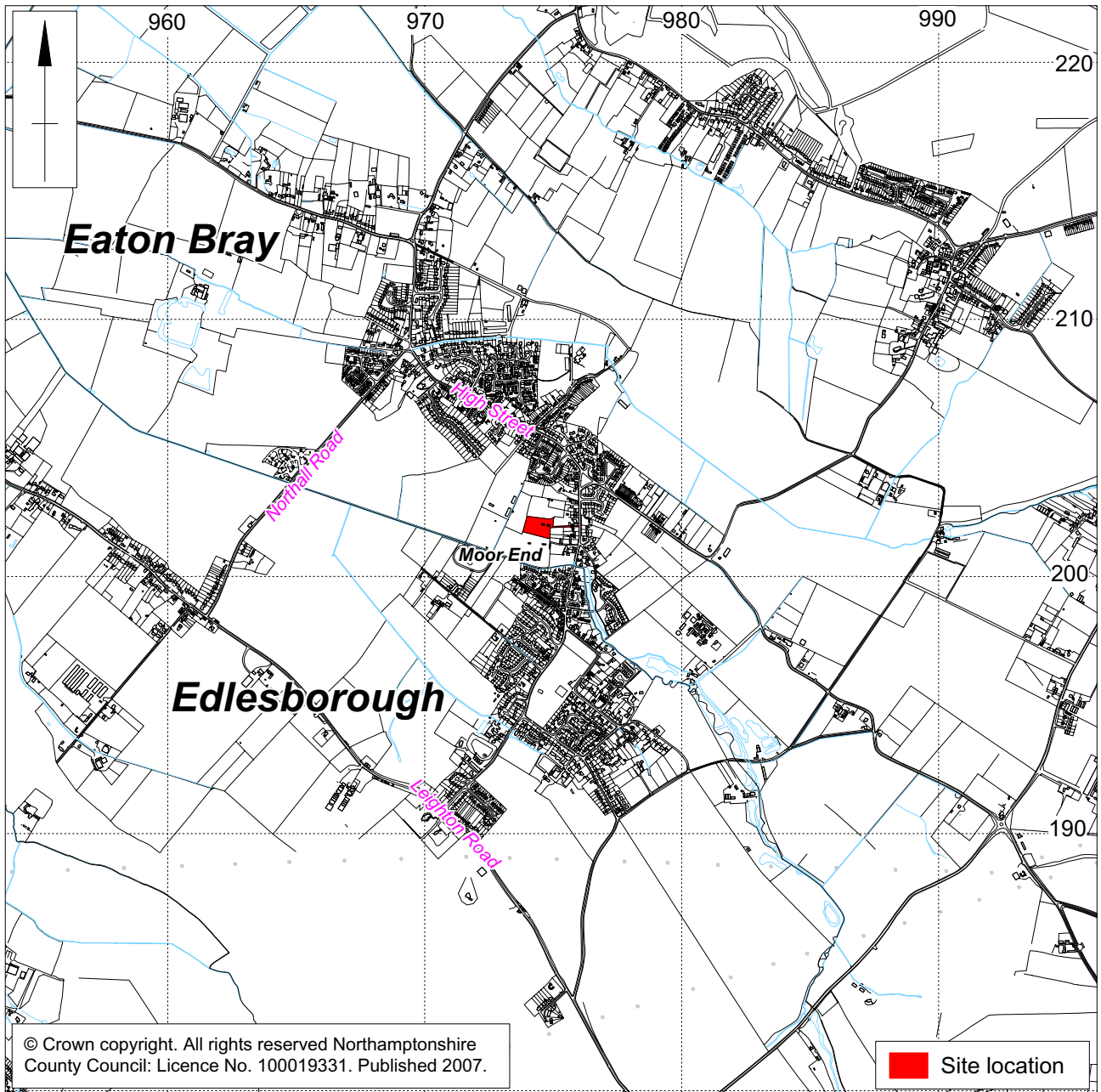
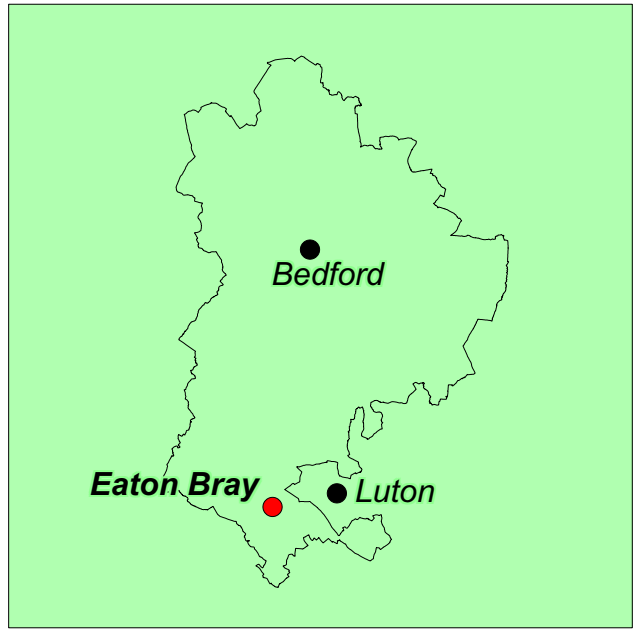
Northamptonshire County Council

