



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

108 TIDDINGTON ROAD,

STRATFORD-ON-AVON,

WARWICKSHIRE

SP 2166 5556

On behalf of

Usha Bailey

DECEMBER 2009

REPORT FOR Usha Bailey
108 Tiddington
Tiddington
Stratford-on-Avon
W Warwickshire CV37 7BB

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 108 Tiddington Road, Stratford. Three trenches revealed Roman remains. Four pits and a posthole dating from the late 1st or 2nd century onwards were found. The posthole was sealed by a buried soil horizon. One of the pits was cut by a later ditch, dating from the 4th century. Possible evidence for buildings, in the form of worked stone, was recovered from the ditch. A layer of hardstanding post-dated both the ditch and the buried soil horizon. Pottery indicated that the greatest density of activity occurred in the late 1st to 2nd centuries, although clearly the site continued in use until the late Roman period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the southeast side of Tiddington Road at NGR SP 2166 5556. The site lies at approximately 40m OD and the underlying geology is Second Terrace River Gravels.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission is being sought from Stratford on Avon District Council for the erection of two-storey side extensions on both sides, forward projecting garage addition, removal of single storey rear element and alterations to fenestration at 108 Tiddington road, Stratford-upon-Avon (09/01896/FUL). Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist advised the local planning authority that an archaeological field evaluation was necessary as part of the consideration of the application. The Planning Archaeologist issued a Brief for the work. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by John Moore Heritage Services and agreed with the planning Archaeologist outlining the method by which the archaeological evaluation was to be carried out to satisfy the requirements of the Brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

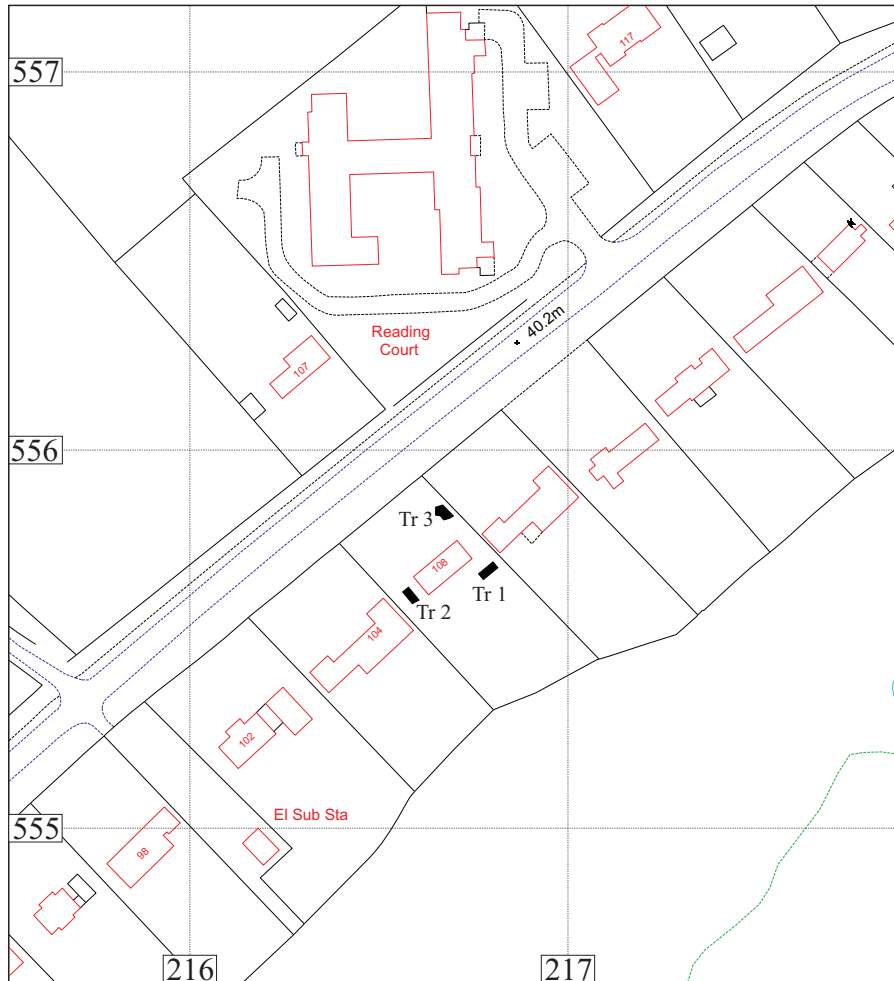
The proposed development is located in an area of significant archaeological potential, within the area of Romano-British occupation at Tiddington (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record MWA 4469). Parts of this settlement are scheduled including the area immediately to the south-east of this property boundary (Scheduled Monument 184). The Iron Age and Romano-British settlements are bisected by the Tiddington Road (MWA 4815, SP 2430 5548), a 19th-century toll road. The Roman road (MWA 4763, SP2270 5564) ran northwest/southeast through the Romano-British settlement to the west of the proposal site.

