

# Barby Pools Marina, Barby Northamptonshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 15106

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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

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## SUMMARY

*A second phase of archaeological evaluation consisting of 17 trial trenches was undertaken, as a condition of planning consent, in advance of the construction of a marina comprising 550 non-residential berths, marina services and amenities buildings and boat repair facility, with associated car parking and service areas, landscaped areas and minor works to adopted and unadopted roads. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed although well-preserved extant ridge and furrow was recorded along with a post-medieval gully or drain. No finds dating to earlier than the post-medieval period were recorded.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Daventry District Council for the demolition of barn and partial demolition of second barn, construction of marina comprising 550 non-residential berths, marina services and amenities buildings and boat repair facility, with associated car parking and service areas, landscaped areas and minor works to adopted and unadopted roads.

1.2 It was a condition of the planning permission that the applicant secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a further phase of evaluation trial trenching, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the Planning Authority in accordance with The Historic Environment Consultancy Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Wardle 2014).

1.4 This report presents the results of a second phase of evaluation trenching undertaken in March 2015. The archive will be maintained by Archaeology Warwickshire under Site Code NBP15 in an appropriate manner until an appropriate institution becomes available. Finds ownership will remain with the landowner until such time as title may be transferred in accordance with appropriate agreement.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located on agricultural land surrounding Onley Fields Farm, Onley (Fig 1). It is bounded to the north by HMP Ryehill, HMYOI Onley and Rainsbrook STC and to the west by Onley Park housing. The remainder of the site is surrounded by agricultural fields

with the North Oxford Canal adjacent to its eastern boundary and a tributary to Rains Brook running along part of its southern boundary.

2.2 The investigation area is approximately 14 hectares and consists generally of pasture with areas of trees, scrub and hedgerow. There are a number of areas on the site that have been identified as being subject to land filling or tipping.

2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS) map for the area (1:50,000 Series, Sheet 184 Warwick - Solid and Drift) shows that the site is underlain by strata of the Lias Group, comprising dark grey mudstone, weathering to clay nearer the surface of the stratum.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The development site lies 300m to the south east of a Deserted Medieval Village, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage reference NN110), and parts of the medieval fields survive in the development area. In addition there are other areas of historic interest including:

- Roman settlement to the south east which is not considered in these proposals
- A former railway line and sidings - part of the London Extension of the Great Central Line Extension
- The Oxford Canal

3.2 Previous archaeological work on the site includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2011), a geophysical survey (Bartlett Clark Consultancy 2011) and an initial phase of trial trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2012).

### 4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.

4.2 Secondary aims included placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.

4.3 The objectives were to locate record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

## 5 RESULTS

### MEDIEVAL- POST-MEDIEVAL

#### Field A - Trenches 28-32

5.1 There are extant ridge and furrow earthworks in the east part of this field. These were recorded in Trench 32, 9m apart and with ridges surviving up to a height of 0.50m and aligned NNW-SSE. No ridge and furrow features were recorded in Trenches 28-31. A low earthwork bank and slight depression corresponding with a silty clay layer, recorded in Trench 30, may have been associated with a possible paleochannel or infilled pond.

5.2 A narrow linear gully, perhaps a drainage feature, containing a fragment of post-medieval brick or tile, was recorded in Trench 29 (Fig 2).

#### Field B - Trenches 33 and 34

5.3 Ridge and furrow in this field was on a N-S alignment and still visible as well-preserved earthworks. The ridge and furrow was recorded in Trenches 33 (Fig 3, Trench 33) and 34, 8-9m apart with ridges surviving up to 0.50m high.

#### Field C - Trenches 35-44

5.4 The ridge and furrow visible as well-preserved earthworks in this field was in two blocks separated by a low headland. At the west part of the field the ridge and furrow was E-W aligned and at the east part of the field the ridge and furrow was NW-SE aligned. The ridges in both blocks of ridge and furrow were 9-10m apart and up to 0.50m in height. Trench 35 was excavated as in two parts to avoid electricity cables for safety reasons.