October

2007

## APPENDIX 1: SITE DATA

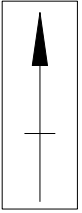
Trench No	Context	Deposit Type	Description	Artefact types
1	101	Layer	<b>Topsoil</b> consisting of a dark brown silty loam 0.30m thick	
	102	Layer	Layer of dark brown silty loam with frequent mortar and brick fragments, maximum 0.4m thick	Brick fragments of a 19-20th century date.
	103	Layer	Dark brown silty loam with flint pebbles and limestone fragments, 0.36m thick	Brick fragments of a 19-20th century date.
	104	Fill	Fill of moat consisting of a grey brown loam, 0.24-0.44m thick. Deliberate backfill of moat, containing large amounts of modern domestic debris	Glass, pottery brick and tile of a 19-20 century date.
	105	Fill	Fill of centre of moat consisting of grey silty clay with white chalk flecks, 0.24 thick.	Pottery of a 19-20 century date.
	106	Fill	Fill of moat consisting of grey/brown silty clay with white chalk flecks and occasional charcoal, 0.25-0.6m thick	Pottery of a 19-20 century date.
	107	Fill	Lowest visible fill of moat consisting of a mid brown silty clay with some orange patches throughout and white chalk flecks, containing organic material (compacted leaves, twigs etc – partially decayed.)	Pottery of a 19-20 century date.
	108	Cut	<b>Moat.</b> Western edge of large V-shaped ditch, at least 4.6m wide and greater than 1.25 m deep (1.65m Below ground level). The full profile shape is unknown. The angle of slope is c40 degrees	Nil
	109	Natural substrate	The <b>natural substrate</b> chalky silty clay and bluish boulder clay	Nil



