



**Archaeological evaluation on land  
at Wood End, Marston Moretaine,  
Bedfordshire  
April to May 2014**

Report No. 14/128

Author: Liz Muldowney

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



**Archaeological evaluation on land  
at Wood End, Marston Moretaine,  
Bedfordshire  
April to May 2014**

Accession number: BEDFM:2013.45

Report No. 14/128

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	19.06.14	Pat Chapman	Anthony Maull	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

Author: Liz Muldowney

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

© MOLA Northampton 2014

MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN  
01604 700 493  
[www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)  
[sparry@mola.org.uk](mailto:sparry@mola.org.uk)

**STAFF**

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch

Text: Liz Muldowney MA  
Charlotte Walker BSc AlfA

Fieldwork: Kirsty Beecham BSc  
Peter Haynes  
Liz Muldowney

Romano-British pottery: Rob Perrin BA MLitt PGCE MifA FSA

Medieval pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

Post-medieval pottery: Tora Hylton

Fired Clay: Pat Chapman BA AlfA

Other finds: Tora Hylton

Animal bone: Adam Reid BSc MSc

Plant macrofossils: Val Fryer BA MifA

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

## OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. molanort1-181746</b>	
Project title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire		
Short description	Six trenches were excavated across the area, targeting geophysical anomalies. Five of the six trenches contained low to moderate amounts of archaeological remains relating to two phases of site use. The sixth contained evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation only. A medieval to post-medieval drainage channel serving the (un-investigated) moat was recorded in two of the trenches. Elsewhere a series of ditches were recorded, all dating to the transitional Iron Age to Romano-British period. The geophysical survey plot indicates that these features were part of enclosures and trackways, the volume of pottery recovered indicates that the site was occupied although no structural remains were noted. In some areas a buried soil horizon survives, truncated by the Romano-British ditches; this suggests that the field is unlikely to have been ploughed since and potential for survival of structural remains is therefore high.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site Status			
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Clements 2013)		
Current land use	Agricultural		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Ditches; Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval		
Significant finds	Pottery, fired clay, animal bone		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Bedfordshire		
Site address	Land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire		
Post code	MK43 0NZ		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 97700 41600		
Area (sq m/ha)	3.2 hectares		
Height aOD	50.37m to 52.87m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Liz Muldowney (MOLA)		
Project Managers	Anthony Maul (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	The Marston Vale Trust		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	31 April 2014		
End date	7 May 2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	MOLA Northampton store BEDFM:2013.45	Pottery; animal bone, fired clay	
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Survey data, report, photographs	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire April to May 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/128		
Author(s)	Liz Muldowney		
Page numbers	39 pages, 14 figs		
Date	June 2014		

# Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	
2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	
4	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	
4.1	Heritage asset statement	by Charlotte Walker
4.2	Previous archaeological investigations	
5	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	
6	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	
6.1	Trench 1	
6.2	Trench 2	
6.3	Trench 3	
6.4	Trench 4	
6.5	Trench 5	
6.6	Trench 6	
7	THE FINDS	
7.1	Romano-British pottery	by Rob Perrin
7.2	Medieval pottery	by Paul Blinkhorn
7.3	Post-medieval pottery	by Tora Hylton
7.4	Ceramic building material	by Pat Chapman
7.5	Other finds	by Tora Hylton
7.6	Animal bone	by Adam Reid
8	CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS	by Val Fryer
9	CONCLUSION	
9.1	Late Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosures	
9.2	Medieval to post-medieval ditch and cultivation system	
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY	

## Tables

Table 1: Romano-British pottery quantification by trench

Table 2: Romano-British pottery fabrics

Table 3: Romano-British pottery forms by fabric

Table 4: Post-medieval pottery quantification

Table 5: Quantification of fired clay

Table 6: The taxa present

Table 7: Bone from sieved samples

Table 8: Plant macrofossil results by sample

## Figures

Front cover: Excavations at Wood End, Marston Moretaine

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

Fig 3: Reconstruction of Marston Enclosure Award, 1797 based on transcription of 1840 Tithe Map (Angela Simco, 1992)

Fig 4: Cropmark evidence from aerial photographs

Fig 5: Jeffreys map of Bedfordshire, 1765

Fig 6: Ordnance Survey map, 1815

Fig 7: Transcription of the 1840 Tithe Award for Marston Moretaine (CBC HER)

Fig 8: Aerial photograph of the site, 2009 (Copyright Infoterra and Bluesky Ltd)

Fig 9: Trench location and geophysical survey results

Fig 10: Trench 1, plan, ditch sections and photographs

Fig 11: Trench 2, plan, ditch section and photograph

Fig 12: Trench 3, plan, ditch sections and photographs

Fig 13: Trench 5, plan, ditch sections and photographs

Fig 14: Trench 6, plan, ditch section and photograph

# Archaeological evaluation on land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire April to May 2014

## Abstract

*Six trenches were excavated to target geophysical anomalies. Five of the six trenches contained low to moderate amounts of archaeological remains relating to two phases of site use. The sixth contained evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation only. A medieval to post-medieval drainage channel serving the (un-investigated) moat was recorded in two of the trenches. Elsewhere a series of ditches were recorded, all dating to the transitional Iron Age to Romano-British period. The geophysical survey plot indicates that these features were part of enclosures and trackways, the volume of pottery recovered indicates that the site was occupied although no structural remains were noted. In some areas a buried soil horizon survives, truncated by the Romano-British ditches; this suggests that the field is unlikely to have been ploughed since and potential for survival of structural remains is therefore high.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

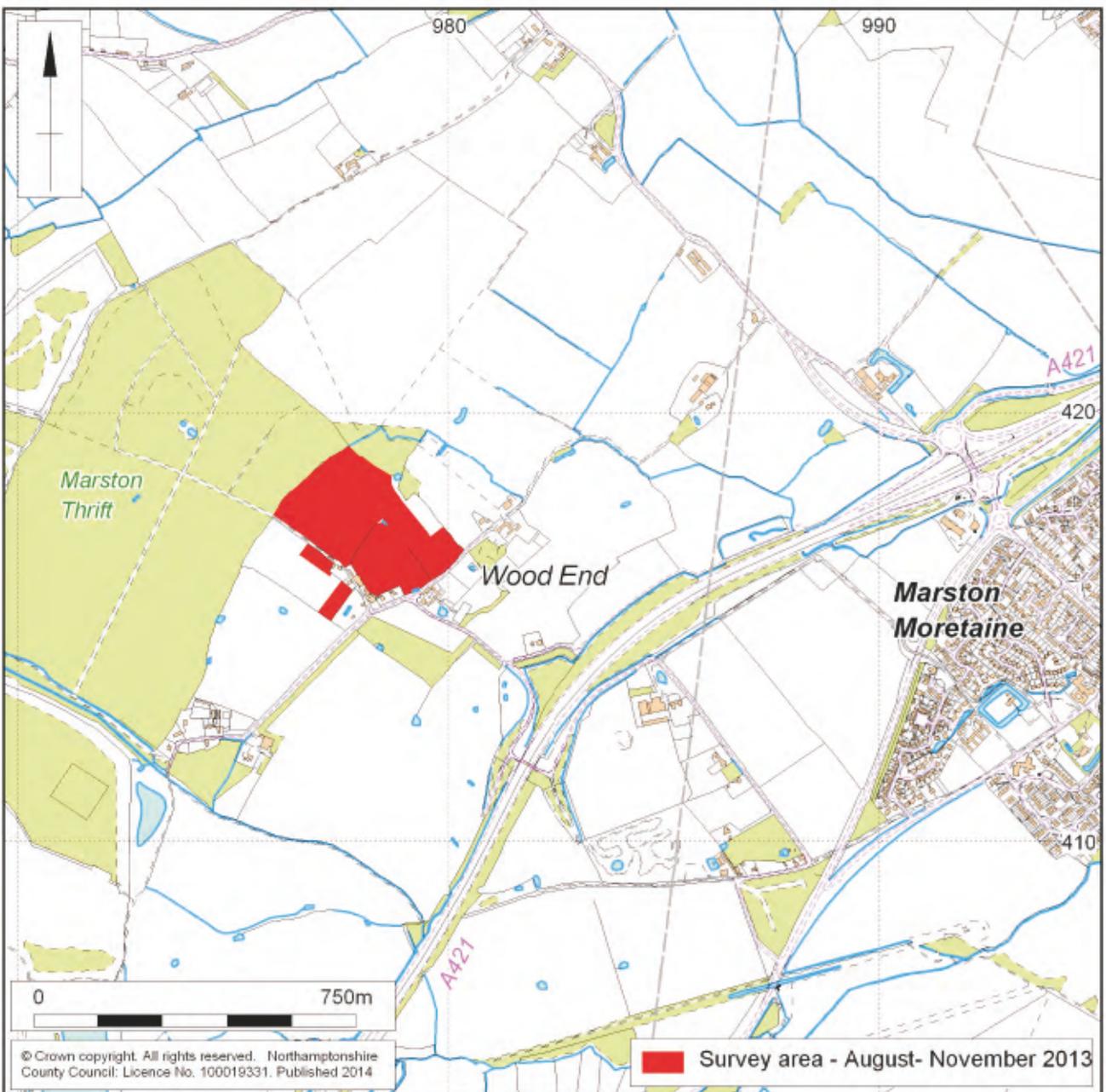
MOLA was commissioned by The Marston Vale Trust to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 97700 41600; Fig 1). The work is intended to inform, in advance of determination, a planning application for development of the land. The works will be carried out accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

All works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and followed consultation with Martin Oake (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA)), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Simmonds 2014).