A group of Romano-British pits and a group of post holes that may have been related to a timber building(s) were found to the north-east at 112 Tiddington Road. To the immediate south and to the east of the proposed development site extensive evidence of dense Roman occupation, including ten burials, has been recorded (MWA 4465, SP 2165 5546; MWA 4467, SP 2166 5566; MWA 4469, SP 2160 5551); stone foundations of buildings were also recovered during work which spanned the 1920s

and 1980s (MWA 1058, SP 2181 5557). To the east and northeast of the proposal area extensive remains evidence an Iron Age settlement (MWA 5552, SP 2168 5564). Finds of Roman objects and pottery have been made along the Tiddington Road since the 1920s (MWA 1068, SP 2172 5560; MWA 1069, SP 2170 5560; MWA 1072, SP 2140 5530; MWA 894, SP 2180 5500; MWA 1039, SP 2190 5560). An earlier Palaeolithic hand axe has also been found (MWA 893, SP 2140 5531) as well as an undated spindlewhorl (MWA 1001, SP 2195 5583). Undated cropmarks exist to the northeast of the proposal area (MWA 874, SP 2194 5582).

To the west of the proposal and north of Tiddington Road, at 77 Tiddington Road (EWA 9171, SP 2130 5537 (centred)) a probable Roman burial was revealed. In a neighbouring property at 79 Tiddington Road (EWA 9298, SP 2122 5536) ditches were observed east of and outside the area of the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemetery areas. At 107 Tiddington Road (EWA 7453, SP 21628 55626) four ditches were observed which may well form part of the same field system as at MWA9727. Work on a service trench at Rayford Camping Site (EWA 9110, SP 2157 5554 to SP 2135 5576) revealed a hearth, gullies and pits dating from the Late Iron age to Early Roman period, as well as later Anglo-Saxon gullies. Archaeological work carried out at 117 Tiddington Road (EWA 7639, SP 2175 5736) revealed mid to late 1st-century features outside the 1st to 2nd-century enclosure sequence. Two burials were also recorded from this site (MWA 6397 SP 2170 5570). A double-ditched enclosure dating from the Anglo-Saxon period was also found on this site (MWA 6398, SP 2170 5570). At 119 Tiddington Road (MWA 7670, SP 2173 5572 (centred)) Romano-British pits and burials were excavated. West of these sites on land north of Tiddington Road (MWA 9727, SP 2155 5555) work revealed a Romano-British field-system and a building dating from the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period; post-2nd century features were also recovered. A cremation burial was found to the east at the Bowls Club (MWA 6396, SP 2182 5576).

South of Tiddington Road, west of the proposal area, work undertaken at 80 Tiddington Road (EWA 9303, SP 21380 55300 (centred)) yielded evidence for ditches, pits and postholes. An earlier evaluation at the same property (MWA 7859, SP 2130 5520; MWA 7861, SP 2141 5526) revealed Roman ditches and pottery, as well as prehistoric flints. Next door, at 82 Tiddington Road (MWA 8836, SP 2139 5534 (centred)) two pits, one of which was dated to the Romano-British period were excavated. At 102 Tiddington Road (MWA 7950, SP 2163 5552) Roman features including high status pottery was recovered during recent archaeological work; work carried out in 1937 at the same address (MWA 1059, SP 2162 5551) yielded Samian pottery and the remains of a road. East of the proposal area at 124 Tiddington Road (MWA 8780, SP 21817 55678 (centred)) two Roman ditches and a pit dating from the 2nd to 4th century were found. A causeway was observed south of the Tiddington Road during works in 1937 (MWA 9208, SP 2172 5560) associated with findspot MWA 1068. At the NFU Mutual site, further east, work in the 1980s revealed a Roman cemetery (MWA 5555, SP 2190 5560), evidence of an Iron Age settlement (MWA 5554, SP 2190 5560) and a number of Roman burials (MWA 5553, SP 2168 5564).



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Figure 1. Site and trench location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular

- o To determine whether features associated with the Romano-British settlement are present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to a Brief issued by Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist JMHS carried out the work, which comprised the excavation of three trenches across the site (Fig. 1).

