

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road, Stone Buckinghamshire November 2014

Report No. 14/260

Author: Claire Finn

Illustrations: Amir Bassir and James Ladocha



MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 700 493 www.mola.org.uk sparry@mola.org.uk



© MOLA Northampton Project Manager: Mark Holmes Site Code: AYBCM:2015.6 NGR: 478550 212250

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road, Stone Buckinghamshire November 2014

Accession No: AYBCM:2015.6 Report No. 14/260

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	19 Jan 2015	Pat Chapman	Liz Muldowney	Andy Chapman	Draft for client approval

Author: Claire Finn Illustrations: Amir Bassir and James Ladocha

© MOLA Northampton 2014

MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 700 493 www.mola.org.uk sparry@mola.org.uk

MOLA Northampton is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company registration number 8727508 and charity registration number 1155198. Registered office: Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED.

## STAFF

Project Manager	Mark Holmes BA MA MCIfA
Text	Claire Finn BA MA
Fieldwork	Peter Haynes, Ben Kidd BA, Thomas Revell BA
Illustration	Amir Bassir BSc, James Ladocha BA
Saxon and early-medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Ceramic Building Material	Pat Chapman BA ACIfA
Other finds	Tora Hylton
Animal bone	Adam Reid BSc MSc
Palaeo-environmental assessment	Val Fryer BA MCIfA

## OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS No: molanor	t1-199191			
Project title	Archaeological trial trench ev Stone, Buckinghamshire, Nov	valuation on land at Bishopstone Road, vember 2014			
Short description	MOLA Northampton carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Bishopstone Road, Stone. Evidence for possible tenement plot boundaries parallel to the road was identified, as well as several field boundary ditches, all dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. Evidence for quarrying was also encountered.				
Project type	Trial trench evaluation				
Site status					
Previous work	Archaeological desk-based h	eritage assessment, geophysical survey			
Current land use	Grassland				
Future work	Unknown				
Monument type/period	Medieval quarry pits and plot	boundary ditches			
Significant finds	Decorated bone, medieval po	ottery, iron objects			
PROJECT LOCATION					
County	Buckinghamshire				
Site address	Land at Bishopstone Road, S	Stone			
Postcode					
OS co-ordinates	SP 78550 12250				
Area (sq m/ha)	c1 hectares				
Height aOD	c140m aOD				
PROJECT CREATORS					
<b>•</b> • • •					
Organisation	MOLA Northampton				
Project brief originator	Eliza Alqassar, Buckinghams	hire Archaeological Planning Officer			
Project Design originator	MOLA				
Director/Supervisor	Ben Kidd, MOLA				
Project Manager	Mark Holmes, MOLA				
Sponsor or funding body	Manor Oak Homes				
PROJECT DATE					
Start date	17 November 2014				
End date	21 November 2014				
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content			
Physical					
Deper		Pottery; animal bone, decorated			
Paper	MOLA Northampton Archive Store	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on			
Digital	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs			
	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6 Journal/monograph, publish report (MOLA report)	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs ned or forthcoming, or unpublished client			
Digital	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6 Journal/monograph, publish report (MOLA report)	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs ned or forthcoming, or unpublished client evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road,			
Digital BIBLIOGRAPHY	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6 Journal/monograph, publish report (MOLA report) Archaeological trial trench e	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs ned or forthcoming, or unpublished client evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road,			
Digital BIBLIOGRAPHY Title	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6 Journal/monograph, publish report (MOLA report) Archaeological trial trench e Stone, Buckinghamshire, N	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs ned or forthcoming, or unpublished client evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road,			
Digital BIBLIOGRAPHY Title Serial title & volume	Archive Store AYBCM: 2015.6 Journal/monograph, publish report (MOLA report) Archaeological trial trench e Stone, Buckinghamshire, N 14/260	Pottery; animal bone, decorated bone; Fe objects Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs ned or forthcoming, or unpublished client evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road,			

# Contents

1	INTRODUCTION 1					
2	BACKG	ROUNE	)	1		
	2.1	Locat	ion, topography and geology	1		
	2.2	Archa	eological and historical background	3		
3	AIMS A	ND OB.	IECTIVES	7		
4	METHO	DOLOG	βY	7		
	4.1	Geop	hysical survey	7		
	4.2	Trial t	rench evaluation	8		
5	THE EX	CAVAT	ED EVIDENCE	10		
6	THE FINDS					
	6.1	The p	ottery by Paul Blinkhorn	18		
	6.2	Other	finds by Tora Hylton	19		
	6.3	Anima	al bone by Adam Reid	20		
	6.4	The e	nvironmental evidence by Val Fryer	21		
7	DISCUS	SION		25		
	BIBLIO	GRAPH	Y			
	APPENI	DIX 1:	HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA			
	APPENI	DIX 2:	FINDS REGISTER			
	APPENI	DIX 3:	CONTEXT INVENTORY			

## Figures

Front cover: Trench 3 pit [308] and [312], looking south

- Fig 1: Site location (NGR SP 7855 1225)
- Fig 2: Previous excavations and selected find spots from the Historic Environment Record around the proposed development site
- Fig 3: Ordnance survey map of 1960, plotted with areas of ridge and furrow to the west of the proposed development site identifiable from mid 20th-century RAF aerial photographs
- Fig 4: The excavated trenches, showing archaeological features
- Fig 5: Trench 1, ditch [105], looking south-east
- Fig 6: Trench 2, ditch [205], looking south-east
- Fig 7: Trench 3, plan, section and photograph
- Fig 8: Trench 5, context [505], a ditch or natural feature
- Fig 9: Trench 7, ditch [707], looking south-east
- Fig 10: Trench 7, plan, section and photograph
- Fig 11: Trench 8, section and photograph
- Fig 12: Worked bone pieces from pit [705], SF7 above and SF1 below
- Fig 13: Trench 1, general view, looking east
- Fig 14: Trench 2, general view, looking south-west
- Fig 15: Trench 3, general view, looking north-west
- Fig 16: Trench 4, general view, looking north-east
- Fig 17: Trench 5, general view, looking north-east
- Fig 18: Trench 6, general view, looking north-west
- Fig 19: Trench 7, general view, looking south-west
- Fig 20: Trench 8, general view, looking south-east

Back cover: The proposed development site, looking west

## Tables

- Table 1: Pottery quantification, with sherd count (No.) and weight in grams (g)
- Table 2:
   Animal bone by taxa
- Table 3: Plant macrofossil assemblages and other environmental remains

## Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Bishopstone Road, Stone Buckinghamshire November 2014

## Abstract

MOLA Northampton carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Bishopstone Road, Stone. Evidence for possible tenement plot boundaries parallel to the road was identified, as well as several field boundary ditches, all dated to the 11th and 12th centuries. Evidence for quarrying was also encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Manor Oak Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land east of Bishopstone Road, Stone, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 7855 1225). The development area comprises *c*1ha of land, which lies approximately 100m east of the parish church.

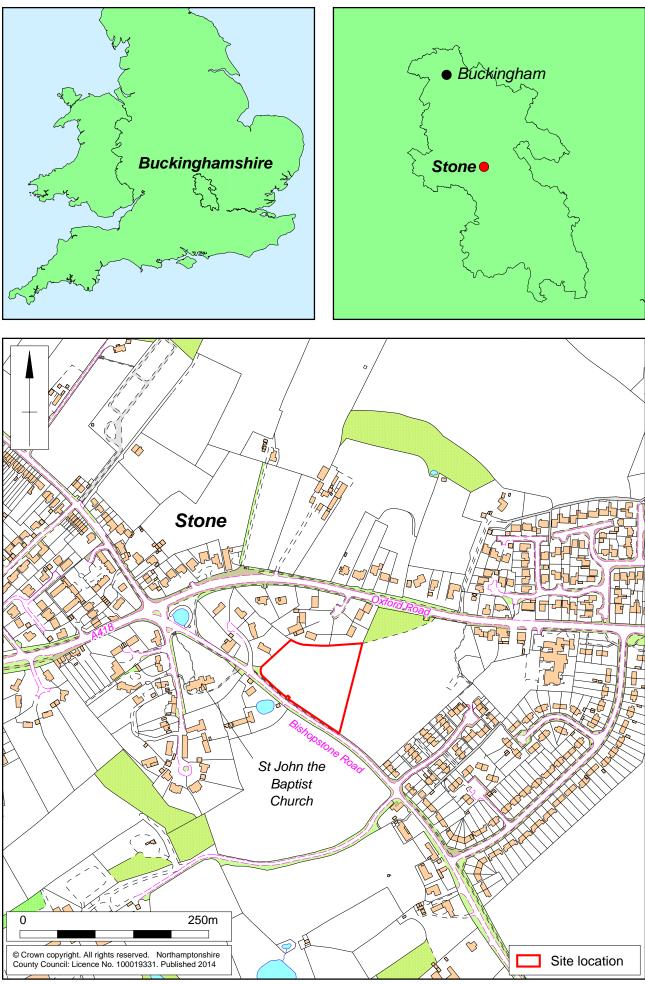
All works were undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and followed consultation with Northamptonshire County Council Planning Department, and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Holmes 2014). The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), and the MOLA *Fieldwork Manual* (2014).