## 2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area consists of approximately 3.2ha of agricultural land, located at the hamlet of Wood End, 1.5km west of Marston Moretaine (Fig 1). The site is bounded by agricultural land to the north-east and south-west, forest to the north-west and domestic properties and commercial units to the south-west.

Topographically the site is generally flat at between 50m and 53m above Ordnance Datum. The geological mapping for the area indicates that the site is located on Peterborough Formation of Oxford Clay. No drift geology is mapped (BGS-<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/>).



Scale 1:15,000

Site Location Fig 1

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains are present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

The project addressed the research aims and made reference to the following documents as appropriate:

- *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al 2012)
- *Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007)
- *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the east of England* (Medlycott 2011).

### 4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 4.1 Heritage asset statement by Charlotte Walker

##### ***Earlier prehistoric***

There have been no finds of earlier prehistoric material within the search area and the location of the site on the heavier clay soils away from the lighter gravel terraces of the River Ouse means that the potential for remains of this date is considered to be low.

##### ***Iron Age/Roman***

Archaeological investigation ahead of the A421 road construction found evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity close to the site (Simmonds and Welsh 2013).

A middle Iron Age enclosure was excavated c 430m to the south-east of the site (Site 4 (Trench 54); Fig 2). The enclosure was defined by at least three discontinuous circuits of ditches. There were few definite features and no surfaces surviving within the enclosure. Further middle Iron Age features were found further north at Site 4 (Trench 61) including part of a ring gully and several pits.

A site north-west of Vale Farm (SP 979 406, 900m to the south of the site) was subsequently excavated prior to construction (Site 3; Fig 2). A late Iron Age enclosure complex was identified with an early Roman reorganisation. A small cremation cemetery was located within a separate annex. Geophysical survey confirmed that the Iron Age and Roman activity extended beyond the site. A series of early Roman quarry pits were identified during the evaluation stage (HER 12940).

There have also been a number of finds of Romano-British material within the wider search area, perhaps the most significant of which are a pottery scatter (HER 12476) and a number of coins and other artefacts (HER 15925 and 15905) all located at least 180m to the north-east of the site.



Prior to the improvements to the A421, there was little definite evidence of Iron Age or Roman activity in the area. The recent archaeological investigations have indicated that there was a relatively dense occupation of the clay vale. The geophysical survey detected a number of ditches that are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date, but it is possible that some of the features are earlier (Clements 2013). It is considered therefore that there is a moderate potential for Iron Age/Roman features which are likely to be of low/local significance.

### **Anglo-Saxon/medieval**

The earliest mention of Marston is in a charter of 969 AD, in which the boundary of Apsley Guise was defined in relation to surrounding territories, including that of Marston.

Before 1066, the main manor was split into a number of small holdings of land held by a group of twenty-one sokemen, who were essentially elements of the local peasant community. After Domesday the sokemen were replaced by individual lords, although the pattern of small-scale, dispersed land holding appears to have endured into the post-conquest period.

At Domesday there were two manors at Marston, the main manor was held by Nigel D'Albini who granted it to Erfast. The manor house may have been situated at a moated site south-west of the church. A second manor, known as Wroxhill or Roxhill, was held by Walter Gifford who granted it to Hugh de Bolbec. The location of the associated manor house is not clear, but a number of ponds around Roxhill Manor Farm may be the remains of former moated manor sites. Large areas of woodland were also recorded in the parish with wood for 600 pigs held between the two manors. This probably equates about half the area of the parish.

There was a proliferation in the number of manors during the medieval period. The earliest reference to the manor of Nether Shelton was in 1562. The manor of Mangehoo, which was situated in Wootton, held land in Marston was also in existence by the early 16th century. Similarly, the manor of Beancroft was referenced in 1547 (HER 52). Houses associated with all three lay within moats. Further possible moated sites are scattered around the parish including two at Wood End, the current site (HER 7830) and a possible site at the former Wood End Farm to the south-west (HER 3405), as well as Draper's Farm (HER 3427) and Charity Farm (HER 5050) to the east.

Many moated sites appear to have been created in the period 1180-1320 reflecting the foundation or consolidation of settlement around the 13th century (Lewis 1997). Bedfordshire has one of the densest distributions of this form of monument in the country and within Bedfordshire Marston Moretaine has one of the largest numbers of any parish. Moated sites are often associated with dispersed woodland settlement a fact commonly explained by the need to provide a secure place for occupation on newly cleared land. At the Wood End moat, the adjacent field name of *Stocking* (which means *a clearing of stocks or stumps*; Fig 3) indicates that this area may have been assarted from the adjacent woodland at around the same time.

The current site does not seem to have been associated with any of the recorded manors and probably belonged to wealthier peasants.

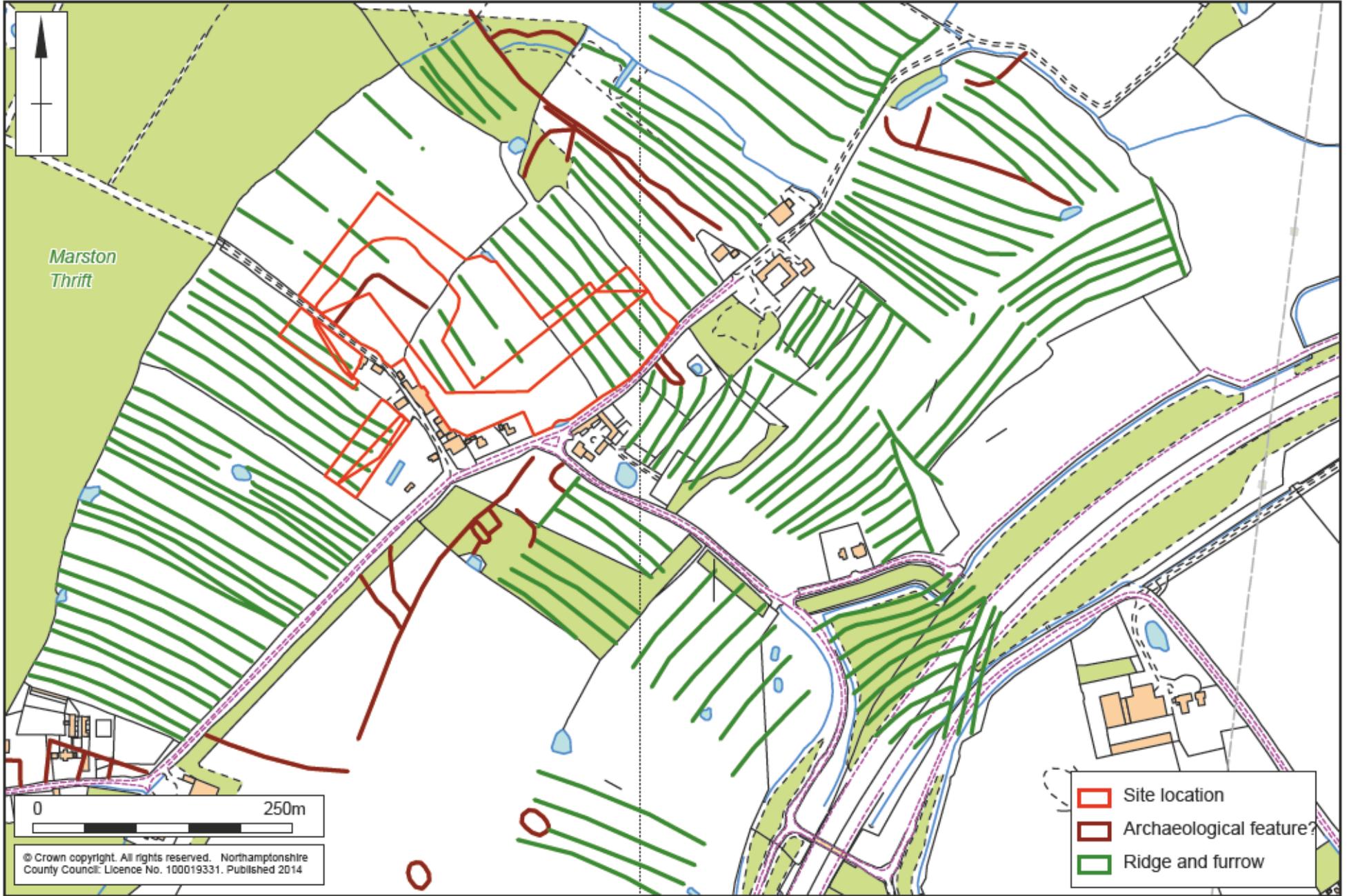
The hamlet of Wood End is currently concentrated in two small clusters of buildings, with one around Lower and Upper Wood End Farms to the north-east and the other around Little Park Farm to the south-west. Cropmark evidence visible on aerial photos suggests that further settlement may have been also located along the road between the two (HER 5132; Fig 4). Jeffreys 1765 map of Bedfordshire shows that the hamlet was more nucleated at that date, concentrated towards the south-eastern end (Fig 5).

There were large areas of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks surviving in the parish at the beginning of the 20th century, but a combination of clay extraction, the



Scale 1:5,000

Cropmark evidence from aerial photographs Fig 4



**Post-medieval/modern**

The earliest detailed map of the site and the surrounding area is the 1765 map of Bedfordshire by Jeffreys. This map shows that the hamlet was more nucleated at that date, concentrated towards the south-eastern end around Little Park Farm.