Scale 1:25,000

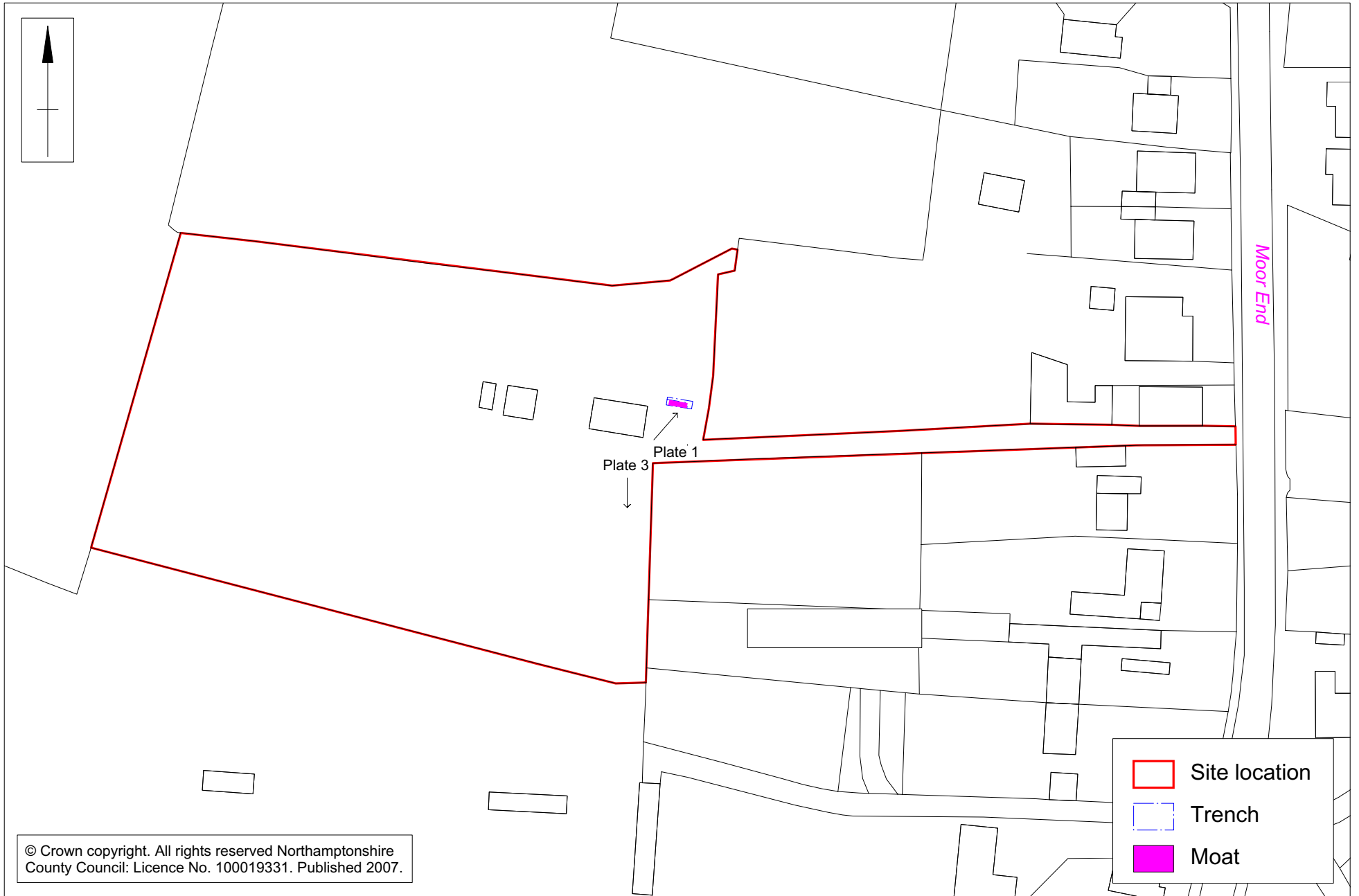
Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:1000