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of three trenches by a mini-excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, supplemented by limited hand investigation of archaeological deposits. The integrity of archaeological features or deposits that might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation *in situ*, were not compromised.

Trench 1 was 5m long by 2m wide in the southeast corner of the proposal area; Trench 2 was originally 3.5m long by 2m wide on the west of the proposal area, but was extended to 4m due to the presence of a soakaway; Trench 3, which was originally to have been a triangle measuring 4mx4mx5.65m, was an area measuring just over 4m long by 2m wide under the proposed garage area at the front of the proposal area. The change was due to the presence of a tree root within the original

trench location. The overall trenching amounted to 26m², as opposed to 24m² as proposed in the WSI.

Site procedures carried out will follow IfA guidelines and the requirements of the Warwickshire Museum's Brief.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Fieldwork

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. All contexts numbers are preceded by trench number and /.

Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

Trench 1 was located on the southeast corner of the proposed new build, oriented northeast/southwest. The trench measured 5m long by 2m wide and was between 0.9 and 1m deep. The trench was machine-excavated to the top of the natural gravel (1/3).

The earliest feature was a pit 1/4, which measured at least 2.65m long by 1.15m wide and was observed to a depth of 0.26m. Its shape could not be ascertained. The pit extended beyond the limits of the evaluation in the eastern corner of the trench. It was filled with a single fill of soft dark grey-brown gravelly sandy clay (1/5). Pottery recovered from the fill yielded a date around the late 1st century to 2nd century AD.

The pit was cut by a roughly east/west aligned ditch 1/6. The ditch extended beyond the limits of excavation but was observed to be at least 4.5m long by 0.8m wide and 0.48m deep. The ditch 1/6 was filled with soft dark grey-brown gravelly sandy clay (1/7) and contained animal bone and pottery dating from the 4th century AD, or later. Pieces of worked mudstone were also recovered from this fill. There was no evidence of a bonding material, which might suggest either stocked stone for building or that any possible associated structure was drystone.

The ditch was sealed by a deposit of dark grey clay sand and gravel (1/2) measuring up to 0.25m thick on the north side of the evaluation trench, but which was only 0.05m thick on the south side. This deposit may well represent either a consolidation layer or hard-standing associated with occupation, most likely located to the north of the trench where it was observed to be thicker. A single sherd of pottery from the deposit yielded a date after the 2nd century, which given that the deposit seals the later ditch indicates it to be residual.

The gravel deposit was sealed by dark grey brown sandy clay topsoil (1/1), which measured up to 0.5m thick and was present across the trench. Roman pottery was recovered from the layer of topsoil

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 4)

Trench 2 was located on the west side of the current house and oriented northwest/southeast. It measured 4m by 2m and was just over 1m deep. Potential archaeological remains in the northern part of the trench would have been truncated by the excavation of a soakaway for the house, 1.4m of which were present in the

