

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire May 2016

Report No. 16/93

Author and illustrator: Claire Finn



© MOLA Northampton Project Manager: Mo Muldowney Site Code: AYBCM:2016.59 NGR: SP 88055 12559



MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 809800 www.mola.org.uk mmuldowney@mola.org.uk

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire May 2016

Report No. 16/93

Site Code: AYBCM: 2016.59

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	31/05/16	P Chapman	M Muldowney	A Chapman	Draft for client approval

Project Manager: Mo Muldowney

Author and illustrator: Claire Finn

© MOLA Northampton 2016

MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 809800 <u>www.mola.org.uk</u> mmuldowney@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:	Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA
Text and illustrations:	Claire Finn BA MA PhD
Fieldwork:	Sam Egan BSc Kathrin Winzer
Pottery and metal finds:	Tora Hylton
Animal bone:	Adam Reid BSc MSc

#### **OASIS REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No. molanort1-253	3379		
Project name		Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive,		
Short description	Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by MOLA Northampton on land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton. Thirteen trenches were excavated, and nine ditches were recorded. These probably represent field boundaries or drainage ditches from a medieval to post- medieval field system. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of post- medieval pottery were recovered, along with a medieval iron spur.			
Project type	Trial Trenching	· · · · · ·		
Site status	None			
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Mead Assessment (Harrison 202	dows 2016), Archaeological Desk-Based 14)		
Current Land use	Agricultural field			
Future work	Unknown			
Monument type/ period	Undated ditches			
Significant finds	Medieval pottery, post-me	dieval iron spur		
PROJECT LOCATION		·		
County	Buckinghamshire			
Site address	Chapel Drive, Aston Clinto	on		
Study area	c.5.3 ha			
OS Easting & Northing	SP 88055 12559			
Height OD	95-98m aOD			
PROJECT CREATORS	I			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton			
Project brief originator	Buckinghamshire CC Sen	ior Archaeological Planning Officer		
Project design originator	MOLA Northampton			
Director/Supervisor	Sam Egan (MOLA Northa	mpton)		
Project Manager	Adam Yates (MOLA North	ampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	Bellway Homes			
PROJECT DATE				
Start date	09/05/2016			
End date	12/05/2016			
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content		
Physical		Pottery; animal bone; Fe object;		
Paper	Buckinghamshire County Museum AYBCM:2016.59	Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on		
Digital	AYBCM:2016.59 permatrace Survey data; reports; digital photographs			
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or uppublished cl			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, May 2016			
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report, 16/93			
Author(s)	Claire Finn			
Page numbers	16 pages report and figure	es + 13 pages appendix		
Date	31 May 2016			

## Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 BACKGROUND
  - 2.1 Location, topography and geology
  - 2.2 Archaeological and historical background
- 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
- 6 THE FINDS

6.1 The p	ottery by	/ Tora Hylton
-----------	-----------	---------------

- 6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton
- 6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid
- 7 DISCUSSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

## Figures

Front cover: Trench 6, looking north-east							
Fig 1: Site location							
Fig 2: Location of trenches and features							
Fig 3: Example section, Trench 3, looking north-east							
Fig 4: Ditch [105], Trench 1, looking south-west (scale 1:25)							
Fig 5: Ditch [605], Trench 6, looking west (scale 1:25)							
Fig 6: Ditch [706], Trench 7, looking south-east (scale 1:25)							
Fig 7: Ditch [805], Trench 8, looking north-west (scale 1:25)							
Fig 8: Ditch [906], Trench 9, looking west (scale 1:25)							
Fig 9: Ditch [1206], Trench 12, looking west (scale 1:25)							
Fig 10: Ditches in Trench 13 (scale 1:25)							
Fig 11: Trench plans							
Fig 12: Overview of Trench 1, looking north-west							
Fig 13: Overview of Trench 2, looking south							
Fig 14: Overview of Trench 3, looking north-west							
Fig 15: Overview of Trench 4, looking north-west							
Fig 16: Overview of Trench 5, looking east							
Fig 17: Overview of Trench 6, looking north-east							
Fig 18: Overview of Trench 7, looking north-west							
Fig 19: Overview of Trench 8, looking south-west							
Fig 20: Overview of Trench 9, looking north-west							
Fig 21: Overview of Trench 10, looking east							
Fig 22: Overview of Trench 11, looking south-east							
Fig 23: Overview of Trench 12, looking south-west							
Back cover: 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map of the site							

# Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

#### Abstract

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by MOLA Northampton on land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton. Thirteen trenches were excavated, and nine ditches were recorded. These probably represent field boundaries or drainage ditches from a medieval to post-medieval field system. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with a medieval iron spur.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton (NGR SP 88055 12559, Fig 1). The work was required by the Archaeological Planning Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council (APO BCC) to comply with Condition 9 of the Planning Permission given for a residential development of up to 95 dwellings with access, amenity space and associated works (Application 15/00300/AOP). The archaeological works were carried out in order to further inform decisions regarding the potential impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012). A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken between 19th-20th April 2016 (Meadows 2016). The second phase of works, comprising the trial trench evaluation was subsequently undertaken 9th-12th May 2016.

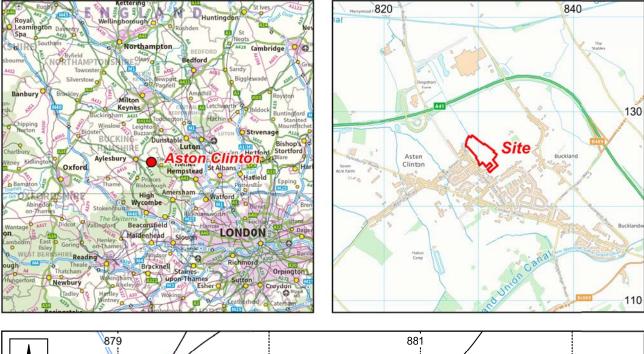
All works were undertaken in accordance with the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service's brief for trial trench evaluation (BCAS 2014), the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2016). The evaluation was carried out according to the ClfA's *Code of Practice* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014b), and the MOLA *Fieldwork Manual* (2014).