Jeffreys map of Bedfordshire, 1765 Fig 5

Marston Moretaine was enclosed in the late 18th century. There is no map to accompany the 1797 Enclosure Award but a reconstruction was undertaken by Angela Simco and in most cases an exact fit was possible based on the field boundaries in the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig 3). This map is useful in that it indicates that there may have been a lane aligned north-east to south-west between Fields 1, 2 and 3. This appears to be confirmed by the geophysics survey which showed evidence of a ditch parallel to the modern boundary of Fields 2 and 3 and interpreted as possibly a side ditch to a former trackway. Cropmark evidence may also show a south-east to north-west aligned section of the track/lane to the north (Fig 4).

The slightly later Ordnance Survey Surveyors map shows a number of buildings that had disappeared on later maps (Fig 6)

The 1840 Tithe map (Fig 7) indicates that the field names were:

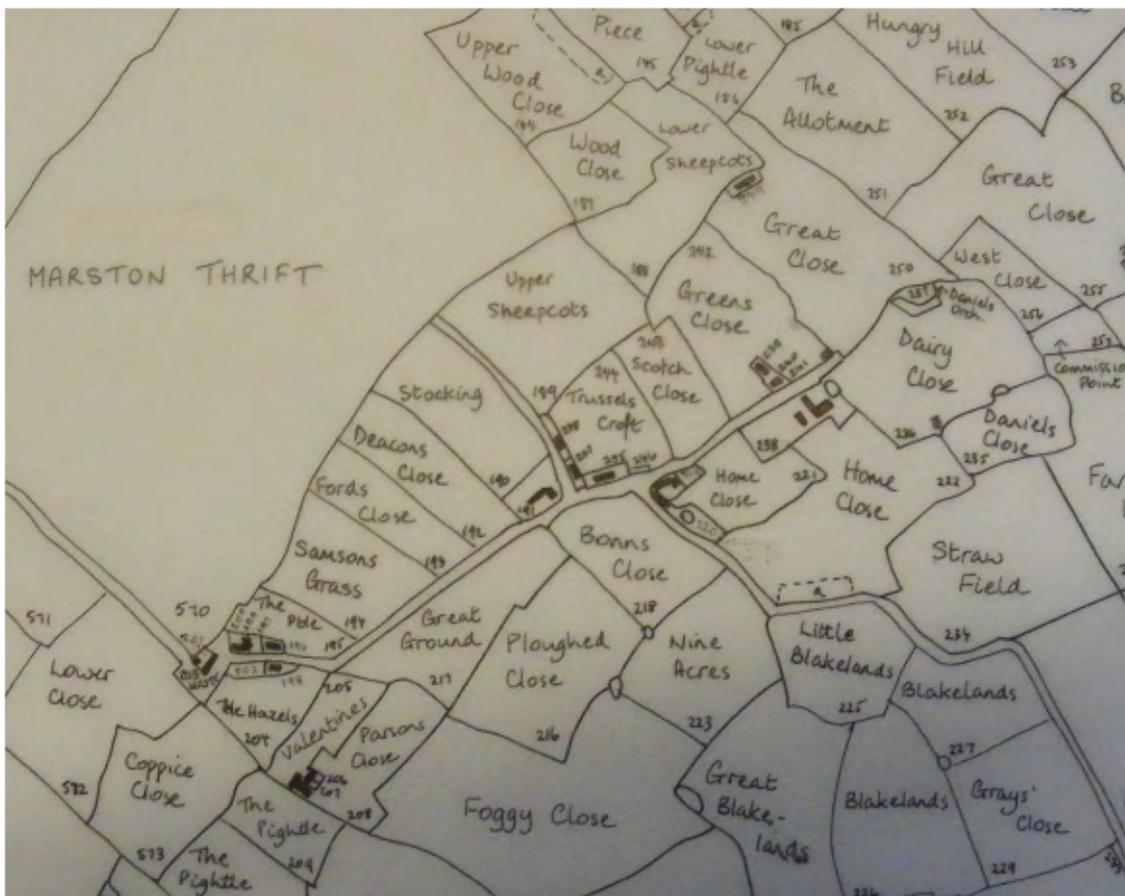
- Field 1        *Scotch Close*
- Field 2        *Trussels Croft*
- Field 3        *Upper Sheepcots*
- Fields 4 and 5 *Stocking*

*Stocking* which means a clearing of stocks or stumps, indicates that the field was assarted from Marston Thrift at some point during the medieval period. *Upper Sheepcots* may indicate the location of former sheep pens.

Medieval/post-medieval hollow-ways were excavated at Site 4 (Trench 54) and Site 4 (Trench 61) of the A421 archaeological investigations (Fig 2).



Ordnance Survey map, 1815 Fig 6



Transcription of the 1840 Tithe Award for Marston Mortaine (CBC HER) Fig 7

The earliest evidence of digging for clay in the post-medieval period area is probably from the mid-16th century, when a *Claipitt Furlong* is mentioned. In the 17th century, bricklayers are noted in the parish registers and by the mid-19th century, the Tithe Map indicates a number of brick pits and kilns. Large-scale clay extraction began

after the First World War mainly in the areas to the south of Marston Thrift and east of Marston Moretaine. Former pits have been either been backfilled and returned to cultivation or left as lakes.

Settlement appears to have contracted significantly at Wood End since at least the mid-18th century and cropmark evidence tends to suggest that it had shrunk considerably prior to that. It is not known when the moated site was abandoned, but there is no evidence of its existence on any of the maps, indicating that the ditches had been filled in by the mid-18th century. The track/lane may still have been in existence at the end of the 18th century, although not significant enough to be included on the 1765 map, but by 1815 was no longer marked.

The area has suffered from significant boundary loss during the 20th century; modern aerial photographs show the large arable fields surrounding the site as well as the almost total loss of ridge and furrow earthworks. Cropmarks in the large field south of the site indicate former field boundaries. Further cropmarks visible on the photograph tally with those previously recorded (Fig 8). The Site 4 (Trench 54) excavation area of the A421 improvements is visible in the bottom right of the photograph.



Aerial photograph of the site, 2009 Fig 8  
(Copyright Infoterra and Bluesky Ltd)

It is at present not known whether any settlement of this part of the hamlet continued into the post-medieval period, but it is considered that there is a moderate-high potential for remains of this date. Any such remains are likely to be of low/local importance.

## 4.2 Previous archaeological investigations

Geophysical survey of the potential development area was undertaken in September 2013. The survey identified anomalies indicative of ditched boundaries and enclosures in Fields 1 and 2 as well as further enhancing the plan of earthwork moat in Field 1. Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation systems on two alignments were also recorded in parts of all three fields (Clements 2013)

## 5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Simmonds 2014) in response to consultation with the CBCA. This required the excavation of six trenches, planned to investigate the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the development area. Each trench was sited to investigate geophysical anomalies identified in the survey (Clements 2013) (Fig 9).

The trenches were set out using differential GPS (Leica Viva) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m. No variation to the original trench plan was required.

All trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator, fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to a width of 1.8m and four (Trenches 1 to 4) were 50m long, and two (Trenches 5 and 6) were 30m long.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines and all records were created using MOLA pro-forma (MOLA 2014). Photographs were taken of all trenches and all relevant deposits on 35mm monochrome print film, high resolution digital images were also taken. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geological horizon or the upper archaeological levels, whichever was the highest.

Levels in metres above Ordnance Datum were established for all trenches using GPS and for all excavated features using a dumpy level from temporary bench marks (TBMs) established using GPS.

Artefacts were recovered from individual contexts and stored and packed according to type.

All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991).

Scale 1:2,500 (A4)

Trench location and geophysical survey results

Fig 9



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2014

trial trench

## 6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Archaeological features were recorded in all six excavated trenches. The natural horizon, across the whole site, was light bluish-yellow clay. Subsoil, varied in hue and comprised silty clay on average 0.12m thick. Topsoil was mid yellowish-brown silty clay generally 0.21m deep. Unless otherwise stated all recorded features cut the natural horizon and were sealed by subsoil.

### 6.1 Trench 1

This trench was located in the northern part of Field 2 and aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. It was 50m long and 0.32m deep and designed to target two linear/curvilinear geophysical anomalies. It contained a layer and two ditches (one with evidence for recutting) that matched the geophysical survey plan (Figs 9 and 10).