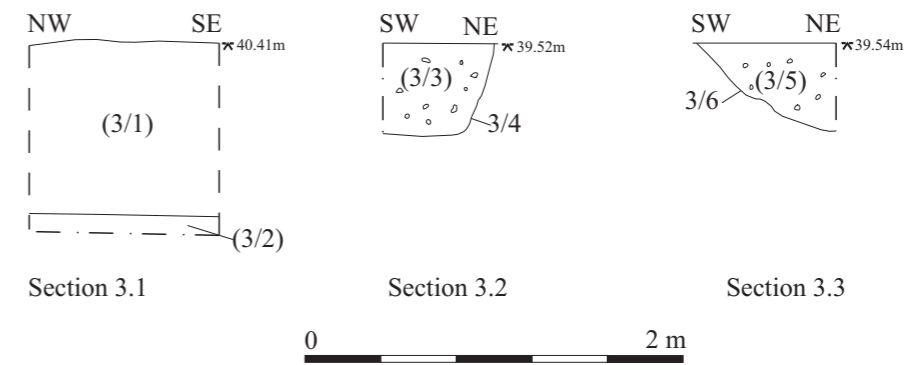
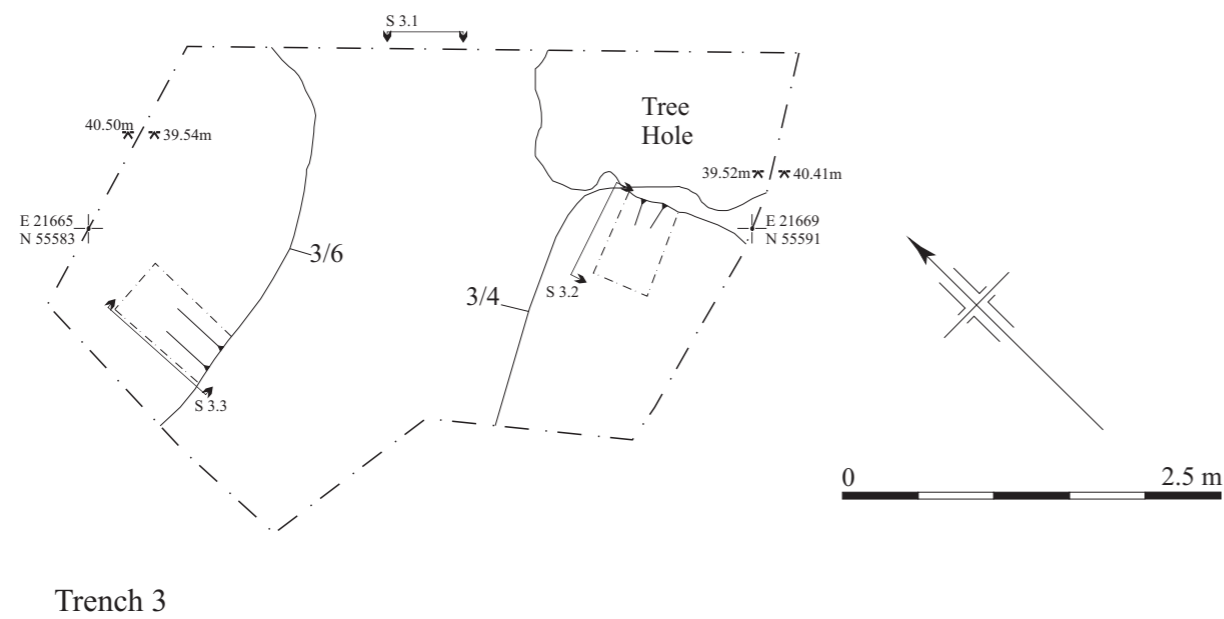
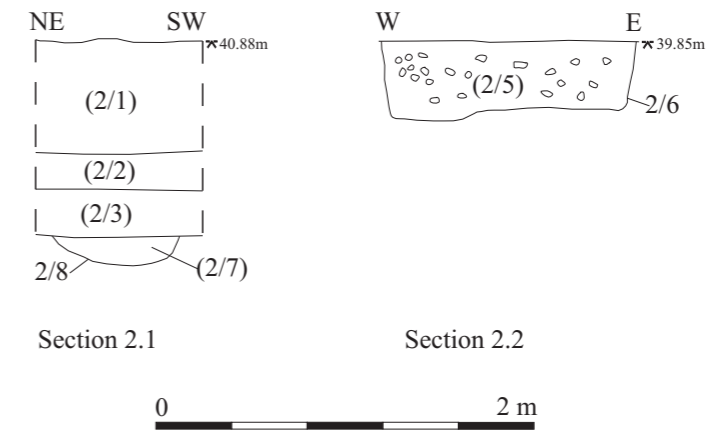