## 2 BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Location, topography, and geology

The site is situated in the village of Stone, near Aylesbury in northern Buckinghamshire. The proposed development area, a small triangular area of grassland, lies to the south of the village on the eastern side of Bishopstone Road, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 7855 1225; Fig 1). The parish church of St John the Baptist lies less than 100m away across the road which bounds the site on its south-western side. To the north, the site is bounded by residential houses, and to the south-east by a large recreation ground. The site itself has a gentle, south-facing slope at an elevation of c104m aOD.

The British Geological Survey have mapped the geology of the survey area as on the edge between two geological regions, with the main site being formed of Purbeck group limestones, edged to the north by Whitchurch Sand; a largely unconsolidated sand with subordinate clay and silt beds and localised ironstone concretions (BGS 2014). During trial trenching, the natural geology was shown to be light brown-orange clay with occasional small stones or chalk, with mid-brown or orange sandy silty clay subsoil and a dark-brown topsoil of silty clay.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

## 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarised as follows by Eliza Alqassar, the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Planning Officer: "*The proposed development site has the potential to include assets of archaeological interest because post-medieval slag has been recorded on the site, suggestive of a smithy in the vicinity. The site is close to the medieval church of St John the Baptist and possible medieval settlement earthworks to the south. Romano-British remains, including inhumations and a possible kiln, have been recorded in the village further to the west.*" The scatter of slag, along with medieval pottery, was recovered at SP 78560 12240 (HER MBC1515).

The Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records a significant number of archaeological findspots, earthworks and excavated areas of interest within 1km of the proposed development site, along with listed buildings in the village of Stone. Material dating from a variety of periods from the Mesolithic to the 19th century has been recovered, indicating a long history of occupation and activity in Stone and its environs. The HER data has been summarised in Appendix 1. Sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area are highlighted on the map in Fig 2.

#### Prehistoric

Several findspots of prehistoric material have been found around Stone village. Trial trench evaluation to the rear of 34 Oxford Road by Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd in 2008 produced a Mesolithic flint scraper and possible flakes, 300m north-east of the proposed development site (Rouse 2008) (SP 78769 12455). In addition, several Mesolithic flint scatters and flakes were found *c*350m north-west (HER MBC8067-71, MBC2219, SP 78420 12580) during allotment digging.

Neolithic and Bronze Age flints and tools were also found in this area (see HER MBC1176, MBC2031, and MBC8031). A single Neolithic or Bronze Age flint arrowhead was found *c*370m to the north-west of the site during construction work (HER MBC7091, SP 78270 12480). Other possible evidence of Neolithic habitation, including a pit, was located *c*530m to the west of the site during trial trench evaluation before construction (Carstairs and Lawson 1992) (HER MBC1474, SP 7804 1210).

Just over 1km to the north of the proposed development site is the mound of Burn Hill, a natural feature which was also utilised as a late prehistoric, and possibly Saxon, burial mound (SP 77870 13160) (HG 2014).

#### Bronze Age and Iron Age

Bronze Age occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development site has been strongly suggested by the discovery of late Bronze Age pits, ditches, postholes, and cremations at the site of a former nurses' home, around 800m from the Bishopstone Road site. A number of excavations have taken place here, one of which also uncovered a possible Iron Age enclosure with ditches, pits and gullies (Gibson 2001; McDonald 2000, 11-12; Last and McDonald 1999).

#### Romano-British

During construction of the Buckinghamshire County Lunatic Asylum in 1849, a Roman cremation cemetery and shaft burials were uncovered to the south of Oxford Road (*c*600m west of the site), although the details of this discovery are uncertain (Hunn 1989). A possible Roman pottery kiln was also reported in the 19th century, *c*350m north-west of the site (HER MBC2209) (SP78200 12300).

A number of Romano-British features were identified *c*350m north-west of the site during trial trench evaluation and watching brief survey in 2001 by Network Archaeology (HER MBC2362, SP 78197 12349). A field system formed of linear ditches was uncovered,

along with possible curvilinear settlement enclosure ditches. The features were dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries by pottery, animal bone and other domestic waste dumps.

A number of findspots makes up the remainder of archaeological evidence for Roman activity in this area. Finds include coins recovered from several areas, the closest being *c*130m to the south-west and *c*170m to the north-west (HER MBC2219, MBC2301) and a small finger ring, *c*150m to the south-east (HER MBC2217).

## Anglo-Saxon and medieval

The development of the village during the Saxon period is uncertain, but it was recorded in the Domesday survey of the 11th century. Nineteenth-century sand quarrying activities again reportedly uncovered a group of Roman and Saxon burials including two cremations and an inhumation 500m west of the development site (SP 78050 12250, HG 2014). Other cremations and at least eight inhumations, one with Anglo-Saxon grave goods, were uncovered during the 19th century around the area of the former psychiatric hospital and just to the north of Oxford Road (Hunn 1989, 6-11, SP 78060 12290). Findspots of Saxon metalwork, including a saucer brooch with a cross emblem which may have come from a burial, have also been made in the village (SP 78200 12200, HER MBC2235-6).

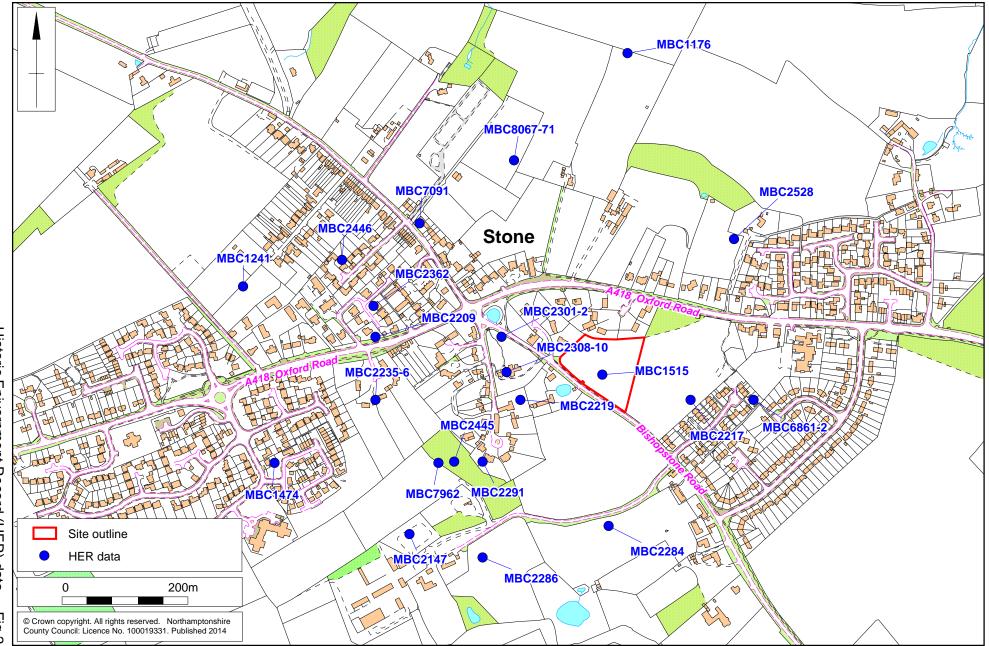
The church of St John the Baptist is situated close to the development site, less than 100m away across Bishopstone Road (HER MBC2308-10). The church building itself has important medieval origins demonstrated through an extant Norman nave and doorway, and significant parts of the structure date to the 13th century, including the chancel and transepts. The tower dates from the 14th century, with later 19th-century additions (Pevsner and Williamson 1994, 658, RCHM 1911, 290-292).

