



# **Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour Warwickshire January 2014**

SOSC 14

Report No. 14/29

Author: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

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

## **STAFF**

Project Manager: Adam Yates BA MIfA

Text: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Fieldwork: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD

Ben Kidd BA

Adam Reid MSc

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. Molanort1-170713</b>	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire		
Short description	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire in January 2014. Nine trenches with a total length of 450m were opened. No archaeological features or artefacts were found. Remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were recorded near the field edge in Trenches 1 and 5.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Simmonds 2013); DBA (Dawson 2013)		
Current land use	Arable Field		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type and period	-		
Significant finds	-		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Campden Road, Shipston on Stour		
Post code	-		
OS co-ordinates	SP 2510 4030		
Area (sq m/ha)	2.5ha		
Height aOD	80-85m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Planning Archaeologist Warwickshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Project Managers	Adam Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting for Banner Homes		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	27 January 2014		
End date	29 January 2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	SOSC14		
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire		
Serial title & volume	14/29		
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE</b>
4.1	General comments
4.2	The trenches
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>
	<b>APPENDIX: CONTEXT</b>

## Figures

Front cover: Development area pre-excavation, looking north

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The excavated trenches, showing geophysical survey results

Fig 3: Trench 2 showing general geology of the site, looking south-east

Fig 4: Trench 2 showing typical stratigraphy, looking north-east

Fig 5: Furrow in Trench 1, looking north-west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION  
AT CAMPDEN ROAD, SHIPSTON ON STOUR  
WARWICKSHIRE  
JANUARY 2014**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire in January 2014. Nine trenches with a total length of 450m were opened. No archaeological features or artefacts were found. Remnant furrow of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivations were recorded near the field edge in Trenches 1 and 5.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching at Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire (NGR SP 2510 4030, Fig 1).

The works were undertaken in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2014). The works were monitored by the Planning Archaeologist of Warwickshire County Council.

MOLA is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2009).