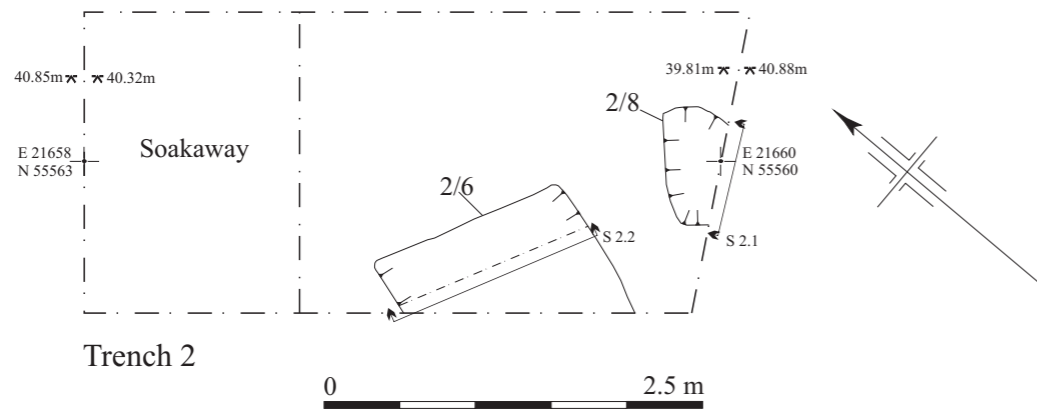
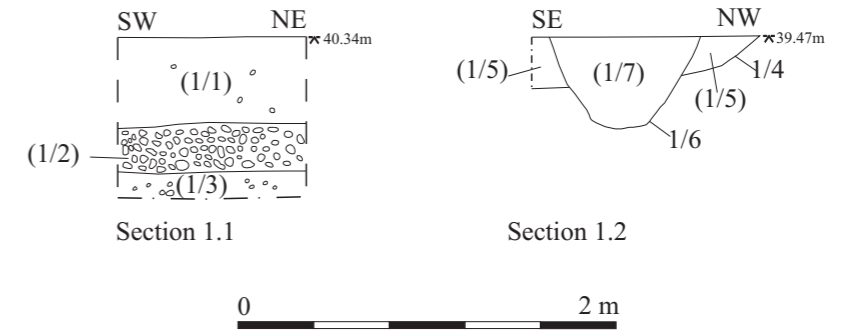
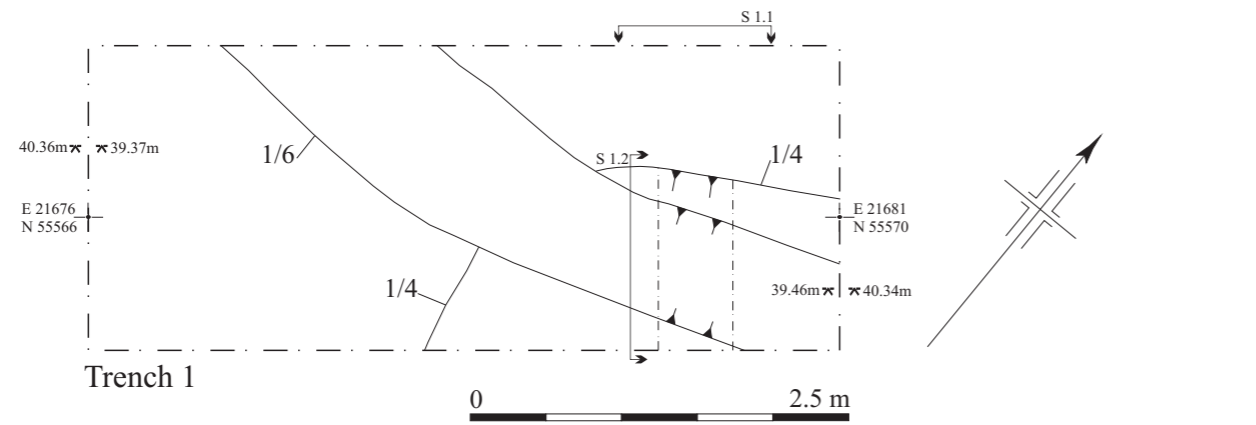