The extent of the village is not clearly known during this period, however, it is likely to have centred around the church. Ridge and furrow cultivation strips can be seen partially intact on RAF aerial photographs of the late 1940s and 50s, below Vicarage Farm to the south-west of the proposed development site across Bishopstone Road (Fig 3). Aerial photos may indicate the field system continued in the area directly to the south of the site, where the recreation ground is currently situated.

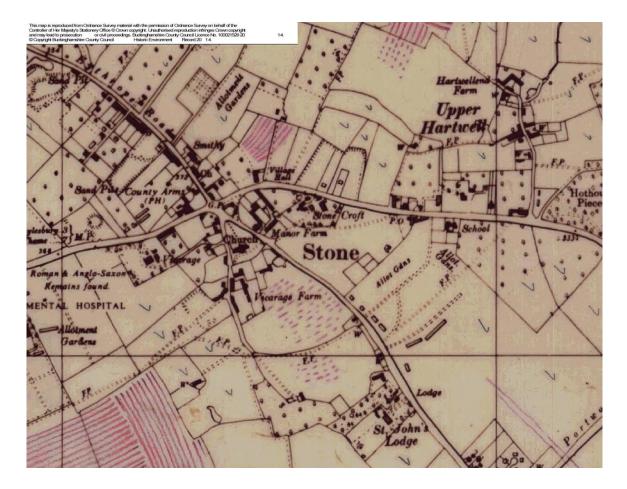
## Post-medieval and modern

A number of other features around the village, particularly earthworks, are of unsecure date and may have originated during this period. Large, low-lying earthworks around 250m south of the proposed development site might represent medieval village features, quarrying or Civil War defensive structures (centred on SP 7857 1200). A possible post-medieval lime kiln was recorded at nearby Stonethorpe Farm during yard rebuilding, around *c*230m from the site (SP78370 12102, HER MBC2291). A number of quarrying and sand pits are also known from around the village (MBC2445, MBC2446).

Several 17th to 19th-century listed buildings are to be found in the village, including wichert cottages and converted barns. Historic maps do not indicate any structural activity on the proposed development site. Maps from 1879 -1884 show the area as part of a large field. By 1884, the residences to the north of the footpath were constructed, and by 1981 this larger field is divided up and the current boundaries of the area are established (www.old-maps.co.uk).



Historic Enivornment Record (HER) data Fig 2



Ordnance survey map of 1960, plotted with areas of ridge and furrow to the west of the proposed development site identifiable from mid 20th-century RAF aerial photographs Fig 3

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the evaluation was to further inform decisions regarding the potential impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The evaluation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area, the possible impact of development, and if necessary, aid in the formation of an appropriate mitigation strategy. The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent and nature 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 approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- The degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- The likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present;
- The potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991, Hey and Hind 2014).

All work was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

## 4.1 Geophysical survey

A phase of geophysical surveying in the proposed development site was carried out by MOLA in October 2014 (Ladocha and Walford 2014). This survey detected a set of positive linear anomalies running parallel to, and perpendicular with, Bishopstone Road. These were interpreted as medieval or post-medieval settlement remains, comprising four boundary ditches defining plots of land fronting onto the current road. A group of associated features, possibly pits were also identified. The survey also provided possible evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation.

## 4.2 Trial trench evaluation

Eight trenches were excavated, seven measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide and one 15m long by 1.8m wide, limited in size by a footpath. This trenching strategy provided a 3% sample of the proposed development area. The position of the trenches was informed by the results of the earlier geophysical survey, and intended to sample possible archaeological features along with potentially 'blank' areas (Fig 4). It proved necessary to extend a box 2.0m by 3.0m from the edge of Trench 3 in order to establish the nature of an archaeological deposit. This was undertaken using the 20m contingency plan, and as agreed with County Archaeological Planning Officer.

The trenches were plotted on the ground prior to the commencement of work using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of  $\pm$  0.05m. The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket to reveal archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural geology. The machined surface was cleaned by hand to identify and establish the extent and nature of archaeological features.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were fully recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on *pro-forma* trench sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Unstratified animal bone and modern material was not retained. The trenches and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, site plans at a scale of 1:50, monotone negatives, and high resolution digital photographs formed the main part of the visual record of the works. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage *MoRPHE* (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Holmes 2014).

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.



## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The stratigraphic sequence remained broadly consistent throughout all of the excavated trenches in the development area (Fig 4). The natural substrate comprised slight variations on firm light to mid brown-orange clay or silty clay, with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. The natural lay between 0.40m and 0.90m below the present ground surface. Subsoil was noted in all trenches, comprising a light to mid brown sandy silty clay with chalk fragments. This horizon was between 0.20m and 0.50m thick. The topsoil across the development area comprised dark brown silty-clay and was between 0.10m and 0.30m thick. Soil layers generally appeared to be of greater depth to the south-west edge of the field, in trenches 2, 3, 7, and 8, in line with the rise in slope.

Trenches 1, 2, 4, and 5 contained significant natural disturbance from root action.

## Trench 1

Trench 1 was 15m long, 5m shorter than intended to avoid a footpath. It contained a single feature, disturbed by root action, possibly the terminal of the linear ditch. This was aligned south-east to north-west with a shallow concave profile, 0.94m wide and 0.19m deep (Fig 5). The fill (104) was friable mid brown silty clay without inclusions or datable finds.



Trench 1, ditch [105], looking south-east Fig 5

## Trench 2

Trench 2 investigated a linear feature aligned north-west to south-east, revealed during the geophysical survey and parallel with Bishopstone Road. This feature proved to be a shallow, narrow ditch, probably a boundary feature [205]. The ditch had a U-shaped profile, 0.95m wide and around 0.20m deep (Fig 6). The homogeneous fill was firm-friable dark brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions and occasional pieces

of charcoal (204). To the south of the main ditch, the trench also contained an irregular pit-like feature [207] with a homogeneous fill (206). This was identified as a natural tree bowl.

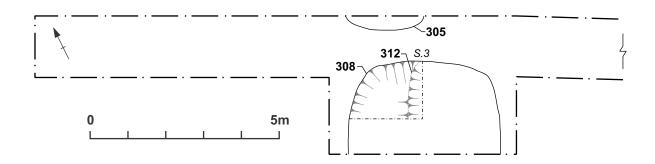


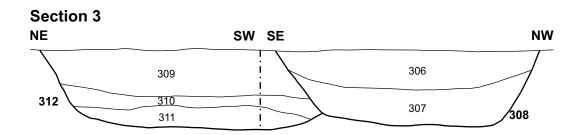
Trench 2, ditch [205], looking south-east Fig 6

## Trench 3

One of the anomalies seen on the geophysical survey, and thought to be a possible plot division leading out from Bishopstone Road, was investigated in Trench 3. The proposed perpendicular boundary proved not to be clear. The very end of a ditch terminal, probably a linear ditch aligned south-west to north-east, was found on the northern side of the trench [305] (Fig 7). Although this feature could not be excavated, some of the fill was exposed (304); a mid-dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions, and some fragments of pottery and animal bone.

Two intercutting pits in Trench 3 are thought to be quarry pits (Fig 7 section 3). A small 3.0m by 2.0m extension was added to the south in order for the relationship between the two pits to be defined. The earlier feature [312] was sub circular or rectangular, and probably had a flat base. The lower fill (311) is likely to have been formed by natural silting, and the middle fill was formed of backfilled natural (310). The upper fill (309), a firm mid brown silty clay, was probably also formed by natural silting, and contained three sherds of mid to late 11th-century pottery.









Pits [308] and [312], looking south

Pit [312] was cut by pit [308], which had a similar sub-circular or rectangular plan, and a broad U-shaped profile and a flat base, 0.5m deep (Fig 7 section 3). This pit seems to have undergone a short period of backfilling with natural stone and silty clay (307). The upper fill (306) was probably formed by natural silting, and contained 883g of mid to late 11th-century pottery, as well as a residual sherd of Roman pottery (c270 - 400 AD), and a piece of Roman roof tile (P. Chapman pers. comm.). The recovery of similar ceramic material in the upper fills of both pits may suggest they were in use, or at least were filled in, at similar times.

## Trench 4

Ditch [405] was aligned north-west to south-east and probably parallel to the road. The U-shaped ditch was rather shallow, at *c*0.90m wide and 0.18m deep. The fill was friable mid brown silty clay, and contained no datable evidence. This ditch probably functioned as a field boundary. Other features proved to be the result of natural tree rooting action.