### NATURAL FEATURES

5.5 A deep silty clay layer recorded in Trench 30 may be associated with an infilled pond or a natural paleochannel.

TABLE 1 CONTEXTS RECORDED IN EACH TRENCH

Context	Description	Comments	Depth
2800	Topsoil	Grey brown clayey silt	0.20m
2801	Subsoil	Grey brown clay silt (present in NE 20m of trench)	0.15m
2802	Geological natural	yellowish grey clay	

2900	Topsoil	Brown clay silt	0.18-0.2m
2901		Grey clay silt (present in W 15m of trench)	0.15m
2902	Geological natural	yellowish grey clay	
2903	Gully	Linear aligned NW-SE steep sides narrow rounded base 0.44m wide x 0.12m deep	0.12m
2904	Fill of 2903	Dark brown silty clay containing 1 x post-medieval brick/ tile frag.	0.12m
3000	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	0.10m
3001	Subsoil (upper)	Grey clay silt (make up of low N-S aligned earthwork bank)	0.20-0.4m
3002	Subsoil (lower)	Dark grey silty clay with lenses of sand and gravel (pond or paleochannel fill)	>0.5m
3003	Geological natural	yellowish grey clay	
3100	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	0.10-15m
3101	Subsoil	Grey clay (disturbed natural)	0.10m
3102	Geological natural	Yellowish grey clay	
3200	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	0.15m
3201	Subsoil	Grey silty clay forms N-S aligned ridges c.9-10m apart	0-0.5m
3202	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3300	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	0.20m
3301	Subsoil	Grey silty clay forms N-S aligned ridges c.9m apart	0-0.50m
3302	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3400	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.10m
3401	Subsoil	Grey silty clay forms N-S aligned ridges c.8-9m apart	0-0.50m
3402	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3500	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
3501	Subsoil	Grey silt clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.9-10m apart	0-0.50m
3502	Geological natural	Grey clay	

3600	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay sand	0.10m
3601	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.10m apart	0-0.50m
3602	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3700	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.10m
3701	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.9-10m apart	0-0.40m
3702	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3800	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.10m
3801	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms 2 x E-W aligned ridges c.9-10m apart at W end of trench	0-0.40m
3802	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay present in E. 14m of trench	
3803	Geological natural	Grey clay	
3900	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
3901	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay contains 1 sherd c18th pottery. Forms E-W aligned ridges c.9-10m apart	0-0.5m
3902	Geological natural	Grey clay	
4000	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
4001	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms 1 x E-W aligned ridge at W end of trench	0.20-0.4m
4002	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay present in E. end of trench	0.20m
4003	Geological natural	Grey clay	
4100	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
4101	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.9-10m apart	0-0.5m
4102	Geological natural	Grey clay	
4200	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
4201	Subsoil	Brown clay silt	0.10-0.15m
4202	Geological natural	Grey clay	
4300	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.10m



4301	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.10m apart	0-0.3m
4302	Geological natural	Grey clay	
4400	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey sand silt	0.20m
4401	Subsoil	Grey brown silty clay forms E-W aligned ridges c.10m apart	0-0.4m
4402	Geological natural	Grey clay	

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The current evaluation and previous work (Cotswold Archaeology 2011, Bartlett Clark Consultancy 2011 and Cotswold Archaeology 2012), has established that the proposed development will not impact on any significant archaeological deposits. The deposit sequence is entirely consistent with the site having been under agriculture since the medieval period. No evidence for medieval or earlier settlement in the development area was recorded during the evaluation.

6.2 The current phase of archaeological work together with previous work has characterised and recorded the remains of the medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow open field system in sufficient detail.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCES

BCC (Bartlett Clark Consultancy) 2011 *Barby Pools Marina, Northamptonshire/Warwickshire: Report on a Geophysical Survey*, unpublished report dated March 2011

Cotswold Archaeology 2012 *Barby Pools Marina Onley, Northamptonshire and Willoughby, Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report 12023

Wardle, P, 2014 *Archaeological mitigation strategy, Barby Pools Marina Phase 1, Land at Onley Fields Prison Farm, Onley Park, Barby, Northamptonshire, CV23 8AN*, The Historic Environment Consultancy report 2014/1128



Photograph 1. Gully 2903, Trench 29



Photograph 2. Trench 36





Photograph 3. Trench 30



Photograph 4. Trench 40





Photograph 5. Trench 33 from west



Photograph 6. Trench 33 from east

## APPENDICES

### A List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
2904	Brick/ tile	1	Not retained
3901	Pottery	1	18 <sup>th</sup> C – not retained