Figure 2. Trenches 1 and 2

trench. The trench was machine-excavated to natural (2/4) where a posthole or small pit 2/8 was cut into the natural gravel (2/4). The southern edge of the posthole 2/8 extended beyond the southern edge of the evaluation trench, but as seen it measured 0.78m east/west and 0.4m north/south. It was 0.16m deep. The fill was a grey-brown slightly clay sand (2/7). Pottery recovered from the fill of 2/8 yielded a late 1st to early 2nd century AD date range. The posthole 2/8 was sealed by dark grey-brown slightly clay sand (2/3), which represents a buried soil horizon which was present across the trench. Pottery recovered from the buried soil horizon indicates that it appears to date from the late 1st century AD onwards.

To the north of the posthole 2/8 and cutting through the buried soil horizon (2/3) was pit 2/6, which was a relatively square cut – although, as it extended beyond the west edge of the evaluation trench, its full shape could not be ascertained – measuring 1.35m northwest/southeast by more than 1m northeast/southwest. The cut was straight sided with a relatively flat base and a maximum depth of 0.7m. The pit 2/6 was filled with grey-brown slightly clay sand and c. 3% gravel (2/5). Pottery from the fill yielded a date from the middle of the 2nd century AD or later.

The pit 2/6 was sealed by a layer of dark grey clay sand and gravel (2/2) measuring up to 0.2m thick across the evaluation trench. This deposit may well represent the same postulated or a similar phase of hardstanding or consolidation layer as seen in Trench 1, the layer (1/2). It was however only seen in the southwest corner of the trench. No finds were recovered from the deposit in Trench 2. Sealing the postulated hardstanding was topsoil (2/1) to a maximum depth of c. 1m, which was the same as that seen in Trench 1.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 5)

Trench 3 was located on the north side of the proposal area at the front of the present building. Originally this trench was proposed to be a triangle measuring 4m x 4m x 5.65m, yielding an area of 8m². However the presence of a root plate necessitated a change in the shape of the trench resulting in an overall area of 9.5m². The trench was machine-excavated to the natural gravel (3/2)

Two pits were excavated, although neither was seen in its entirety. The pit 3/6, which was located on the north side of the trench, extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench and measured more than 2.5m east/west and more than 1.25m north/south. It was at least 0.45m deep. The fill was dark grey-brown clay sand with occasional small stone (3/5). No pottery was recovered from the pit, although some bone was present.

The second pit 3/4, located on the south side of the trench appeared to be squared, measuring at least 1.8m east/west by 1.15m north/south and 0.5m deep. The fill was dark grey-brown clay sand with occasional small stone (3/3). A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the pit, which yielded a date around the late 1st to 2nd century AD, although as this found during machining it may well be intrusive.

The pits were sealed by a homogenous layer of topsoil (3/1) which was present across the trench and which measured 0.9m thick. This was the same as seen in Trenches 1 and 2.



Figure 3. Trench 1 Ditch 1/6. Looking southwest

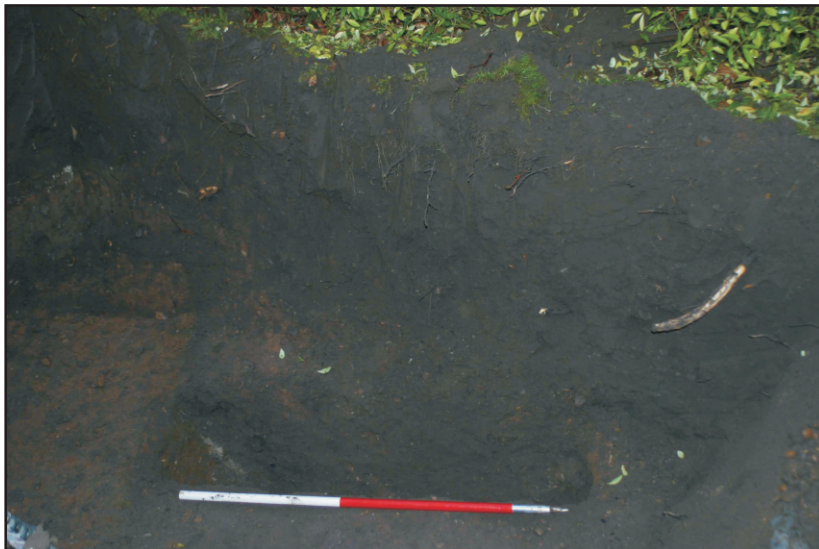


Figure 4. Trench 2 Pit 2/6. Looking southwest



Figure 5. Trench 3. Looking northwest

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation, which took place during largely dry and frequently overcast weather, was monitored by Anna Stocks for Warwickshire County Museum Service.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Pottery by Paul Booth

The evaluation produced 75 sherds (2091 g) of Roman pottery. The pottery was scanned rapidly and summarily recorded using codes in the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system. Quantification was by sherd count per fabric/context group, with weight recorded for each context group as a whole.. The sherds were typically in good condition, reflected by the mean sherd weight of almost 28 g. Surfaces were generally well-preserved, although occasional pieces were more abraded than the majority. The pottery is summarised by context group below.

Context	Sherd no. /weight	Context (ceramic) date	Fabrics etc/comment (vessel types represented by rims in brackets)
1/1	6/147	120-200?	O40, O41, R30, B11
1/2	1/31	2C+	R30
1/5	4/213	late 1-2C	R60 (jar), R90 (storage jar)
1/7	7/211	4C or later	S20 (Drag 27), E20, O40, O80, R10 (?beaker), R30, F51 (Young type C81)
2/3	19/270	late 1C-mid 2C	E30, E80, O40 (jar), O41, R20 (?bowl), R30 (jar), R60
2/5	34/1182	?mid 2C	Q10, E30, O40 (jar), R20, R30, R30* (jar), R60 (large bowl), R90, B11, C22
2/7	3/28	late 1-2C	O41, R30
3/5	1/9	late 1-2C	O40
TOTAL	75/2091		

Table 1. Pottery quantities (no. sherds/weight) by context and period

The fabrics are summarised below.