A large ferrous anomaly observed in the geophysical survey which lay at the south-west end of the trench was a modern metal drain pipe.

## Trench 5

Trench 5 was significantly disturbed by natural features caused by tree root activity. At the north-east end of the trench, one feature might be of human origin (Fig 8). Ditch [505] had very irregular sides and an uneven base, and followed an irregular east-west alignment, 0.95m wide and 0.20m deep. The fill (504) was a highly mixed mid brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small natural stones.



Trench 5, context [505], a ditch or natural feature Fig 8

## Trench 6

Trench 6 contained no observable archaeological features.

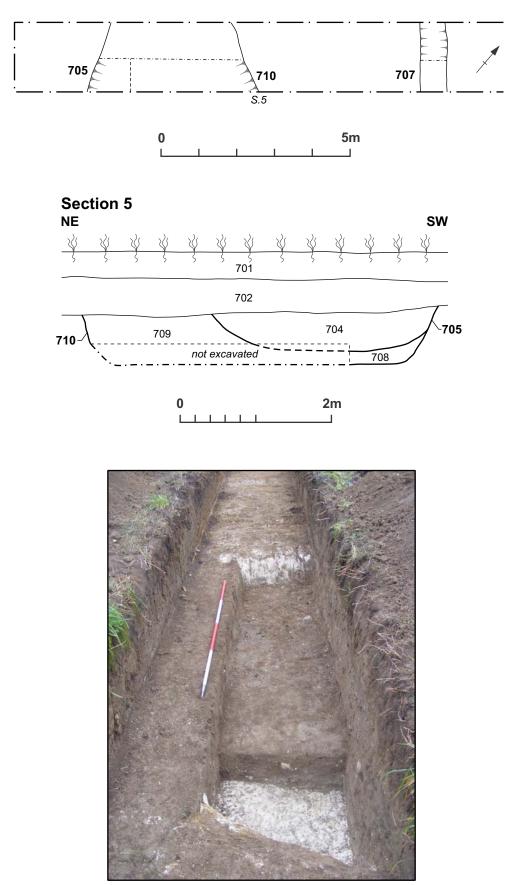
## Trench 7

Trench 7 contained several features which were similar to those in Trench 3. Ditch [707], c0.60m wide and 0.12m deep with a U-shaped profile at the north end of the trench, was aligned north-west to south-east and may be a continuation of a ditch in Trench 2 [205]. The fill (706) was mid brown silty clay with small flecks of chalk and charcoal (Fig 9 and 10).



Trench 7, ditch [707], looking south-east Fig 9

Two large intercutting pits lay at the south-west end of the trench. The earlier pit [710] is thought to be a quarry pit, possibly with a U-shaped profile, although the limits of the excavation prevented this from being confirmed (Fig 10 section 5). The pit appeared to be 0.80m wide and more than 1.80m in length, with a depth of 0.20m. The fill (709) was firm mid to light brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions, and rare pieces of charcoal. Animal bone and 282g of mid to late 11th-century pottery were recovered from this fill.

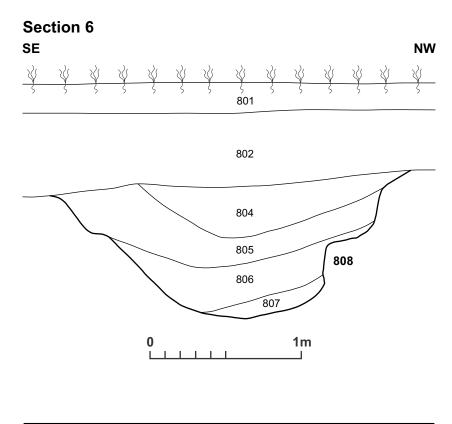


Pits [705] and [710], looking north-east

Pit [710] was probably cut, or extended, by a later pit [705] (Fig 10). This pit, possibly sub-circular, had a U-shaped profile with straight, vertical edges and a flat base. Although it also could not be fully investigated, the pit was at least 1.80m long by 1.50m wide, and 0.40m deep. The lower fill (708) of mid brown silty clay intermixed with frequent chalk and some charcoal inclusions, was probably formed by natural silting and slumping. A total of 483g of mid to late 11th-century pottery was recovered from this lower fill, along with animal bone. The upper fill (704) contained a high frequency of pottery sherds (3553g) and animal bone, and some small finds including worked bone, an iron knife blade, and iron nails. The fill, of mid to dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal and small stones, was probably domestic waste.

## Trench 8

Trench 8 was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly seen in the geophysical survey at the southern end of the proposed development area. The anomaly was confirmed to be a large ditch, with steep sloping sides and a flat base [808]. The ditch was aligned NE-SW (perpendicular to the road), and was 2.45m wide by 0.89m deep (Fig 11). The lowest fill (807), a mid brown silty clay with chalk flecks probably formed by silting when the ditch was left open, contained a single potsherd. A series of later deposits were formed by several episodes of backfilling. Fills were much darker black-grey sandy silty clay with moderate quantities of charcoal. The upper fill (804) contained eight pottery fragments, pieces of animal bone, and small fragments of charcoal.





Trench 8, ditch [808], looking south-west

#### 6 THE FINDS

#### 6.1 **The pottery** by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 459 sherds with a total weight of 5469g. It was all of medieval date. Where appropriate, pottery was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (eg Marney 1989; Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat *et al* 1994), as follows:

- **F24:** Oxfordshire Colour-coat Ware, c 270 400 AD. 1 sherd, 24g
- MS3: Medieval Grey Sandy Wares, mid-11th late 14th centuries. 14 sherds, 393g

MSC1: Sandy and Shelly ware, late 11th – mid 13th centuries. 31 sherds, 159g

The following wares, not included in the Milton Keynes type-series, were also noted. These are all common types in Oxfordshire, and particularly the city of Oxford. Given the site's geographical location, these were recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994), as follows:

**OXAC:** Cotswold-type ware, c975 - 1350 AD. 199 sherds, 2179g

**OXBF:** North-East Wiltshire Ware, *c*1050 – 1400 AD. 59 sherds, 915g

**OXY:** Medieval Oxford ware, *c*1075 – 1350 AD. 155 sherds, 1799g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

	Fź	24	0)	<b>KAC</b>	ОХ	BF	MS	C1	M	S3	0	XY	
Fill/ cut	No.	g	No.	g	No.	g	No.	g	No.	g	No.	g	Date
306/ 308	1	24	33	313	8	145	5	39	-	-	32	362	Mid to late 11th century
309/ 312	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	181	Mid to late 11th century
704/ 705	-	-	139	1667	44	706	26	120	-	-	96	1060	Mid to late 11th century
708/ 705	-	-	8	74	1	16	-	-	14	393	-	-	Mid to late 11th century
709/ 710	-	-	18	115	3	18	-	-	-	-	19	149	Mid to late 11th century
804/ 808	-	-	-	-	2	19	-	-	-	-	6	47	Mid to late 11th century
807/ 808	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mid 11th century
Total	1	24	199	2179	59	915	31	159	14	393	155	1799	

Table 1: Pottery quantification, with sherd count (No.) and weight in grams (g)

The assemblage is generally in good condition, with many large and often refitting sherds, suggesting that the bulk of the assemblage is the result of primary deposition, and that there is likely to be significant archaeological remains within the vicinity of these excavations. The large group of material from fill (704) pit [705] includes a number of well-represented vessels, such as an OXBF jar which could be reconstructed to a full profile.

It is worthy of note that all the context-specific assemblages are broadly of the same date, and suggest that, the residual Roman sherd aside, activity at the site was relatively short-lived, from the mid to late 11th to 12th centuries at most. Reasonably common earlier 11th-century wares, particularly St Neots Ware (MK fabric SNC1), are entirely absent, and, similarly, well-known 13th-century pottery types such as Brill/Boarstall Ware (MK fabric MS9) and Potterspury Ware (MK fabric MS6) were not noted, suggesting very strongly that the suggested site chronology is accurate.

The range of vessel forms is also typical of the 11th to 12th centuries, consisting largely of fragments of jars, along with a few bowls. Just three sherds from glazed tripod pitchers were noted.