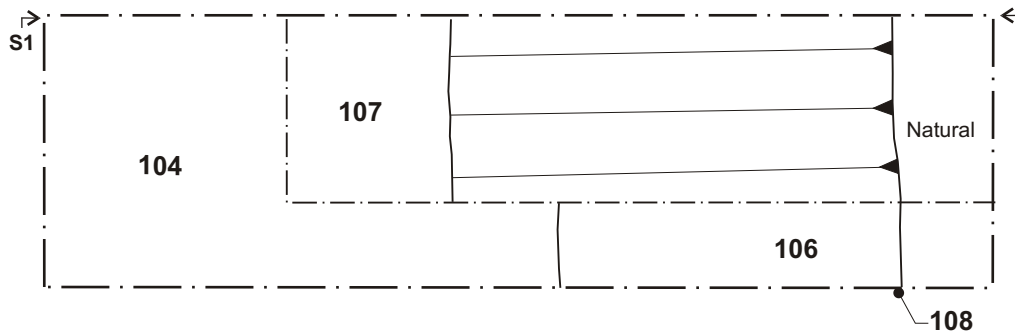
Location of trench

Fig 2

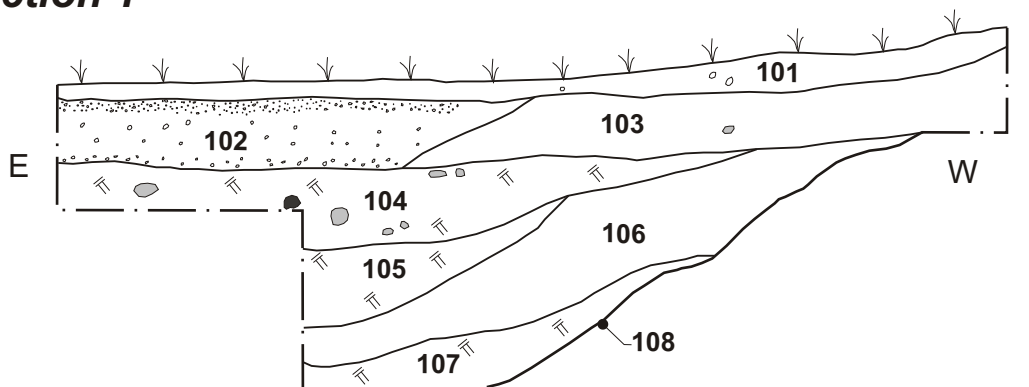


© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2007.