- S20. South Gaulish samian ware. 1 sherd.
- F51. Oxford colour-coated ware. 1 sherd.
- Q10. Fine oxidised white-slipped ware. Source uncertain. 1 sherd.
- E20. Coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' wares. 2 sherds.
- E30. Fine sand-tempered 'Belgic type' wares. 2 sherds.
- E80. Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' ware. 1 sherd.
- O40. Severn Valley wares, undifferentiated. 10 sherds.
- O41. Organic-tempered Severn Valley ware. 6 sherds.
- O80. Grog-tempered oxidised coarse ware. 1 sherd.
- R10. Fine reduced 'coarse' ware, source uncertain. 1 sherd.
- R20. Sandy reduced coarse wares. 2 sherds.
- R30. Moderately sandy reduced coarse wares. 11 sherds.
- R30*. Moderately sandy reduced coarse ware, product of Tiddington kiln 2. 12 sherds.
- R60. Organic-tempered reduced coarse wares. 16 sherds.
- R90. Coarse grog-tempered reduced coarse wares. 5 sherds.
- B11. Black-burnished ware (BB1). 2 sherds.
- C22. Malvernian limestone-tempered ware. 2 sherds.

The pottery is mostly in a range of fabrics typical of other Tiddington assemblages (Booth 1996). Many are of local (but uncertain) origin, but non-local material includes Severn Valley and Malvernian wares, black-burnished ware and a single Oxford product. A small sherd of South Gaulish samian ware was the only non-British import. Twelve sherds recorded as R30* are in a fabric produced in Tiddington kiln 2 (Booth 1986, 28-30). All were from a single context (2/5) and included part of a jar of 'cooking pot' type which was clearly a second (but probably not a waster) as well as sherds from at least one other vessel

Chronology

The assemblage includes a small number of sherds in 'Belgic type' fabrics characteristic of many 1st-century groups at Tiddington. These sherds, however, are always associated with later material and do not necessarily indicate activity of this early date in the immediate vicinity of the site. At the other end of the chronological range, the only definite late Roman sherd is a single large rim of an Oxford ware bowl of Young (1977) type C81, dated to the 4th century. None of the other pottery needs be later than about AD 200. Although diagnostic vessel forms are relatively scarce those that are present are consistent with this range. The balance of fabrics also supports this interpretation. Severn Valley wares are more common at Tiddington in the early Roman period than later, and the fact that they include a high proportion of the early Roman organic tempered fabric O41 s consistent with this view. The Malvernian limestone-tempered (fabric C22) vessel, some way beyond its normal distribution range, is also a characteristically early Roman piece. Overall the pottery suggest fairly intensive activity in the later 1st-2nd centuries, while also including occasional earlier and later pieces.

5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the potential of the deposits was not felt to be sufficient to warrant sampling.

5.3 Building Material

Context number	Dimensions (mm)	Weight (g)	Comments
1/7	173x98x52	1249	Roughly shaped
1/7	145x118x47	1889	Worked

Table 2. Worked stone.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation at 108 Tiddington Road revealed four pits, a possible posthole or small pit, and a probable boundary ditch. Evidence of a gravel dump, possibly representing hardstanding or consolidation of the Roman ground surface was also revealed.

The pits and posthole were all broadly contemporary dating from the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD. All three trenches evidenced pitting with such a date range. A buried soil horizon sealed the pits in Trench 2. This deposit did not appear to be present in Trenches 1 or 3.

Trench 1 also revealed a ditch dating from the 4th century AD, which may well form part of a late enclosure within the settlement at Tiddington. Pieces of stone, which are possibly structural – although there is no mortar or similar bonding material on them – were recovered from the fill of the ditch. The ditch was sealed by reasonably thick layer of gravel. A similar deposit of gravel was seen to the west in Trench 2 although its extent was not so great.

Work in the immediate vicinity, to the east of the site, at 102 Tiddington Road revealed Roman features during the excavation of footings for an extension (Palmer 1997). The remains indicate that the site is located in the centre of the Roman settlement previously excavated in 1937-8. On the south and east sides of the new build there were undisturbed Romano-British features sealed beneath a possible gravel surface. Most of the pottery dated from the early 2nd to later 4th centuries including a high proportion of fine wares suggesting that this area was a wealthier part of the site (Palmer 1997). Work carried out at the same address in 1937 revealed the remains of a road as well as Samian pottery.