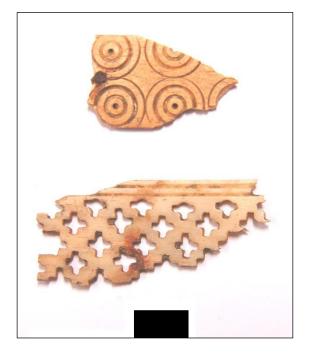
## 6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton

Seven medieval finds were recovered from fill (704) of pit [705] in Trench 7. Of particular interest are two decorative bone strips. This small assemblage also includes a knife, part of a horseshoe, two possible nail shanks and an undiagnostic fragment.

The two pieces of decorated worked bone are incomplete; however, diagnostic features suggest that they may originally have been rectangular in shape and measured *c*18-20mm wide (Fig 12). One small fragment (18 x 32mm) is ornamented with two lines of triple ring and dot (SF 7) and not dissimilar to an example from Winchester (Biddle 1991, fig 227, 2425), which was recovered from a mid to late 13th-century deposit. The other piece is decorated with an openworked motif in the form of a series of small equidistant cruciform apertures; and where the finished edge survives there are two incised marginal grooves (SF 1). It is possible that these pieces are the remains of decorative bone strips, which would have been used to embellish wooden caskets or similar items, like those recovered from a wooden casket at Ludgershall Castle (MacGregor 2000, fig 6.42).

Other finds include a heel fragment from a medieval horseshoe. The heel terminates in a 'thickened' calkin (Clark 1995, fig 59a), a feature used to prevent slipping. Typologically this small fragment may be part of a shoe with a sinuous wavy outline which dates to the *c*13th/14th centuries. Finally there is a whittle tang knife, although incomplete (end of tang missing), dimensions suggest that it would have measured in excess of 128mm long. The small size of the knife and the form of the blade suggest an early medieval date. The tang is set below the back of blade with a sloping shoulder. The back of the blade is broad (*c*4mm), with a triangular cross-section and it slopes towards the tip. The cutting edge and tang are on the same alignment and there appears to be signs of a slight curve on the cutting edge, perhaps caused from over sharpening.

A catalogue of finds can be found in Appendix 2.



Worked bone pieces from pit [705], SF7 (top) and SF1 (Scale 10mm) Fig 12

## 6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A total of 1.2kg of animal bone was hand collected from seven different features and fills. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present, and to inform the potential for further work.

All material was washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection. Hillson (1992) and France (2009) were also consulted. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including large mammal (cattle, horse), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, large dog), medium bird (chicken, pheasant) and small mammal (small dog, cat, rabbit). No microfaunal specimens were noted from the main assemblage. The English Heritage Guidelines for Best Practice for Animal Bones and Archaeology (EH 2014) were followed, where possible.

## Results

The highly fragmented nature of the assemblage made identifications difficult and a presentation of the results can be seen below (Table 2). Positive identifications were made for 33 specimens; 21% of the total assemblage. All identified taxa are domestic food bearing animals, with the exception of a single dog bone fragment recovered from pit fill (709). Seven bird bones of roughly chicken size were recovered from quarry pit (704). Further analysis by a specialist would likely provide a species specific identification.

Fill/ cut	Cattle Bos	Sheep/ goat Ovicaprid	Pig Sus	Dog Canid	M Mammal	M Bird	L Mammal	Other	Tot al
(304)/[305]	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
(306)/[308]	1	4	1	-	1	-	5	1	13
(704)/[705]	6	10	3	-	72	7	5	2	105
(706)/[707]	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	4
(708)/[705]	-	-	1	-	6	-	1	-	8
(709)/[710]	-	1	1	1	11	-	2	-	16
(804)/[808]	-	-	2	-	5	-	2	2	11
Total	8	16	8	1	98	7	16	5	159

The state of preservation of the material was moderate to poor, with moderate surface abrasion and a high degree of fragmentation. No clear evidence of butchery or canid gnawing was noted on any of the specimens. Evidence of burning was noted on several specimens: a cattle tooth from ditch fill (304), a sheep/goat metacarpal from pit fill (306) and two long bone fragments of medium sized mammal from ditch fill (804).

## Sieved material

An additional 28g of animal bone was recovered after wet-sieving samples 1 and 2, which were taken from pit fills (704) and (306) respectively. Sample 2 contained a dog premolar and a distal phalanx (claw) of a cat or small dog. The material from both samples includes microfaunal specimens that may require further specialist analysis.

#### Conclusions

The small nature of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any conclusions, other than to say that the main domestic taxa were utilised at the site, and the material appears to derive from domestic waste, with no suggestions of industrial activity. The presence of identifiable material from several of the excavated features indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should any further work take place.

## 6.4 **The environmental evidence** by Val Fryer

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the upper fill of two quarry pits (704) and (306), and were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLA Northampton 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 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were also recorded.

## Results

Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds are present at varying densities within both assemblages. Preservation is generally quite poor, with many of the grains in particular being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a small number of cereals with elongated embryos and distinct dorsal ridges, which may be of rye (*Secale cereale*). Of the identifiable grains, wheat is predominant,

and bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes are also present within both assemblages. However, many of the cereals are too poorly preserved for close identification. Moderately-sized angular seeds of possible field bean (*Vicia faba*) type are also recorded from both samples.

Seeds of common segetal weeds are present at a low to moderate density within both assemblages. Taxa noted include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*). The seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) noted with sample 2 are possibly of note as this is a plant most commonly found growing on phosphate rich soils (for example, near manure heaps). Both assemblages also contain individual nutlets of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), a common wetland plant, and sample 1 also includes a fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, and although most pieces are highly comminuted, larger fragments are also recorded. Other plant macrofossils are scarce, but do include pieces of charred root/stem and indeterminate culm nodes.

Fragments of black porous and tarry materials, much of which probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains), are common within both assemblages. Other remains occur less frequently, but do include fragments of bone, eggshell and fish bone, ferrous globules and small mammal or amphibian bones.

Although specific sieving for molluscan remains was not undertaken, occasional shells of common terrestrial and freshwater obligate species (including at least two burnt specimens) are present. However, it is currently unclear whether the majority of these specimens are of early medieval date or whether they are later contaminants.

## Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Both assemblages are broadly similar in composition and it would appear most likely that the remains within them are derived from a common source. Whilst domestic hearth/midden waste is almost certainly present, the predominance of grain may suggest that at least some of the material is also derived from cereal processing waste, and most particularly from the drying of grain prior to storage. This process not infrequently resulted in catastrophic fires, particularly if the ovens were poorly attended, and this may explain why many of the grains are so poorly preserved. The presence of processing/drying waste would also explain why weed seeds are recorded within the assemblages. Batches of semi-cleaned grain awaiting drying/storage often included seeds or seeds heads of a similar size to the grain, as these persisted after winnowing and were only removed by hand immediately prior to consumption/use.

Therefore, in summary, it would appear most likely that these assemblages are derived from deposits of mixed refuse, much of which was deliberately placed within the backfills of the quarry pits. Wheat appears to have been the predominant crop, with the presence of stinking mayweed seeds suggesting that production was concentrated within areas of heavy clay soil. Although oats, barley, rye and beans are also recorded, it would appear most likely that these are relicts of earlier cropping regimes (possibly a system of rotational cropping), present as contaminants of the main wheat crop.

Although both assemblages do contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), further analysis is not recommended as:

- much of the material is so poorly preserved;
- quantification would add little to the data already contained within this assessment;
- it is not possible to link the assemblages with any specific activity other than the deposition of refuse.