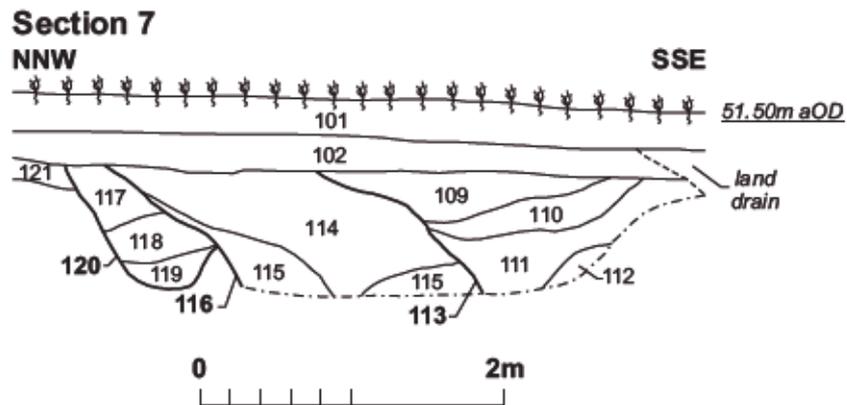
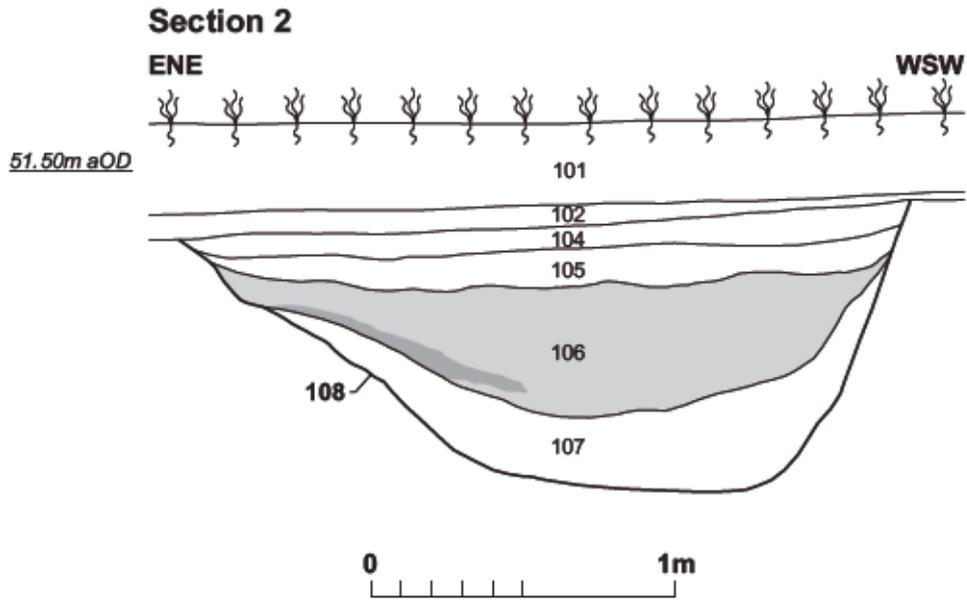
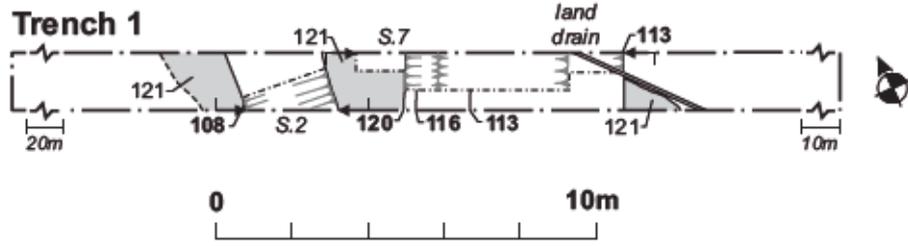
A layer of firm mid brownish-yellow silty clay (121), 0.14m thick, was recorded over an area of approximately 13m in the centre of the trench. It contained five sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery. It was likely to be either a remnant of a buried plough soil or deposit derived from occupation in the vicinity.

Linear ditch 108 cut the layer (121) and was aligned north to south (Fig 10, Section 2). It had an asymmetrical U-shaped profile, 2.4m wide and 0.86m deep, with a near vertical western side and a slightly more gradual eastern side, falling to a flattish base. Basal fill 107, 0.24m thick, was firm light greyish-yellow silty clay containing eleven sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery, the main fill (106) was firm very dark greyish-brown clay silt with abundant charcoal inclusions 0.43m thick. It contained 97 sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery as well as 65 fragments of kiln furniture incorporating kiln bars, plates and superstructure fragments and two animal bone fragments. The two upper fills (105 and 104) were much paler in colour and were both sticky clays. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the latest fill (104), both presumably derived from slumping of the subsoil into the ditch as the lower fills compacted. The ditch was sealed by subsoil (102).

A sequence of three intercutting linear ditches, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, lay 2m south-east of ditch 108 also cutting through layer 121 (Fig 10, Section 7). Ditch 120, the earliest in the sequence, was steep-sided and U-shaped, more than 1.1m wide and 0.80m deep, with a flat base. The three fills (117-119) did not contain any artefacts.

Ditch 116 truncated the eastern side of ditch 120 and had an eroded steep surviving western edge, its base was not observed as excavation stopped due to trench depth, it measured more than 2.3m wide and more than 0.84m deep. The lower fill (115) was derived from primary silting, upper fill 114 comprised firm dark grey silty clay with a higher humic content than the lower fill, it contained nine sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery and two fragments of fired clay probably from a kiln superstructure.

This ditch was truncated on the eastern side by final ditch in the sequence (Ditch 113). Its western side, like that of earlier ditch 116 was eroded at the top before becoming steep, its base was not observed due to overall trench depth. Its eastern side was established in plan but could not be fully excavated due to a shallow land drain, overall Ditch 113 measured 4.1m wide by more than 0.84m deep. The lower fill (112) was redeposited light yellow-orange gravelly clay sealed by dark grey silty clay (111) containing four sherds of early Romano-British pottery, this fill was in turn sealed by mid grey silty clay (110) containing a tumble of flint cobbles and five fragments of fired clay kiln superstructure, this was then sealed by upper fill 109 comprising mid grey silty clay. The ditch was then sealed by subsoil (102).



## 6.2 Trench 2

This trench was located 20m to the south of Trench 1 in Field 2. It was 50m long and up to 0.35m deep, aligned east to west, and was positioned to target three geophysical anomalies; two linear and one sub-circular (Fig 11). The two linear features were identified as ditches but the large sub-circular anomaly was not identified in the trench.

Linear ditch 206, located towards the eastern end of the trench, aligned north to south, matched the position of the curving linear anomaly recorded on the geophysical survey plot running through Trenches 1 and 2. The upper fill (204) was almost identical to the colour and composition of the undisturbed natural geology and was very difficult to discern. The ditch was partially excavated to confirm that it matched ditch 113 in Trench 1 and excavation stopped.

Two intercutting linear ditches were recorded on a similar north to south alignment 23m to the west of ditch 206. These matched the position of a faint L-shaped geophysical anomaly. The earliest ditch (214/216) was near vertical-sided, 2.5m wide by 0.82m deep, with a slightly concave base (Fig 11, Section 6). Lower fill 213 was mid brownish-grey silty clay with charcoal flecks, it was overlain by dark brownish-grey silty clay (215/212) containing seven sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery; this was then sealed by upper fill (211) light greyish-brown silty clay.

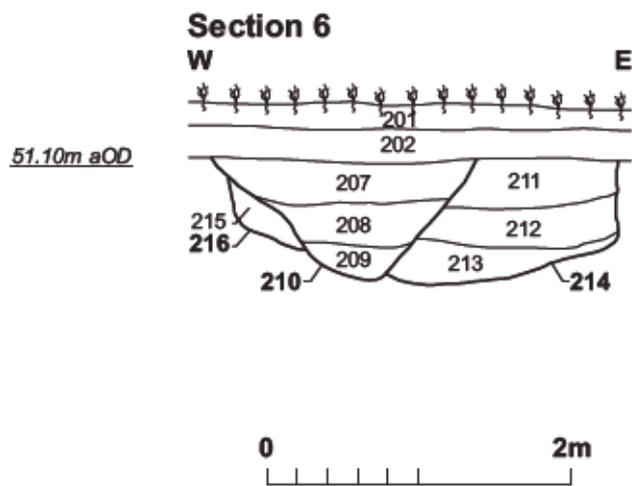
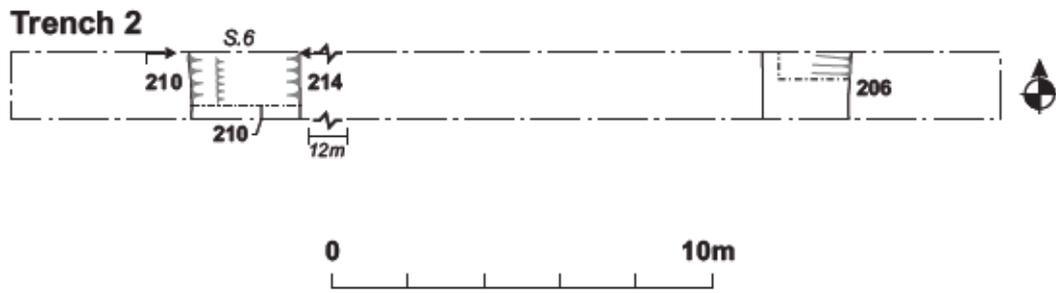
Ditch 210 truncated the western side of ditch 214. It had a very steep V-shaped profile, 1.74m wide and 0.82m deep with a concave base (Fig 11, Section 6). The lower fill (209) was firm mid brownish-grey silty clay. It was overlain by firm mid greyish-brown silty clay (208) containing four sherds of late Iron Age to Romano-British pottery and a nail. The upper fill (207) was similar to the upper fill of the earlier ditch (211) and contained one sherd of similarly-dated pottery.

## 6.3 Trench 3

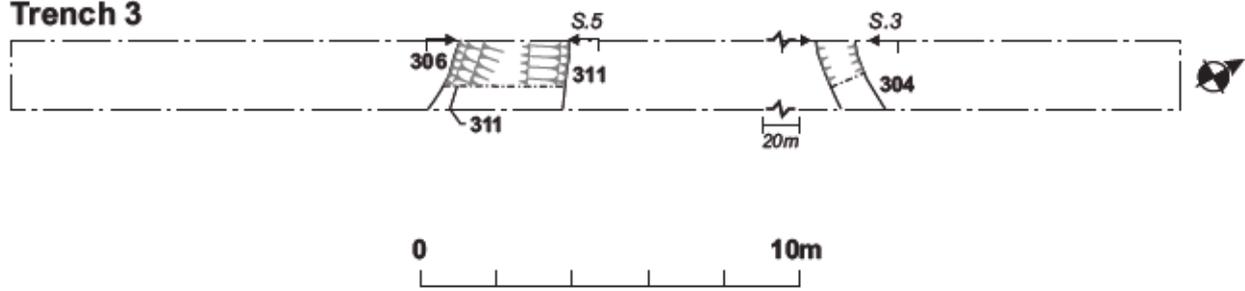
This trench was located towards the western side of Field 2. It was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, measuring 50m long and 0.32m deep and was positioned to target two linear geophysical anomalies, both of which were identified in the trench (Fig 12).