**2 BACKGROUND**

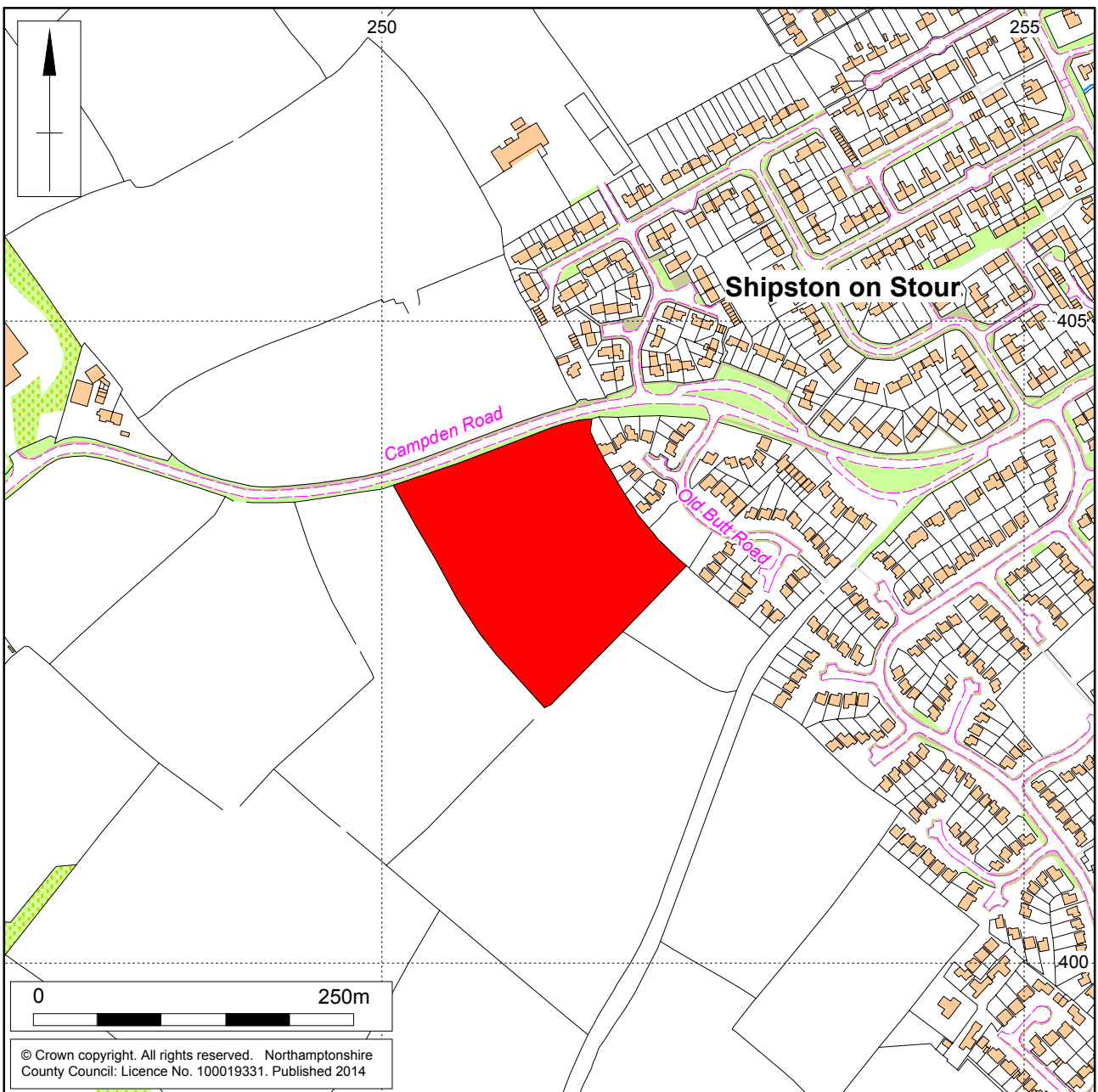
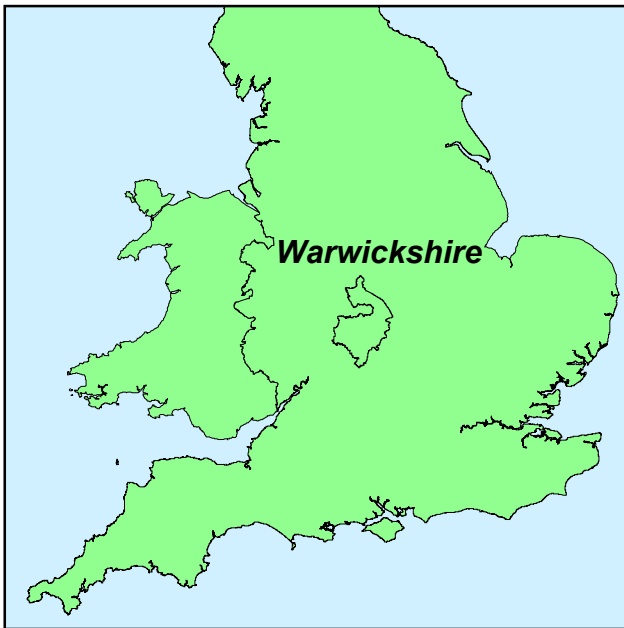
**2.1 Location and topography**

The town of Shipston on Stour is situated in the Stour valley in the southern part of Warwickshire. The proposed development area lies on the western fringes of the town and comprises c 2.5ha of land bounded to the north by Campden Road, to the east by the 20th-century urban development of Shipston on Stour and to the south and west by arable fields. Within the site are two poles carrying overhead telegraph lines. The site lies at a height of 80m to 85m aOD, sloping north to south. The underlying bedrock comprises Jurassic Mudstones (Dawson 2013).

**2.2 Historical and archaeological background**

A desk-based assessment was undertaken in September 2013 by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2013), its findings are briefly summarised below. The assessment utilised information from Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (WHER) based on a 500m radius of the proposed development area as well as a survey of historic maps.