# Trench 1



# Section 1



	Silty clay
	Pottery
	Degraded metal

Trench 1 and section 1 Fig 3

PLATES



Plate 1: Pre-Excavation photograph



Plate 2: Section 1, moat ditch [108] looking south





Plate 3: East side of moat, looking south

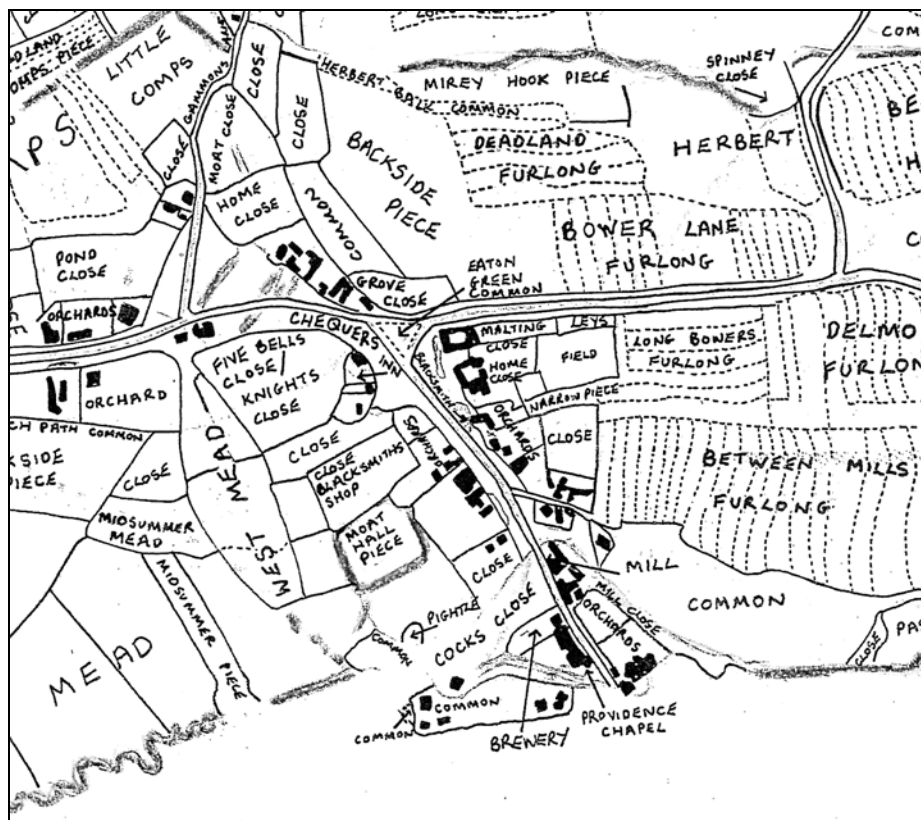


Plate 4: Eaton Bray Tithe Award Map, 1849 (BCRO MAT13)

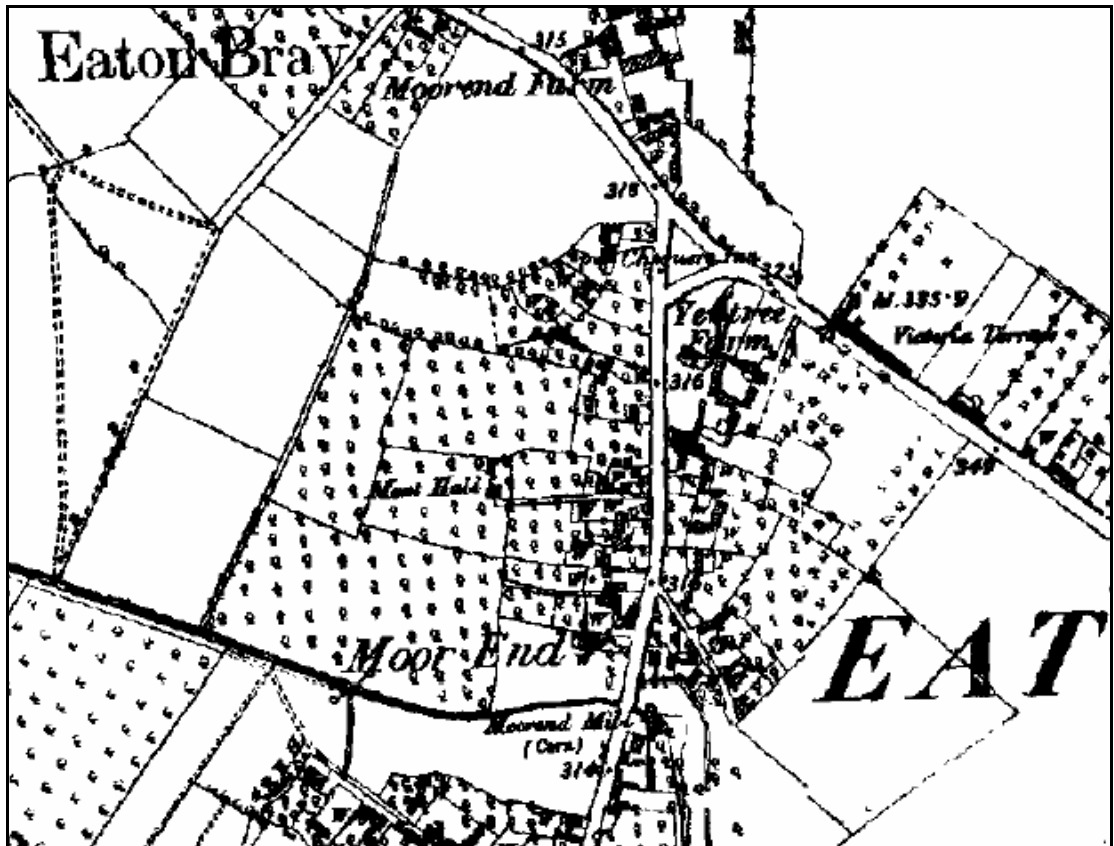


Plate 5: Moor End, Eaton Bray, Ordnance Survey First Edition 1890