Linear ditch 304, located towards the northern end of the trench, was 1.02m wide by 0.20m deep, aligned north-west to south-east, and was U-shaped in profile with gradual sides and a concave base (Fig 12, Section 3). Three sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery were recovered from fill 305. Its position was slightly to the south of the strong geophysical anomaly.

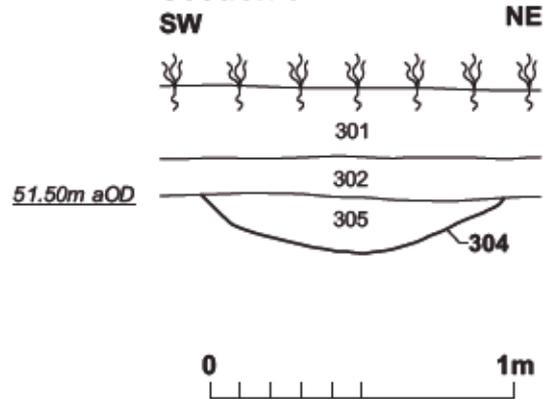
Two intercutting ditches were located 25m to the south of ditch 304. The earlier ditch (Ditch 306) was curvilinear, aligned north-west to south-east with a near vertical surviving southern side with a pronounced step before becoming more gradual to the flattish base. It measured more than 1.8m wide and 1m deep (Fig 12, Section 5). The fills had entered from the southern side suggesting possible upcast on this side. The lower inwashed fill (307) contained no artefacts, fill 308 contained nine sherds of late Iron Age to Romano-British pottery, a small amount of animal bone and five fragments of highly fired clay. The upper fill of the ditch (309/310) contained two sherds of similarly dated pottery and a fragment of fired clay.



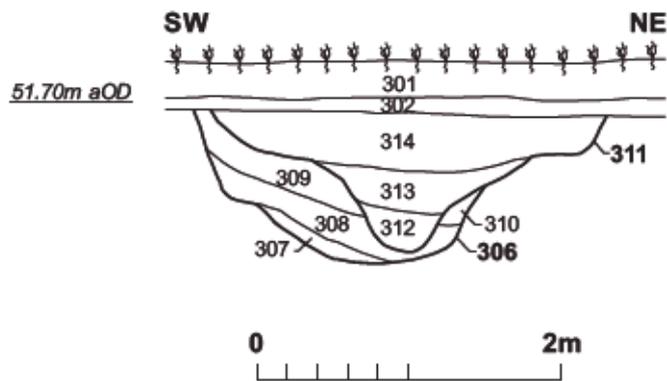
### Trench 3



### Section 3



### Section 5



The ditch was replaced by linear ditch 311, 2.6m wide by 0.93m deep, with near vertical upper sides, a pronounced step and steep lower sides falling to a narrow concave base (Fig 12, Section 5). The lower fill (312) comprised mid orange-grey silty clay and contained six sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery, it was sealed by mid brownish-grey silty clay (313) containing twenty-five sherds of similarly dated pottery, three pieces of highly fired clay and four fragments of animal bone. Upper fill 314 was light yellowish-grey silty clay, similar in composition to the surrounding natural, containing sixteen sherds of similarly-dated pottery.

#### **6.4 Trench 4**

This trench was located within Field 3, positioned to investigate the geophysical anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation. It was 50m long and a maximum of 0.45m deep and aligned north-east to south-west.

Eight furrows, aligned north-west to south-east were recorded predominantly at the north-eastern end of the trench matching the geophysical results (Fig 9). Two of the furrows were excavated and both were shallow with wide gradual profiles. One contained a small sherd of late 19th-century transfer print ware pottery and the other contained a fragment of tile.

The south-western end of the trench cut through a slightly raised area surrounding the moat earthworks, a layer of friable orange-grey silty clay (404) was recorded between the subsoil and topsoil, measuring 0.20m at its deepest then thinning out approximately 11m to the north-east (Fig 9). This layer may have been the remains of moat upcast, no furrows were noted below it and it is possible that furrows here were shallow and contained entirely within the topsoil.

#### **6.5 Trench 5**

This trench was located close to the south-east boundary of Field 3. It was 30m long and a maximum of 0.30m deep, aligned north-west to south-east. It was positioned to investigate a strong linear anomaly aligned with the north-east corner of the moat, the anomaly was identified as a ditch and a shallow pit was also recorded on its western side (Fig 13).

Circular pit 510 measured more than 1.6m wide and 0.13m deep, with a steepish truncated edge and a flat base, it was truncated on the eastern side by ditch 508 (Fig 13).

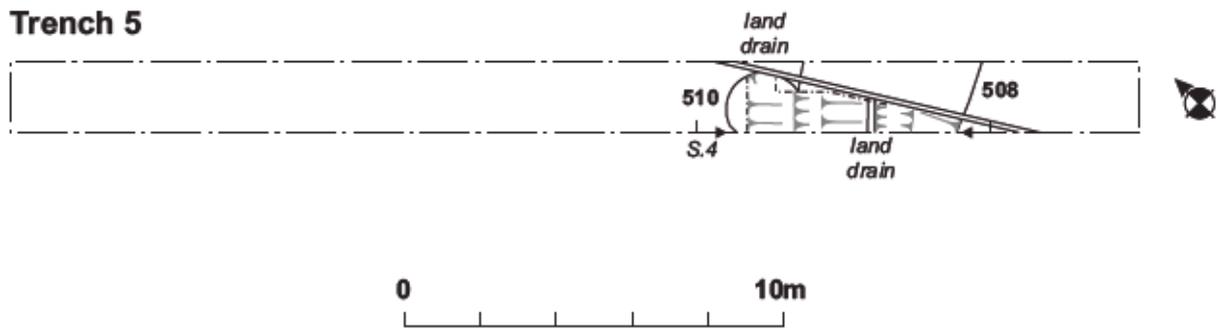
Linear ditch 508 truncated pit 510, it had a gradual eroded profile, 5.4m wide and more than 0.76m deep, the base was obscured by two crossing land drains (Fig 13, Section 4). The fills accumulated from the south-east side. The lower fill (507) contained no artefacts, this was sealed by fill 506 containing a single sherd of Blackware pottery dating from the mid 16th to 17th centuries. This was sealed by undated fill 505 which was in turn sealed by final fill 504. This deposit contained another sherd of Blackware pottery, a nail, an ovicaprid molar, a small fragment of fired clay and a sherd of modern green bottle glass. This feature continued to the north-east in Trench 6 as ditch 607.

## 6.6 Trench 6

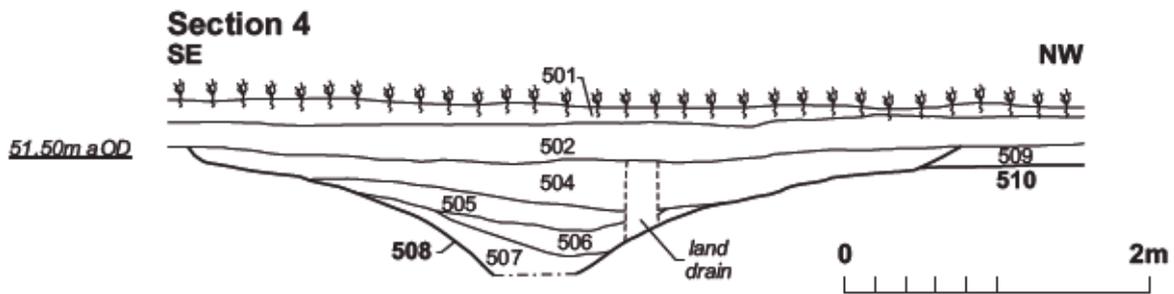
This trench was located towards the north-eastern corner of Field 3. It was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 30m long and was a maximum of 0.29m deep. It was positioned to identify the same anomaly, identified as a ditch, in Trench 5 (Fig 14).

Linear ditch 607 was the continuation of ditch 508 in Trench 5 and was aligned north-east to south-west with a similar gradual eroded profile and flat base, the south-eastern side of the ditch was very eroded, indicative of an area of scouring from ditch overspill (Fig 14, Section 1). The ditch measured 4.20m wide and 0.54m deep. The latest fill (604) also filled the overspill area. No datable artefacts were recovered from the ditch fills, however, five fragments of fired clay were recovered from upper fill 604. A horseshoe-shaped tile land drain with base plate had been inserted along the length of the ditch, presumably when it was still visible as a distinct and probably wet depression. This type of drain typically dates from the later 18th century AD.