Although the only record for the development area comprises medieval open fields (derived from historic map evidence) the area around Shipston on Stour is rich in recorded archaeological remains dating from prehistoric times to the present day. The prehistoric occupation of the area around Shipston on Stour included Neolithic flint axes and blades.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

From the Roman period there was increased occupation of the area, the Fosse Way Roman road is situated approximately 1km to the west and it is possible that Shipston on Stour may have had a Roman settlement, Roman coins and other artefacts have been found within the area of the town. The fields north of Campden Road were surveyed and subject to archaeological trenching in 2012. The work identified rectangular enclosures and field boundaries of Roman date. It was speculated that the occupation extended into the current survey area.

The extent of Anglo-Saxon occupation is unknown although the recovery of artefacts indicates that settlement did continue from the Roman period. Shipston on Stour was first documented in the mid 10th century where it is called *Scepeswasce*. By the time of the Domesday Survey the town of Shipston comprised a manor (held by the Prior of Worcester) located in the parish of Tredington, Worcestershire. The medieval core was located around St Edmund's Church and the Manor House. The proposed development area lies beyond the recorded core and is probably within arable farmland. A map dating from 1793 shows the extent of strip cultivation prior to enclosure by Parliament in 1812. The map shows that the curving strips were aligned north-west to south-east. Subsequent to enclosure the fields to the west of the town were small, roughly rectangular parcels of land.

Geophysical survey undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Simmonds 2013) identified the remnants of medieval ridge and furrow mirroring the pattern recorded in the 1793 estate map (Dawson 2013). The survey did not identify any earlier remains relating to the continuation of the Roman settlement to the north of Campden Road, although medieval cultivation may have masked earlier features.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were 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.

Nine trial trenches, each 50m long and 1.8m wide, with a total length of 450m, were excavated. Trench 9 had to be shortened due to surface water. The trenches were sited to avoid known overhead services. All areas of ground disturbance were accurately surveyed in using Leica 1200 GPS survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey (Fig 2). A photographic record was maintained using black and white film supplemented by digital photography. Photographic views of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Each trench was photographed, together with views of individual features.

Machine excavation was undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket 1.80m wide, to reveal archaeological remains or, where absent, undisturbed natural horizons.

All archaeological features were investigated. All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.





Scale 1:2000

The excavated trenches, showing geophysical survey results

Fig 2

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive.

## **4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 General comments**

The natural substrate consisted of light orange-brown clay and mid grey-brown silty clay (Figs 6 and 7); this was overlain by mid orange-brown silty clay subsoil. The topsoil was dark grey-brown clay loam (see Appendix for details).



Trench 2 showing general geology of the site, looking south-east Fig 3



Trench 2 showing typical stratigraphy, looking north-east Fig 4

## 4.2 The trenches

No archaeological features were recorded in the trenches. Furrows were noted in Trenches 1 and 5. The furrows were filled with mid brown-grey silty clay, comprising charcoal and 19th/20th century pot and bone (Fig 5). They were c 1.50m wide with sloping sides and concave bases. The furrows were aligned north-west to south-east, parallel with the field boundary, and spaced 4m to 6m apart.



Furrow in Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 5

## 5 DISCUSSION

The only archaeological features were uncovered during the trial trench evaluation were furrows of the medieval/post-medieval field system. No unstratified or re-deposited artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were recovered. There was no indication that the roman settlement uncovered on the northern side of Campden Road extended onto the southern side of the road. This may be due to the heavy clay geology present on the site.

The 1793 estate map indicated the presence of ridge and furrow, which the geophysical survey also found. The furrows uncovered in Trenches 1 and 5 were only preserved near the field edges, suggesting that the furrow lying in the centre of the field have been mostly ploughed-out by modern farming techniques.