However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Table 3: plant macrofossil assemblages and other environmental remains

x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 11 - 50 specimens xxx = 51 - 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	704	306
Cereals and other potential crop plants		
Avena sp. (grains)	Х	XX
(awn frags.)	-	х
Hordeum sp. (grains)	Х	х
Secale cereale L.	xcf	xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)	XXX	XXXX
(rachis internode)	xfg	-
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)	Х	XX
Cereal indet. (grains)	XXXX	XXXX
Vicia faba L.	xcf	х
Large Fabaceae indet.	-	х
Herbs		
Anthemis cotula L.	х	XX
Asteraceae indet.	х	-
Atriplex sp.	х	х
Brassicaceae indet.	-	х
Bromus sp.	-	х
Centaurea sp.	-	х
Chenopodiaceae indet.	-	х
Fabaceae indet.	х	XX
Fallopia convolvulus (I.)A.Love	-	х
Hyoscyamus niger L.	-	х
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.	-	х
Small Poaceae indet.	-	х
Polygonum aviculare L.	х	х
Rumex sp.	х	XX
Scandix pecten-veneris L.	-	Х
Scleranthus annuus L.	-	х
Sherardia arvensis L.	xcf	-
Wetland plants		
Eleocharis sp.	х	Х
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
Corylus avellana L.	x	-

cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	704	306
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	XXXX	XXXX
Charcoal >2mm	XXXX	XXX
Charcoal >5mm	XX	XX
Charcoal >10mm	Х	х
Charred root/stem	Х	XX
Indet. culm nodes	Х	х
Indet. inflorescence frag.	-	х
Indet. seeds	Х	х
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	XXX	XXX
Black tarry material	Х	XX
Bone	Х	-
Burnt/fired clay	Х	-
Eggshell	x xb	x xb
Ferrous globules	-	х
Fish bone	X	-
Mineralised arthropod remains	-	х
Small coal frags.	Х	-
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x xb	Х
Mollusc shells		
Woodland/shade loving species		
Aegopinella sp.	Х	-
Zonitidae indet.	Х	X
Open country species		
Pupilla muscorum	Х	х
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	Х	-
V. costata	Х	х
Vertigo pygmaea	-	xb
Catholic species		
Cochlicopa sp.	Х	x
Trichia hispida group	x xb	XX
Freshwater obligate species		
Planorbis planorbis	-	X
Sample volume (litres)	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	0.4
% flot sorted	50%	25%

## 7 DISCUSSION

The results of the trial trench evaluation expand upon the interpretations drawn from the geophysical survey. The proposed tenement plot boundaries and associated pits identified during the geophysical survey were investigated in trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8. A long boundary ditch running parallel to Bishopstone Road at the rear of the plots was identified, although it proved to be both narrow and shallow, and decreasing in size to the south. A further boundary ditch was also uncovered, of similar dimensions and also aligned parallel to the road but nearly 30m further back. A SW-NE ditch was found in trench 3, and this might have acted as a perpendicular boundary on the north edge, stepped back from the road. In Trench 8, a substantial ditch was also found to be perpendicular to the road at the south end of the row. This ditch, which contained some pieces of 11th-century pottery and some animal bone, may also have been part of a property boundary. Apart from these boundary ditches, no evidence for structures related to these plots was identified.

Four large pits were identified alongside the edge of the modern road, two in Trench 3 and two in Trench 7. In both trenches, an earlier pit cut was extended or recut by a later pit. It is thought that the original cuts were quarrying pits to access local natural resources. The older pits contained some sherds of mid to late 11th-century pottery in their upper fills, while the later cut features produced large quantities of pottery of the same date, as well as animal bone. The later pit in trench 7 contained a particularly large quantity of domestic waste, including 3553g of pottery, 105 pieces of animal bone, iron tools, and worked bone plates. Many of the ceramic pieces were large, and refitting pieces from the same vessels were well represented, indicating primary deposition. No further evidence for structural, domestic, or industrial activity was identified, and the area suggested by the geophysical survey to contain a possible building was shown not to contain any structural features. Despite this, the nature of the ceramics recovered from trench 7 suggests that domestic activity was taking place in the near vicinity. Structures relating to the tenement boundaries may have been positioned closer to the road, or in areas not targeted by the trial trenches.

The pottery from all contexts gives a firm mid-11th-century to 12th-century date, with the exception of one piece of residual Roman pottery. This indicates that activity on the site was limited to this relatively short period, probably when the nearby Norman church of John the Baptist would have been at the heart of the medieval village.

No further evidence of a smithy was found, despite previous finds of iron-working slag on the site, and no earthworks or features were found to support the conclusions of the geophysical survey that ridge and furrow cultivation may have been identified (Holmes 2014, 2; Ladocha and Walford 2014, 2, HER MBC1515).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biddle, M, and Hinton, D A, 1990 Decorative bone casket-strips in Biddle, in M Biddle (ed) *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester Vol II*, Clarendon Press, 781-787

Carstairs, P and Lawson, J, 1992 *An archaeological evaluation at St. John's Hospital, Stone, Bucks,* Buckinghamshire County Museum for Oxford Regional Health Authority

Clark, J, 1995 Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: The Medieval Horse and its Equipment c.1150-c.1450, Boydell Press

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework* Department of Communities and Local Government

EH 1991 Exploring Our Past, English Heritage

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), English Heritage

EH 2014 Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice, English Heritage

France, D L, 2009 Human and Nonhuman Bone Identification: A Color Atlas, Boca Raton, CRC Press

Gibson, C, 2001 A Late Bronze Age to Roman Site at the Former Nurses Home, Oxford Road, Stone, Buckinghamshire, *Records of Buckinghamshire*, **41**, 47-62

Hey, G, and Hind, J, 2014 Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment, Resource Assessments and Research Agendas, Oxford Archaeology and Wessex Archaeology

Hillson, S, 1992 *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*, University College London Institute of Archaeology Publications

Holmes, M, 2014 A Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trench evaluation at Bishopstone Road, Stone, Buckinghamshire, MOLA Northampton

Hunn, A, 1989 An Archaeological Evaluation of two areas at St. John's Hospital, Stone, Buckinghamshire, Buckinghamshire County Museum for Oxford Regional Health Authority

IfA 2008 Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, Institute for Archaeologists

Ladocha, J, and Walford, J, 2014 *Archaeological geophysical survey at Bishopstone Road, Stone, Buckinghamshire, October 2014*, MOLA Northampton report, **14/210** 

Last, J, and McDonald, T, 1999 *Former Nurses Home, Land north of Oxford Road, Stone, Aylesbury: an archaeological evaluation,* Report No **513**, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust reports

MacGregor, A, 2000 Objects of Bone, Antler and Ivory in P Ellis 2000 *Ludgershall Castle: Excavations by Peter Addyman 1964-1972,* Wiltshire Archaeol. and Nat. Hist. Soc. Monog, **2**, 160-168

Marney, PT, 1989 *Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes, 1972-82*, Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc, Monog, **2** 

McDonald, T, 2000 Stone, *Former Nurses Home, Oxford Road,* South Midlands Archaeology, **30**, Council for British Archaeology, South Midlands Group Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia*, **59**, 17-217

MOLA 2014 Archaeological Fieldwork Manual, MOLA Northampton

Mynard, D C, and Zeepvat, R J, 1992 *Great Linford, Buckinghamshire* Archaeol Soc, Monog, **3** 

Pevsner, N, and Williamson, E, 1994 *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*, Yale University Press

RCHM 1911 An Inventory Of The Historical Monuments In Buckinghamshire, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, His Majesty's Stationery Office

Rouse, C, 2008 Archaeological Evaluation: 34 Oxford Road, Stone, Buckinghamshire, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd, ASC: 1053/SOR/2

Stace, C, 2010 New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press

Zeepvat, R J, Roberts, J S and King, N A, 1994 *Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. Excavation and Fieldwork 1966-91*, Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc, Monog, **9** 

#### Websites

BGS 2014 British Geological Survey

MOLA Northampton January 2015

## APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

## Spot finds

SMR No		HGR: SP	Details of results
MBC2202	0067100000	78120 12450	Roman coin found on the ground surface (Diocletian 200 AD to 399 AD)
MBC2217	0067600000	78700 12200	Roman finger ring dug up in an allotment (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
MBC2280	0068800000	78100 12200	(Roman coin found on the ground surface (200 AD to 399 AD)
MBC2287	0069102000	78370 12000	Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery and metalwork found in metal-detecting survey
MBC2290	0069103000	78400 12100	Saxon and medieval pottery found in metal- detecting survey
MBC2292	0069105000	78355 12010	Roman metalwork found in metal-detecting survey. Finds include CuA strigil (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
MBC2104	0069106000	7857 1200	Roman and medieval metalwork and pottery and undated human bone found in metal-detecting survey. Finds include buckles, pot sherds, floor tile, pins and game pieces
MBC2146	0069107000	78370 12000	Saxon metalwork found in metal-detecting survey. Finds include a finger ring and buckle (Saxon - 410 AD? to 1065 AD)
MBC2285	0069109000	78320 12000	Medieval metalwork found in metal-detecting survey. Finds include decorated bronze buckle (1200 AD to 1299 AD)
MBC2220	0069110000	7845 1200	Roman and medieval pottery and metalwork found in metal-detecting survey. Finds include a Roman coin (43AD – 409AD), medieval ceramic sherds, medieval dress fasteners (900 AD to 1399 AD)
MBC2220	0069111000	7836 1205	Saxon pottery and medieval metalwork found whilst metal-detecting. Finds include medieval lead ampulla (1300 AD? to 1399 AD?), and CuA ring (undated)
MBC2301, MBC2302	0069700000, 0069701000	78400 12300	Roman coins found in the early 20th century (200 AD to 299 AD, and 300 AD to 399 AD)
MBC7091	0247000000	78270 12480	Neolithic to Bronze Age flint arrowhead found in soil disturbed by building of new house
MBC7962	0295900000	78300 12100	Roman metalwork found in sand-pit in 19th century. Finds include finger ring set with engraved carnelian (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
MBC8067, MBC8068, MBC8069, MBC8070, MBC8071, MBC2031, MBC2219	0299200000, 0299201000, 0299202000, 0299203000, 0299204000, 0299205000, 0299206000, 0299207000	78420 12580	Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint flakes and tools and pottery of unknown date found digging in allotment. Finds include Iron Age loom weight fragment and blue glass beads