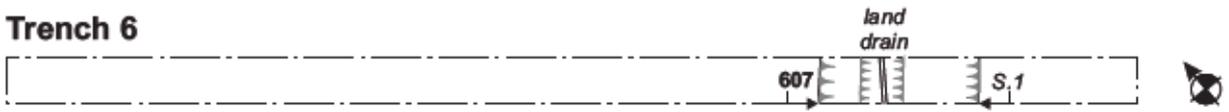
### Trench 5



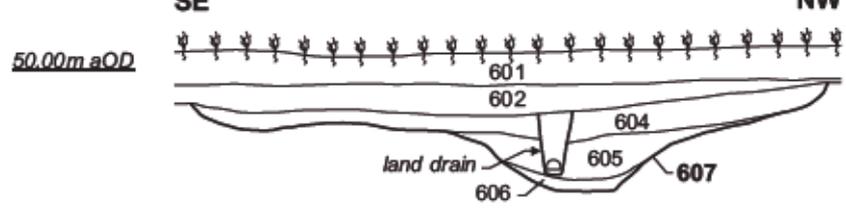
### Section 4



# Trench 6



## Section 1



## 7 THE FINDS

### 7.1 Romano-British pottery by Rob Perrin

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from an occupation layer or spread, and the fills of eight dishes in three trenches. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and rim estimated vessel equivalent (EVE; R%) per context. The assemblage comprises some 200 sherds of pottery, weighing a little over 3kg, with a EVE (R%) of just under 2. Trench 1 contained the most pottery (Table 1).

*Table 1: Romano-British pottery quantification by trench*

Trench	No	Weight (g)	EVE (R%)
1	126	2393	0.16
2	12	220	0.00
3	62	442	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>1.89</b>

#### ***Fabrics***

Table 2 shows the fabrics represented, these have been cross-referenced, where possible, to the Bedfordshire fabric series. There are two varieties of shell-gritted ware, one with small, fine shell (possibly F16B) and the other with medium to large shell inclusions (F07). The main variation in the grog-tempered wares (F06 A, B and C) relates to colour which ranges from buff to brown, reddish-yellow, greyish-brown and dark grey. The grey, buff, cream and reddish-yellow fabrics are all quartz sand tempered. The grey wares also vary in colour, as well as in the density of inclusions giving finer and (R06C) coarser (R06B) wares. One sherd is particularly fine and thin. The few buff sherds are probably fabric R10A and B; one has a cream surface or slip. The cream sherds are in a coarse fabric which is either R03B or R10A and the reddish-yellow sherds (R05A) have a grey core. The other reddish-yellow fabric appears to have both quartz sand and some grog inclusions and is probably fabric F09.

*Table 2: Pottery fabrics*

Fabric	No	Weight (g)	EVE (R%)
Shell	9	558	0.42
Grog	142	2045	0.77
Greys	28	170	0.12
Reddish yellow + grog	4	122	0.48
Reddish yellow	9	96	0.00
Buff	5	42	0.00
Cream	2	22	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>1.89</b>

### Forms

A minimum number of 22 vessels were identified, based on rims, bases and classifiable sherds, comprising 17 jars, a jar or bowl, two beakers or jars, a probable lid and a possible flagon (Table 3).

Table 3: Romano-British pottery form by fabric

Fabric/Form	Jar	Jar/Bowl	Beaker/Jar	Flagon	Lid	Total
Shell	2	-	-	-	-	2
Grog	8	1	-	-	-	9
Greys	3	-	-	-	1	4
Reddish-yellow + grog	2	-	1	-	-	3
Reddish-yellow	1	-	-	-	-	1
Buff	-	-	1	1	-	2
Cream	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

Two of the jars in grog-tempered ware are of the large, storage-vessel type and one has diagonal incised finger-tipping on its rim; another (represented by body sherds only) has wide external combing. One of the shell-gritted jars (fabric F07) is lid-seated and is sooted or darkened internally below the rim and externally below the shoulder. The buff ware beaker or jar is a sherd with shoulder and girth cordons with fine combing between, while the cream ware jar has a triangular rim and almost no neck. The two jars in the reddish-yellow ware with some grog inclusions are both short-necked and globular in shape and one has a cordon at the base of the neck. The beaker or jar in the same ware is also globular and has a bead rim, no neck, neck and shoulder grooves and traces of an external cream slip. Finally, the jar in reddish-yellow ware is represented by a base which has at least one pierced hole.

### Date

The fine shell-gritted fabric F16B occurs more usually in early to mid Iron Age contexts but can be later. Fabrics F06 A, B and C, F07 and F09 are principally later Iron Age in date but continued into the Roman period. Fabrics R03B, R05A, R06B and C and R10A and B are all Roman in date. The forms also span the later Iron Age to Roman periods and include some types which might be classified as 'belgic'. Overall, the assemblage appears to be of late Iron Age to early Roman date.

### Sources

It is likely that most of the pottery from the site will have been locally produced. Not all of the pottery production in the pre-Roman period will have left traces, but there are a number of known kiln sites in the vicinity of Bedford, including Elstow and Eastcotts (Harroden and Cotton End) and further afield (Swan 1984, 133, Map 14; Albion Archaeology pers comm; Headland Archaeology pers comm). The sherds in the coarse cream fabric may be from the Verulamium kilns (fabric R03B); if so, they are the only regionally traded pottery in the assemblage.

**Assemblage characteristics and potential**

The assemblage has a limited range of fabrics and vessel forms with no imported continental pottery and only one possibly regionally traded vessel. The preponderance of utilitarian jars are accompanied by a number of finer 'belgic' type vessels, however, which perhaps indicate a slightly higher status component to the activity from whence the pottery derived.

If no further excavation is carried out on the site, the reasonably-sized assemblages with a range of fabrics and vessel forms from the fills of ditch 108 (around half the site total by sherd count, three-quarters by weight) and, to a lesser extent ditch 311 (around 20% of the site total by sherd count, 10% by weight), warrant further comparative study and publication, with around 10 vessels justifying illustration. Should more excavation take place, the evaluation material should be included in the resulting wider and fuller study; there are numerous local sites for comparison.

**7.2 Medieval pottery** by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised two sherds with a total weight of 8g. They both were retrieved from the upper fill (104) of ditch 108. They were recorded using the codings and chronology of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977), as follows:

C09: Brill/Boarstall Ware (13th – 15th centuries), 1 sherd, 4g

C10: Potterspury Ware (mid 13th – 15th centuries), 1 sherd, 4g

Both types are well-known in the region. The sherd of Brill is from a green-glazed jug, the Potterspury sherd is unglazed, and probably from a jar. Both are typical products of their respective traditions

**7.3 Post-medieval pottery** by Tora Hylton

Three sherds of post-medieval pottery, with a combined weight of 15g were recovered from Trenches 4 and 5 in Field 3. The fabric types were identified and coded according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (BCTS). The pottery sherds are undiagnostic, they include two bodysherds in a Blackware fabric (BCTS P14) dating to c1550-1700 and a single sherd of Transfer-printed ware (BCTS P45) dating to the late 18th century.

*Table 4: Post-medieval pottery quantification*

Fill/cut/type Fabric Type (Date range) (Bedfordshire CTS No)	405/406/Furrow		504/508/Ditch		506/508/Ditch	
	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)
Blackware - AD c.1550-1700 (P14)	-	-	1	5	1	7
Transfer-printed ware- late 18th century (P45)	1	3	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

#### 7.4 **Ceramic building material** by Pat Chapman

##### **Iron Age/Romano-British kiln furniture**

The material from fill 106 in ditch 108 comprises 65 fragments of various sizes, weighing 1.0kg. There is one end of a kiln bar, a fragment of a bar or plate and six joining fragments of another plate; the remaining 56 small fragments come from this furniture. They are all made from hard fine orange or brown silty clay, with buff and light grey patches, and black cores.

The end of a crudely-made kiln bar, with a smooth but irregular surface, has a slight flange, 80mm wide, narrowing in to 70mm. It was probably square or rectangular in section. One piece, 35mm thick, very slightly curved and carefully smoothed could be the middle section of a cigar-shaped kiln bar, although a minimum width of 55mm suggests it is more likely to be the edge of a kiln plate. The corner of another plate, 30mm thick, has an angle of 70°. The upper surface is roughly smoothed, the underside is rougher and laminating.

These fragments are similar to the kiln furniture from the pottery kilns at Harrold, Bedfordshire, dating from the mid 1st to early 5th centuries AD, and similar material has been found elsewhere in the Ouse and Nene valleys (Brown 1994, 86-92). This suggests that a kiln or kilns could be in the neighbourhood.

##### **Medieval/post-medieval roof tile**

Four small sherds of flat roof tile, and ten tiny fragments, from fill 407 in furrow 408, and fills 504 and 506 from ditch 508, weigh 125g. The sherds are 10mm and 16mm thick, three made from fine sandy orange clay and one from sandy red-brown clay. The flat tiles can range from medieval to post-medieval in date.

##### **Fired clay**

The fired clay comprises two material types. There are eight fragments, weighing 227g, from Trench 1 (Table 5). They are all irregular in shape and made from hard but slightly friable dark reddish-brown sandy clay. This material has been exposed to high temperatures and may be associated with the kiln material.

The remaining 15 small fragments of fired clay, weighing 92g, come from Trenches 3, 5 and 6. They are small, irregularly-shaped in hard fine orange and black silty clay. These could be further small scattered fragments from kiln furniture, or general occupational debris.

*Table 5: Quantification of fired clay*

<b>Fill / Cut/Type</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>
106 /108/Ditch	1	10
110 /113/Ditch	5	190
114 /116/Ditch	2	27
308 /307/Ditch	5	28
309 /307/Ditch	1	13
313 /311/Ditch	3	29
504 /508/Ditch	1	2
604 /607/Ditch	5	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>319</b>

## 7.5 Other finds by Tora Hylton

Two nails and a shard of glass were recovered from Trenches 2 and 5. The nails are incomplete, and were recovered from fill 208 in ditch 210 in Trench 2 and from fill 504 in ditch 508 in Trench 5. Both have tapered square-sectioned shanks and measure up to 45mm in length, one head is indistinct and the other is sub-circular.