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## APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		81.68m aOD	0.55m, 81.13m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam; frequent small to medium stones. Frequent inclusions of post-medieval material - pot, clay pipe, tile etc.	0.30-0.42m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay; moderate small to medium stones, frequent charcoal inclusions.	0.09-0.13m thick	-
103	Natural	Light orange-brown clay; moderate small to medium stones; occasional charcoal flecks in top.	-	-
104	Fill of [105]	Mid brown-grey silty clay; frequent charcoal inclusions	-	Finds not retained, occasional small fragments of animal bone and 19th/20th century pot.
105	Furrow	N-S alignment; 30° sloping sides with flat base.	0.25m deep 1.54m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		83.22m aOD	0.44m, 82.78m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam; frequent small to medium stones.	0.28-0.29m thick	Finds not retained, frequent clay pipe, tile and 19th/20th century pot
202	Furrow	Mid brown-grey silty clay; frequent charcoal inclusions, Not present in all places and goes the length of the trench.	0.13m thick	Finds not retained, occasional small fragments of animal bone and 19th/20th century pot.
203	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay; moderate small to medium stones, frequent charcoal inclusions.	0.15m thick	-
204	Natural	Light orange-brown clay; moderate small to medium stones; occasional charcoal flecks in top.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m N-S</b>		<b>85.65m aOD</b>	<b>0.48m, 85.17m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/samples</b>
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam, moderate small to medium rounded pebbles.	0.30-0.34m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay; frequent small rounded and sub-angular stones.	0.10-0.14m thick	-
303	Natural	Light orange-grey clay; frequent small to large rounded and sub-angular stones; very frequent small white chalk inclusions; occasional small orange sandy clay patches.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m N-S</b>		<b>82.96m aOD</b>	<b>0.58m, 82.38m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/samples</b>
401	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam, moderate small to medium rounded pebbles.	0.25-0.40m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay; moderate small to medium rounded and sub-angular pebbles.	0.14-0.18m thick	-
403	Natural	Light orange-grey clay; moderate small to medium rounded pebbles and sub-angular sandstone fragments.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m NE-SW</b>		<b>79.98m aOD</b>	<b>0.60m, 79.38m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/samples</b>
501	Topsoil	Brown silty clay; no inclusions.	0.25-0.30m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay; no inclusions.	0.25-0.30m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown-orange silty clay; no inclusions.	-	-
504	Fill of [505]	Light orange-gray clay; charcoal inclusions;	0.23m thick	Finds not retained, occasional small fragments of 19th/20th century pot.
505	Furrow	N-S; steep sides with flat base; parallel with field boundary.	0.23m deep 1.50m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
6	50m x 1.8m N-S		80.56m aOD	0.75m, 79.81m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
601	Topsoil	Brown clay loam; small stone inclusions; post-medieval/modern debris in layer.	0.20-0.25m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay; no inclusions.	0.45-0.50m thick	-
603	Natural	Mid brown clay; small stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
7	50m x 1.8m N-S		82.07m aOD	0.60m, 81.47m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
701	Topsoil	Brown clay loam; small stone inclusions; post-medieval/modern debris in layer and on surface.	0.20-0.30m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay; no inclusions.	0.30-0.55m thick	-
703	Natural	Mid brown-grey silty clay with orange mottling; small to medium (<0.15m) stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	50m x 1.8m N-S		77.52m aOD	0.65m, 76.87m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
801	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam; infrequent small stone inclusions.	0.35-0.40m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid brown clay; no inclusions.	0.30-0.50m thick	-
803	Natural	Mid brown-blue clay with orange mottling; occasional small to large (<0.20m) stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	35m x 1.8m NE-SW		76.55m aOD	0.53m, 76.02m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/samples
901	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay loam; frequent small to medium stones.	0.19-0.30m thick	19th/20th century material -pot, clay pipe, tile etc. Not retained
902	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay; moderate small to medium stones, charcoal inclusions.	0.13-0.23m thick	-
903	Natural	Light yellow-grey clay.	-	-



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