SMR No		HGR: SP	Details of results
MBC1176	0445700000, 0445701000, 0445701001	78600 12750	Neolithic or Bronze Age scraper and flint flakes, and Mesolithic flint blades, found on the edge of a ploughed field
MBC1343	0520700000, 0520701000	78190 12490	Roman coins found in garden (300 AD to 399 AD)
MBC2029	0597200000	78250 12380	Romano-British colour coat base. Found near hedge in north-east corner of orchard behind County Arms, disturbed by machinery in housing development.
MBC2118	0616500000	7825 1241	12th to 13th-century metalwork found in garden, Silver denier Tournois, 1180-1223, reign of Philippe II
MBC2219	0661600000	7843 1220	Roman coin found in garden (Trajan 98-117 AD).
MBC2237	0667900000	7855 1180	Finds of Roman coins during metal detecting (43 AD to 409 AD)
MBC30567, MBC30570		7800 1200	Post-medieval coins found during metal-detecting rally (1500 AD to 1800 AD)
MBC30580, MBC32132, MBC30589, MBC30585, MBC30586, MBC31572		7800 1100	Roman coins and brooch (43 AD to 409 AD), Saxon strap end (410 AD to 1066 AD), medieval spindle whorl (1066 AD to 1500), and post- medieval coin (1696 AD) found during metal- detecting rally

## Archaeological features

SMR No		HGR: SP	Details of results
MBC2209	0067300000	78200 12300	Approximate location of a probable Roman pottery kiln, reported in 1872
MBC2235, MBC2236 MBC2284	0067800000, 0067800001 0069100000	78200 12200 7857 1200	Possible Saxon cemetery indicated by finds by gardener in the 19th century. Finds include several Anglo-Saxon brooches: saucer brooch 5th century (410 AD to 499 AD); Large fibula with Christian emblem (11th century) Possible medieval village earthworks, Civil War emplacements or post-medieval quarrying recorded in field survey and Roman and medieval artefacts found in metal-detecting survey
MBC2286	0069101000	78370 11950	Earthwork enclosure shown on 19th- century map, of unknown age
MBC2291	0069104000	78370 12102	Possible post-medieval lime kiln found when farmyard re-ordered
MBC2147	0069108000	78254 11987	Medieval pit containing pottery recorded in partial excavation
MBC6861,	0237100000,	78800	Nineteenth-century records of mound.

SMR No		HGR: SP	Details of results
MBC6862	0237100001	12200	Finds include Roman coin (317 AD to 320 AD)
MBC6863	0237101000	78800 12200	Windmill shown on 19th-century map in this location
MBC1084	0407400000	78400 12300	Historical records of post-medieval signpost
MBC1241	0475300000, 0475300001	7799 1238	Possible Iron Age ditch recorded in watching brief for oil pipeline, along with iron age pottery (700 BC to 42 AD)
MBC1474	0571300000	7804 1210	Features discovered in evaluation trenching suggest possible Neolithic and Iron Age occupation
MBC1474	0571302000	7812 1213	Medieval pottery found in excavation
MBC1474	0571303003	78080 12180	Iron Age pottery found in evaluation trenches
MBC1515	0587900000, 0587900001, 0587901000	7856 1224	Possible post-medieval blacksmiths workshop suggested by finds of slag in metal-detecting survey. Finds also include medieval pottery.
MBC2186	0640600000	7812 1221	Site of 19th-century garden with observatory (1800 AD? to 1992 AD)
MBC2218	0661500000	7836 1230	Human remains of unknown date found during trenching for a gas pipeline. At least 2 inhumations
MBC2362	0838700000	78197 12349	Ten Romano-British ditches, pottery and animal bone found during evaluation and subsequent watching brief
MBC2445	0919200000	78325 12102	Site of former sand pits shown on 19th- century maps
MBC2446	0919500000	78618 12423	Site of former hollow shown on 19th and 20th-century maps
MBC2446	0919600000	78865 12237	Site of former quarry pit shown on 19th- century maps
MBC2446	0919700000	78147 12422	Site of former sand pit shown on 20th- century maps
MBC2528	0963400000	78769 12455	Mesolithic flint scraper and possible waste fragment found during evaluation trial trenching (10000 BC to 4001 BC)
MBC2466	0937800000	783 123	Medieval and post-medieval settlement of Stone, recorded in Domesday Book

## Extant Buildings and monuments

SMR No		HGR: SP	Details of results
MBC2308, MBC2309, MBC2310	0070200000, 0070200001, 0070201000	78408 12244	Medieval parish church of St John the Baptist with 19th-century restoration, Norman font, and churchyard. Listed Building (II*) - 42735
MBC3300	0721600000	78709 12331	Recreation ground, gate posts, gates and plaques to commemorate WW1 (1914-1918) and WW2 (1939-1945)
MBC1700	1133300000	78449 12298	18th-century house, with 19th-century alterations. Listed Building (II) - 42729
MBC1700	1133400000	78472 12197	18th-century house and barn, the barn now also in use as a house. Listed Building (II) - 42730
MBC1700	1133500000	78316 11940	17th-century timber-framed house, with wichert wall, formerly 2 cottages, with later alterations. Listed Building (II) - 42731
MBC1700	1133600000	78732 12001	Probable 18th-century witchert cottage. Listed Building (II) - 42732
MBC1700	1133700000	78670 12086	Probable 18th-century witchert cottage, with later alterations. Listed Building (II) - 42733
MBC1701	1133800000	78747 11856	19th-century house. Listed Building (II) - 42734
MBC1701	1133900000	78412 12188	18th-century house, with possible traces of earlier origins. Listed Building (II) - 42737
MBC1701	1133901000	78392 12161	18th-century timber-framed barn, now converted to a house. Listed Building (II) - 42738
MBC1701	1134000000	78356 12311	18th-century house. Listed Building (II) - 42739
MBC1701	1134200000	78310 12373	Late 18th-century house. Listed Building (II) - 42741
MBC1702	1135000000	78775 12358	18th-century witchert cottage. Listed Building (II) - 42750
MBC1702	1135100000	78815 12486	18th-century witchert cottage, originally a pair of cottages. Listed Building (II) - 42751
MBC2574	1358600000	78088 12252	18th or 19th-century milepost on A418 in Stone
MBC3404	1477700000	78298 12332	19th-century house at prominent location within the historic core of Stone village
MBC1702	1135200000	78447 12410	Twentieth century village hall, built 1911. Listed Building (II) - 42752

SMR No	HGR: SP	Details of results
HBC462	78670 13120	Medieval to 18th-century enclosure
HBC492	78500 12340	Stone House 18th to 19th-century house, formerly known as St John's Lodge on the OS 1st edition 6" map
HBC502	79010 12730	Medieval to 18th-century enclosure
HBC505	78500 12340	Historic core of Stone
HBC506	78180 12700	Medieval to 18th-century enclosure
HBC507	78340 12640	Hartwell cemetery
HBC510	78550 11870	Former 20th-century orchard
HBC515	78310 12560	19th-century to modern allotments
HBC516	78330 12720	Medieval to 18th-century settlement
HBC517	78560 12610	18th to 19th-century enclosure
HBC551	78390 12070	Medieval to 18th-century enclosure
HBC12070	78410 11420	Surviving Parliamentary enclosure fields from taken from Enclosure mapping