A single shard of modern green bottle glass (28 x 30mm) was recovered also from ditch fill 504.

## 7.6 Animal bone by Adam Reid

### **Introduction**

A total of 130g of animal bone was hand collected from five contexts during the course of the evaluation and a further 42g of material was recovered from two wet sieved samples. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

### **Method**

All material had been washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place without access to a reference collection and were aided by Hillson (1992) and France (2009).

### **Preservation**

The state of preservation of the material was poor in most cases, with a large degree of fragmentation. Some specimens demonstrate signs of moderate surface abrasion and no evidence of butchery or gnawing was observed.

### **Identification and quantification**

The highly fragmented nature of the assemblage made analysis difficult, resulting in only four positive identifications (Table 6). Material recovered from wet sieved samples was largely non-diagnostic and no microfaunal specimens were noted (Table 7). One fragment from Sample 2, taken from ditch 311, appears to be from a small to medium-sized bird.

Table 6: The taxa present

Context/Feature/Type	Cattle <i>Bos</i>	Sheep/goat <i>Ovicaprid</i>	Pig <i>Sus</i>	Indeterminate	Total
106/108/Ditch	-	1 ( <i>Radius</i> )	1 ( <i>Radius</i> )	14	16
308/306/Ditch	1 ( <i>Radius</i> )	-	-	2	3
313/311/Ditch	-	-	-	4	4
504/508/Ditch	-	1 ( <i>Molar</i> )	-	-	1
506/508/Ditch	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 7: Bone from sieved samples

Sample	Context/Feature/Type	Weight (g)	Indet. Bird	Indeterminate	Total
1	106/108/Ditch	37	-	71	71
2	312/311/Ditch	5	1	30	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>102</b>

***Aging and metrical data***

The assemblage contained no neonatal or juvenile specimens and did not include any further evidence of age, such as mandibles with cheek tooth rows. No metrical data was available due to the fragmented nature of the assemblage.

***Conclusion***

The small nature of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any conclusions, other than to say that the main domestic taxa appear to have been utilised at the site. The presence of identifiable material from several of the excavated features indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should further work take place.

**8 CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS** by Val Fryer***Introduction and method statement***

Two samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditches 108 (Sample 1) and 311 (Sample 2), and were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 8. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

***Results***

Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds were recorded at a low density within both assemblages. Preservation was generally quite poor, with the cereals and seeds being puffed and distorted, whilst the chaff was very fragmentary and abraded.

Possible wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted within the assemblage from sample 1 and both assemblages contained wheat chaff, including spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases. The seeds were all of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs, namely small legumes (Fabaceae), a small grass (Poaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Charcoal/charred wood was common or abundant within both assemblages, but the fragments were highly comminuted and abraded.

Both assemblages contained small fragments of bone, with an especially high density being recorded from Sample 1. Other remains were scarce, but did include pieces of burnt or fired clay and a splinter of burnt stone.

***Conclusions and recommendations for further work***

The composition of the assemblages and the condition of the remains would appear to indicate that the materials present are all derived from low density scatters of domestic refuse and/or midden waste. It would appear most likely that the material had been exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to its accidental inclusion within the ditch fills.

As neither of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (ie 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

*Table 8: Plant macrofossil results by sample*

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	106	312
Feature No.	108	311
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch
Trench No.	1	3
<b>Cereals</b>		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xcf	-
(glume bases)	x	x
(spikelet bases)	x	x
(rachis internodes)	x	
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	x	x
<b>Herbs</b>		
Fabaceae indet.	x	x
Small Poaceae indet.	x	-
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x	-
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>		
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charred root/stem	x	x
Indet. seeds	x	x
<b>Other remains</b>		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Bone	xxx xb	x
Burnt/fired clay	x	-
Burnt stone	x	-
Sample volume (litres)	40	30
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	0.1
% flot sorted	50%	100%

**Key to Table**

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    xxx = 51 – 100 specimens    xxxx = 100+ specimens  
 cf = compare    b = burnt

## 9 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has produced evidence for two main periods of activity, a series of late Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosures and boundary ditches and a medieval moated site with associated features as well as a later medieval ridge and furrow cultivation system.

### 9.1 Late Iron Age to early Romano-British enclosures

Field 2 contained elements of five enclosure or boundary ditches dating from the later part of the Iron Age into the early years of the Romano-British period, most with evidence for maintenance and reuse. The geophysical survey plot, although not definitive, indicates that these were part of a series of sub-rectangular enclosures and boundaries (Fig 9).

No other features associated with settlement were identified in the trenches, however, the variance between upper feature fills and the surrounding natural horizon was minimal and identifying features was extremely difficult within the confines of the trenches despite the scale of some of the ditches. The high volume of pottery recovered from the ditches, in particular from ditch 108 in Trench 1 where it was found in association with a humic rich main fill containing significant amounts of charcoal, would suggest that people were living very near by despite the absence of conclusive evidence for settlement. The layer identified in Trench 1, through which the ditches were cut, was either the remains of an occupation horizon or a plough soil, its absence elsewhere might indicate that it was an isolated deposit rather than a prehistoric plough soil.

The pottery assemblage was relatively large for a small scale evaluation, although predominantly derived from two of the excavated ditch segments. In general the assemblage was typical for a rural settlement in the period of transition from Iron Age to Roman Britain, comprising predominantly utilitarian wares with a small amount of fine wares.

The presence of kiln bar fragments in the charcoal rich fill from ditch 108, and the highly fired clay from ditches 108, 113 and 116 suggests that pottery was being made locally. However, it is possible that these were reused items imported to the site as no wasters were identified in the pottery assemblage.

The full extent of the enclosures was not established in the evaluation nor in the geophysical survey. In the survey the features appear to fade out to south-east in Field 2, perhaps due to the decreasing variance in the magnetic response between the cut features and background geology. The curvilinear ditch 108, in Trench 1, appears to continue to the west into Field 3 where an anomaly is visible to the south of Trench 5 roughly parallel with the medieval ditch (Fig 9).

The strong positive, sub-circular, anomaly recorded in the geophysical survey was not identified in Trench 2: it is possible that the magnetically enhanced material was all contained in the overburden (although nothing unusual was observed during stripping); the feature could have been geological in origin; or the feature was present but was indistinguishable from the geological horizon.

## 9.2 Medieval/post-medieval ditch and cultivation system

The moat earthworks, further defined in the geophysical survey (Clements 2013), were not subject to investigation within the evaluation. However, the positive anomaly identified on an alignment broadly parallel with the modern field boundary was investigated in both Trenches 5 and 6. This was a wide splayed ditch that had been open for a sufficient length of time to erode its upper sides. The ditch contained only two sherds of pottery, datable to the mid 16th to 17th centuries, and these were presumably derived from its eventual backfill, therefore its construction date remains uncertain.

Assessment of 19th-century maps (Section 4.1) had indicated that this ditch might have been the boundary to a lane running parallel to the modern field boundary, however, this was not conclusively supported by the evaluation. There was no evidence for metalling, compaction or rutting on the south-east side of the ditch despite the shallow overburden present across the site. The eroded hollow on the south-east side of the ditch in Trench 6 was more indicative of a scoured hollow caused by overflowing water than by repeated traffic, the fill of the hollow was contiguous with the upper fill of the ditch. The alignment of the ditch in the geophysical survey suggests that it was heading north-east towards a pond/channel and it therefore has been interpreted as a possible drainage ditch designed to manage water flow from the moat, however, no medieval artefacts were recovered to support this interpretation. The ditch continued to act as a drain in the late 18th century when the land drain was inserted along its length.

The medieval or post-medieval cultivation system, identified as furrows in the geophysical survey, was only identified in Trench 4 in Field 3. Here the furrows were aligned north-west to south-east mirroring the present field boundaries. The furrows were not present at the southern end of the trench where a slight raised area was identified around the northern side of the moat earthworks. The mounded material (404) identified between the subsoil and topsoil did not seal furrows suggesting that the cultivation system post dated the construction of the moated site. The finds recovered from the excavated furrows suggests they silted up during the post-medieval period, in the late 18th or 19th centuries.