Work at 112 Tiddington Road, to the west of the site, revealed Romano-British pits and postholes, which may relate to one or more timber structures, dating from the mid to late 2nd century. It was clear that this area of the village was used for rubbish disposal in the mid part of the 2nd century but there was no clear evidence for use in the later part of the Romano-British period (Palmer 2003). These pits may well relate to a further group of rubbish filled pits examined nearby in 1991, where features also excavated at 112 Tiddington Road indicated that this part of the settlement was occupied from the 2nd to the later 3rd/4th century. Most buildings on the settlement are believed to have been of timber, there being no local source of stone (WM 1991).

Further work on the north side of the road, at 117 Tiddington Road, three mid/late 1st century AD pits, as well as a gully were recovered north of remains found in 1988 (Palmer 2005a). Next door at 119 Tiddington Road, has revealed, in addition to a number of burials, extensive evidence of pitting. The pottery recovered extends from the 1st to 4th centuries (Palmer 2005b). However, work carried out at 1 Reading Court yielded only negative evidence (Jones & Palmer 2000). Just to the west, and almost opposite the current site, work at Rayford Caravan site in 2008 (Palmer 2008) revealed mid/late 1st century AD gullies, pits and a hearth, c. 45m from Tiddington Road; farther away from the road on the edge of the 1st gravel terrace early Anglo-Saxon enclosures were revealed.

While the evidence in adjacent properties is not always conclusive, due to the limited view obtained of the archaeology, it is clear that the site at 108 Tiddington Road broadly conforms with others in the immediate vicinity. Activity represented by postholes and pits from the late 1st and early 2nd centuries are well represented on all the close sites. The ditch dates from the 4th century. Remains from the 4th century have been recovered from work at both 102 Tiddington Road to the west and 119 Tiddington Road to the east.

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APPENDIX I – ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Find	Date	Interpretation
Trench 1								
1/1	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy clay; small stone 30%	>0.82m	>2m	>5m			Topsoil
1/2	Layer	Dark grey sandy clay; small stone 80%	c. 0.25m	>2m	>5m			Gravel dump – hardstanding?
1/3	Layer	Mid orange brown	unk	>2m	>5m			Natural
1/4	Cut	Sub rounded, gentle break of slope at top & base, sides at 30° concave base	c. 0.26m	>1.15m	>2.65m			Cut for pit
1/5	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy clay; small stone 30%	>0.26m	>1.15m	>2.65m			Pit fill
1/6	Cut	Linear, sharp break of slope at top & base, sides at 80° flat base, oriented SE/NW	c. 0.7m	c. 0.8m	>4.5m			Ditch cut
1/7	Fill	Dark grey sandy clay; small stone 40%	c. 0.7m	c. 0.8m	>4.5m			Fill of ditch
Trench 2								
2/1	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy clay; small stone 30%	0.6-1m	>2m	>5m			Topsoil
2/2	Layer	Yellow brown gravelly slightly clay sand	c. 0.2m	>0.9m	>1m			Gravel dump – hardstanding?
2/3	Layer	Dark grey brown clay sand	c. 0.25m	>2m	>5m			Buried soil horizon
2/4	Layer	Red brown silty sand & gravel	Unk.	>2m	>5m			Natural
2/5	Fill	Grey brown clay sand, gravel 3%	c. 0.5m	c. 1.4m	c. 0.9m			Pit fill
2/6	Cut	Squared, sharp BoS at top and base, straight sides, flat base, slightly stepped S side	c. 0.5m	c. 1.4m	c. 0.9m			Pit
2/7	Fill	Grey brown clay sand, gravel 3%	0.15m+	0.75m	>0.5m			Fill of posthole or small pit
2/8	Cut	Sub-rectangular, sharp BoS at top & base, straight sides, flat base	0.15m+	0.75m	>0.5m			Posthole or small pit
Trench 3								
3/1	Layer	Dark red brown clay sand & gravel	c. 0.9m	>2m	>4m			Topsoil
3/2	Layer	Mid orange yellow clay sand & gravel	Unk.	>2m	>4m			Natural
3/3	Fill	Dark grey brown clay sand & gravel	0.4m	>1.1m	>1.7m	No		Fill of pit
3/4	Cut	Sub rectangular, sharp BoS at top & base, sides at 45°, flat base	0.4m	>1.1m	>1.7m			Cut of pit
3/5	Fill	Dark grey brown clay sand & gravel	0.48m	>1.2m	>2.5m	Yes		Fill of pit
3/6	Cut	Sub rectangular, sharp BoS at top & base, sides at 85°, flat base	0.48m	>1.2m	>2.5m			Cut of pit