## Historic Landscape Characterisation

## **APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER**

- SF 1 Plate, bone. Worked bone plaque with vestige of unbroken edge. Appears rectangular in shape, decorated with two incised grooves close to the finished edge and series of equidistant cruciform apertures. Dimensions 42 x 20mm, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 2 Rod, iron. Sub square cross-section and slightly tapered. Possibly a nail shank. Length: 37mm, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 3 Rod, iron. Sub square cross-section and slightly tapered. Possibly a nail shank. Length: 64mm, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 4 Amorphous fragment, iron. Nature of fragment impossible to determine. Dimensions: 35 x 20mm, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 5 Horseshoe, iron. Incomplete, fragment only (Length: 48mm), comprising terminal of branch with 'thickened' heel (Clark 1995, fig 59). Stylistically it represents part of a horseshoe with sinuous outline, suggesting a Medieval date, *c*13th/14th centuries, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 6 Knife, iron. Incomplete, terminal of tang missing. Stepped shoulder, back of blade slopes to tip, cutting edge and tang on same alignment. Back of blade broad with triangular cross-section, rectangular sectioned tang. Blade – Length: 88mm, Width: 7mm, Th: 4mm, Tang – Length (incomplete): 40mm, context (704), pit [705]
- SF 7 Plate, bone. Unidentifiable fragment with vestiges of two opposing unbroken edges, suggesting that the strip would have measured *c*18mm wide. Piece decorated with wide triple ring and dot and pierced by a single extant iron rivet. Survives to a length of 32mm. Possibly a decorative strip from a casket or similar object, context (704), pit [705]

<b>APPENDIX 3</b> :	CONTEXT	INVENTORY
---------------------	---------	-----------

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment W-E		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD) 0.50m
1	15m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark-brown silty clay.	0.20m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	-
103	Natural	Light brown-orange clay with occasional small stones.	-	-
104	Fill	Fill of [105]. Mid-brown friable silt clay, no inclusions and heavy root disturbance.	0.19m thick	-
105	Ditch	U-shaped ditch on SE-NW alignment, possibly a terminal.	0.95m wide, 0.19m deep	-



Trench 1, general view, looking east Fig 13

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
2	NE-SW 20.0 x 1.8m			0.45 – 0.80m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.10 – 0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid-light brown sandy silty clay with occasional chalk fragments.	0.27 – 0.40m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with chalk fragments.	0.06 – 0.10m thick	-
204	Fill	Fill of ditch/gully [205]. Firm-friable dark brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and charcoal.	0.95m wide, 0.20m thick	Pottery, fragmented.
205	Ditch	Cut of linear ditch/gully, with NW- SE orientation, irregular shallow U- shaped profile.	0.95m wide, 0.20m deep	-
206	Fill	Fill of tree bole [207]. Mid brown silt clay.	-	-
207	Tree bole	Cut of tree bole – irregular edges and base.	-	-



Trench 2, general view, looking south-west Fig 14

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
3	NW-SE 20.0 x 1.8m			0.90 – 0.80m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid-light brown sandy silty clay with occasional chalk fragments.	0.50m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with chalk fragments.	-	-
304	Fill	Fill of [305]. Mid dark-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions.		Pottery Bone
305	Pit/ditch terminal	0.20m visible in trench. Not excavated.	-	-
306	Fill	Upper fill of [308]. Firm mid brown silty clay, with moderate charcoal and occasional small stone inclusions.	1.9m wide 0.25m thick	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Roman roof tile 1x 40 litre soil sample
307	Fill	Primary fill of [308]. Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and frequent small stone inclusions.	1.9m wide 0.25m thick	-
308	Pit	Cut of large quarry pit, cutting earlier pit [312]. Not completely excavated.	1.9m wide 0.50m deep	-
309	Fill	Fill of [312]. Firm mid-brown silty clay, with infrequent charcoal and small stones.	0.30m wide 0.30m thick	Mid to late 11th- century pottery
310	Fill	Fill of [312]. Firm mid orange-brown silty clay, with moderate small stone and infrequent charcoal inclusions.	0.30m wide 0.10-0.15m thick	-
311	Fill	Fill of [312]. Firm mid brown silty clay, with infrequent charcoal and small stone inclusions.	0.30m wide 0.15– 0.15m thick	-
312	Pit	Cut of quarry pit, cut by later pit [308]. Sub circular-rectangular, possibly with flat base. Not completely excavated.	0.30m wide 0.50m deep	-



Trench 3, general view, looking north-west Fig 15

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
4	NE-SW 20.0 x 1.8m			0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty clay.	0.20m thick	-
403	Natural	Light brown-orange clay with occasional small stones.	-	-
404	Fill	Fill of [405]. Friable mid brown silty clay, with occasional small stones.	0.90m wide 0.18m thick	-
405	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned SE-NW with U-shaped profile. Possible field boundary.	0.90m wide 0.18m deep	-
406	Fill	Fill of [407]. Rooting action. Very clean mid brown silty clay.	-	-
407	Natural feature	Natural disturbance from rooting. Irregular with irregular base.	-	-
408	Fill	Fill of [409]. Rooting action. Very clean mid brown silty clay.	-	-
409	Natural feature	Natural disturbance from rooting. Irregular with irregular base.	-	-



Trench 4, general view, looking north-east Fig 16

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
5	SW - NE 20.0 x 1.8m			0.45 – 0.55m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.20m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid-light brown sandy silty clay with occasional chalk fragments.	0.25-0.30m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with chalk fragments.	-	-
504	Fill	Fill of [505]. Mid brown silty clay mixed with frequent small stone inclusions. Heavy rooting.	0.90m wide 0.18m thick	-
505	Ditch	Cut of ditch/natural feature, with irregular and uneven edges and base, irregular in plan.	0.95m wide 0.20m deep	-



Trench 5, general view, looking north-east Fig 17

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
6	NW - SE 20.0 x 1.8m			0.40 – 0.50m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.20m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid-light brown sandy silty claywith occasional chalk fragments.	0.20-0.25m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with chalk fragments.	-	-



Trench 6, general view, looking north-west Fig 18

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
7	SW-NE 20.0 x 1.8m			0.50 – 0.80m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid to light brown sandy silt.	0.20m thick	-
703	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with occasional small stones.	-	-
704	Fill	Upper fill of [705]. Firm mid dark brown silty clay, with moderate charcoal and small-medium stone inclusions. Probably backfill.	1.50m wide 0.30m thick	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Small finds 1-7 Animal bone 1x 40 litre soil sample
705	Pit	Large quarry pit, with U-shaped profile, straight sides and flat base. Possibly cutting earlier pit [710]. Not completely excavated.	1.50m wide 0.35-0.40m deep	- '
706	Fill	Fill of [707]. Mid brown silty clay, with occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions.	0.60m wide 0.12m thick	-
707	Ditch/gully	Cut of ditch/gully with shallow U- shaped profile	0.60m wide 0.12m deep	-
708	Fill	Lower fill of [705]. Firm mid brown silty clay, with frequent chalk and occasional charcoal inclusions.	0.45m wide 0.10m thick (excavated)	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Animal bone
709	Fill	Upper fill of [710]. Firm mid-light brown silty clay, with moderate chalk and rare chalk inclusions.	0.80m wide 0.18-0.20m thick (excavated)	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Animal bone
710	Pit	Possibly U-shaped quarry pit cut by later [705]. Not completely excavated.	0.80m wide 0.18-0.20m deep (excavated)	-



Trench 7, general view, looking south-west Fig 19

Trench no.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth and height of natural (aOD)
8	NW-SE 20.0 x 1.8m			0.70m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Dark-brown silty clay.	0.30m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid to light brown sandy silt.	0.40m thick	-
803	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with occasional small stones.	-	-
804	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [809]. Friable-firm dark black-grey sandy silty clay, with occasional small stones, chalk and charcoal inclusions.	1.80m wide 0.34m thick	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Animal bone
805	Fill	Fill of ditch [809]. Friable-firm dark grey sandy silty clay, with occasional small stones and chalk, and moderate charcoal inclusions.	2.21m wide 0.42m thick	-
806	Fill	Fill of ditch [809]. Friable-firm mid brown silty sandy clay, with occasional small stones and chalk, and occasional charcoal inclusions	1.75m wide 0.30m thick	Pottery Animal bone
807	Fill	Lower fill of ditch [809]. Friable crumbly dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions.	0.83m wide 0.11m thick	Mid to late 11th- century pottery Animal bone
808	Ditch	Cut of linear ditch aligned NE-SW with steep sloping sides to flat base. Possible medieval boundary ditch.	2.45m wide 0.89m deep	



Trench 8, general view, looking south-east Fig 20









MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 700 493 www.mola.org.uk sparry@mola.org.uk