The series of north to south aligned linear anomalies identified in the western corner of the field did not extend as far east as Trench 4. It is possible that these were part of an overlapping ridge and furrow cultivation system or drainage system.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Baker, E, and Hassall, E, 1979 The Pottery in D Baker, E Baker, J Hassall and A Simco Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977
- Baker, D, Baker, E, Hassall, J, and Simco, J, Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977 *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* **13**, 147 - 239
- Brown, A, 1994 A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing Site at Harrold, Beds, *Bedfordshire Archaeol*, **21**, 19-107
- Clements, P, 2013 *Archaeological geophysical on land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, August 2013*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **13/167**
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government
- EH 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, English Heritage
- EH 1991a *Exploring Our Past*, English Heritage
- EH 2009 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage Procedural Document
- EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation*, English Heritage
- France, D, L, 2009. *Human and Nonhuman Bone Identification: A Color Atlas*, Boca Raton: CRC Press
- Hillson, S, 1992. *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*, London: UCL Institute of Archaeology Publications
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists
- IfA 2014 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Nottingham Archaeology Monographs, **6**
- Lewis, C, et al 1997 *Village, hamlet and field: changing medieval settlements in central England*, Manchester University Press
- Medlycott, M, (ed) 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper, **24**
- MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA Northampton
- Oake, M, 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology: Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment*, Research Agenda and Strategy Bedfordshire Archaeology, **9**
- Page, W, 1912 *A History of the County of Bedford*, **3**, Victoria County History
- Simmonds, A, and Welsh, K, 2013 *The Iron Age and Roman landscape of Marston Vale, Bedfordshire*, Oxford Archaeology Monograph, **19**
- Simmonds, C, 2014 *Written scheme of investigation for land at Wood End, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire April 2014*, MOLA Northampton
- Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press
- Swan, V G, 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Supplementary Series, **5**

**Websites**

BGS 2013 Geology Viewer, (accessed May 2014)

Old Maps.com 2013, <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html> (accessed May 2014)

MOLA  
June 2014

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m, E-W	497819.19 241705.42	52.15m	0.43m deep 51.72m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
101	Topsoil	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare small stones.	0.20m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty clay, with a mix of topsoil and natural caused by ploughing. Occasional chalky stone inclusions.	0.18m thick	-
103	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
104	Fill of ditch[108]	Firm dark brown silty clay with rare small stones, charcoal flecks. Possible later medieval silting of older ditch.		Pot
105	Fill of ditch [108]	Firm mid yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional small stones, rare abundance of charcoal flecks. Backfilled natural.		-
106	Fill of ditch [108]	Firm dark black charcoal silt. Occasional small-mid sized stones and moderate-frequent charcoal inclusions. Deliberate backfill of late Iron Age- early Roman occupation material, suggesting living and/or industry		Pot, bone, fired clay, tile, kiln bar. Sample 1.
107	Fill of ditch [108]	Firm light grey silty clay with occasional small-mid sized stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Probably silting at bottom of ditch.		Pot
108	Cut of ditch	N/S linear with steep sides to flat base. Iron Age - Roman enclosure ditch with later medieval silting on top.		
109	Fill of ditch [113]	Firm dark grey silty clay, with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions. Possibly silting or backfill of a later ditch.		-
110	Fill of ditch [113]	Firm dark grey silty clay with cobbles/boulders representing a dump of stones tipped in from the South-East side.		Burnt stone, tile
111	Fill of ditch[113]	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Possibly silting or backfill of a later ditch.		Pot

112	Fill of ditch[113]	Friable light yellowy-orange gritty gravelly clay. Trample or natural fallen in from spoil.		-
113	Cut of ditch	Sloping sided North East/ South West linear. Base not reached. Later phase of boundary ditch.		
114	Fill of ditch [116]	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of middle ditch, possibly backfill. Cut by later ditch.		Pot
115	Fill of ditch [116]	Firm mottled mid brownish-grey sandy silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of middle ditch, possibly backfill of silting.		-
116	Cut of middle ditch	North East/ South West linear with a sloping side with a slight step. Base not reached, middle phase of boundary ditch.		
117	Fill of ditch [120]	Firm mottled mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Possibly backfill of earliest ditch, cut by middle ditch.		-
118	Fill of ditch [120]	Firm, mottled mid greyish-brown sandy silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of earliest ditch, possibly silting. Cut by middle ditch.		-
119	Fill of ditch [120]	Firm light mottled brown silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of earlier ditch, probably silting.		-
120	Cut of earlier ditch	North East/ South West linear with sloping sides and a flat base. Earlier phase of boundary ditch.		
121	Layer/Spread	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Layer of early (prehistoric) material which features are cut through. Possibly silting or trample/deposition of habitation		Pot

WOOD END MOAT, BEDFORDSHIRE

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m x 1.8m, N-S	497824.01 241663.81	51.65m	0.3m deep aOD 51.35m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
201	Topsoil	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty clay, with a mix of topsoil and natural caused by ploughing. Occasional chalky stone inclusions.	0.10m thick	-
203	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
204	Fill of ditch [206]	Rigid grey-yellow clay fill, no inclusions.	0.2m thick	-
205	Fill of ditch[206]	Rigid blue-yellow clay fill with no inclusions	0.4m thick	-
206	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, North East/ South West, same ditch as in Trench 1.		
207	Fill of ditch [210]	Firm mid brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. Top fill of a recut, possibly washed into top.		Pot
208	Fill of ditch [210]	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of a recut, possibly silting.		Pot, nail
209	Fill of ditch [210]	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of recut, possible silting.		-
210	Cut of ditch	Recut, linear North East/South West with sloping sides to base, fairly flat base. Recut of boundary ditch.		
211	Fill of ditch [214]	Firm mid brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. Top fill of ditched, washed in clay.		-
212	Fill of ditch [214]	Firm dark mottled brown and grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of original ditch, possibly silting/waterlogged at some point.		-
213	Fill of ditch [214]	Dark mottled brown and grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of original ditch, possibly silting.		Pot
214	Cut of ditch	North East/ South West linear with a sloping side to base and a flat base. Original cut of boundary ditch.		
215	Fill of possible ditch.	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill of possible ditch mostly cut away by recut, possibly silting.		-
216	Cut of possible ditch	Linear North East/South West sloping side to base with a flat base. Possible ditch or root/burrow, cut by recut.		

WOOD END MOAT, BEDFORDSHIRE

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m, E-W</b>	<b>497825.15 241690.01</b>	<b>51.86m</b>	<b>0.32m deep 51.54m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
301	Topsoil	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.22m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty clay, with a mix of topsoil and natural caused by ploughing. Occasional chalky stone inclusions.	0.10m thick	-
303	Natural	Firm light greyish-brown silty clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
304	Ditch cut	Curvilinear, East/West with shallow gradual sides and concave base.	1.0m length, 1.02m width and 0.20m Depth	
305	Fill of ditch [304]	Fill of 304. Light greyish-yellow clay, with occasional flint and pebble and rare charcoal inclusions. Late prehistoric possibly.		3 pot sherds.
306	Ditch cut	Curvilinear North/South with very steep South West side, stepped concave base.	1.90m + width and 1.10m depth.	
307	Fill of ditch [307]	Light grey -orange with silty clay, firm	0.17m thick	-
308	Fill of ditch [307]	Light brownish-yellow silty clay, firm. Small stone inclusions.	0.19m thick	Pot, animal bone, CBM
309	Fill of ditch [307]	Light orangey-grey silty clay, firm. Occasional pebble inclusion.	0.24m thick	Pot etc
310	Fill of ditch [307]	Probably same as 309.		-
311	Ditch cut	Steep step sided North east/ South West linear. Recut of [306].V. Shape, concave.		
312	Fill of ditch [311]	Mid orangey-grey clay silt, friable.	0.30m thick.	Sample 2
313	Fill of ditch [311]	Mid brownish-grey silty clay, firm.	0.38m thick	Pot etc
314	Fill of ditch [311]	Light greyish-yellow clay (Redeposit)	0.32m thick	Pot etc

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
4	50m x 1.8m, NE-SW	497757.43 241772.32	52.07m	0.40m deep 51.67m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
401	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with no inclusions.	0.20m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Orange-brown silty clay with no inclusions	0.15m thick	-
403	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
404	Layer	Soft, friable orange grey clay silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Deposition layer from moat.	0.20m thick	-
405	Fill of furrow [406]	Rigid greyish-brown clay, no inclusions.		Pot
406	Cut of Furrow	Probable furrow		
407	Fill of furrow [408]	Firm greyish-brown clay, no inclusions	0.1m thick	Tile/CBM
408	Cut of Furrow	Furrow		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
5	30m x 1.8m, N-S	497786.07 241735.23	52.37m	0.35m deep 52.02m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
501	Topsoil	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.10m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Rigid light grey-brown silty clay, no inclusions	0.20m thick	-
503	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
504	Fill of ditch [508]	Yellow-brown clay, few stone inclusions	0.30m thick	Pot, nail, animal bone, glass, fired clay
505	Fill of ditch [508]	Orange blue brown mottled clay fill with no inclusions.	0.2m thick	-
506	Fill of ditch [508]	Orange-yellow clay, rigid, with no inclusions.	0.20m thick	Pot
507	Fill of ditch [508]	Grey blue orange clay, rigid, no inclusions. Not fully excavated	0.30m thick	-
508	Cut of ditch	East/West Linear, wide ditch. Not fully excavated to see shape.	5m wide.	
509	Fill of pit [510]	Yellow-brown rigid clay with no inclusions		-
510	Cut of pit	Sub circular pit? Cut to South East by [508]		

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
6	30m x 1.8m, E-W	497841.44 241798.03	50.82m	0.28m deep 50.54m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
601	Topsoil	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.14m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay mix-topsoil. Mixed with topsoil by ploughing with occasional chalk fleck inclusions.	0.10m thick	-
603	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow clay with occasional; chalky, flint and pebble inclusions.		
604	Fill of ditch [607]	Firm mid grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and rare small stone inclusions. Clear boundaries with (602) and (605). Possibly silting. Flooding fill from leet? Cut by land drain.		Fired clay
605	Fill of ditch [607]	Firm mid mottled grey orange silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Clear boundaries with (604) and (606). Silting fill of leet ditch, cut by land drain.		-
606	Fill of ditch [607]	Firm light yellow-brown clay with rare small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. Clear boundaries with (605) and (603). Silting at bottom of ditch.		-
607	Cut of leet? ditch	North East/ South West linear with sloping sides to base with a flat base. Leet running into possible moat at South East corner of field.		



MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN  
01604 700 493  
[www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)  
[sparry@mola.org.uk](mailto:sparry@mola.org.uk)