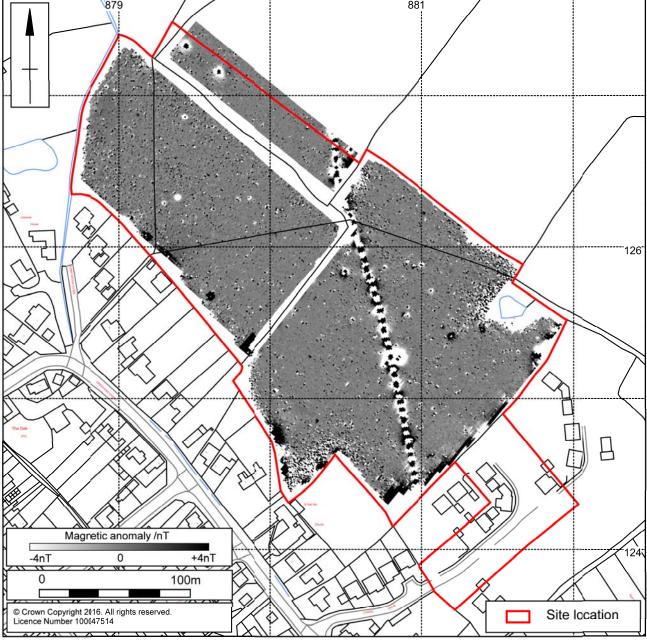
#### 2 BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Location, topography and geology

Aston Clinton is approximately 6.5km east of Aylesbury in eastern central Buckinghamshire. The site occupies a sub-rectangular area of land comprising *c*.5.3 ha, and is bounded to the south-west by the rear curtilages of properties fronting onto Green End Street, and to the north and east by agricultural land. An unnamed stream runs along the north-west boundary of the site.

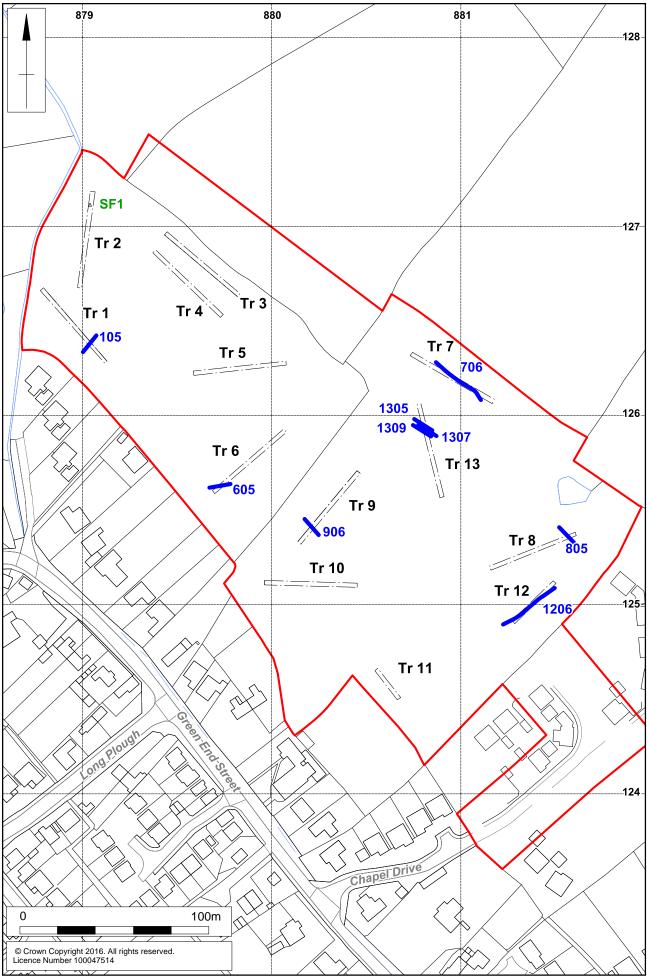
The area is gently sloping, rising from approximately 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to 98m aOD on the southern border adjacent to the town. The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone belonging to the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation member. There are no recorded superficial deposits on the site (BGS 2016). The overlying soil type in the area is mapped as Evesham 2 Association of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (LAT 1983).





Scale 1:2,500

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2,000

Location of trenches and features Fig 2

#### 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A Desk-Based Assessment has previously been undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Harrison 2014), which included a search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The following historical background and HER search numbers are summarised from that document.

Data obtained by CgMs Consulting from English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Local Planning Authority confirms that there are no designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields or Parks and Gardens) or non-designated heritage assets within the development area.

One Scheduled Monument is listed within a 1km radius of the development site. This is a moated site to the north-west of Moat Farm, *c*.200m north-east of the site (1017510).

The site is not within the Conservation Area of Buckland, which lies further to the northeast. There are 37 Listed Buildings within the 1km radius search area; 21 are within Aston Clinton village and 16 are within Buckland.

There have been multiple phases of archaeological works on land within 1km north of the survey area, between the Grand Union Canal to the north, the A41 to the south and west and the land now occupied by the Arla Dairy to the east. These include geophysical surveys (Clements and Smith 2010; Walford 2015), trial trench evaluations (Simmonds 2015) and open area excavations (Clarke 2013; Simmonds 2015). These studies have discovered multiple settlement sites ranging in date from the late Iron Age to Roman.

#### Prehistoric

Two prehistoric findspots are recorded; a Palaeolithic handaxe found on Buckland Range, *c*.500m east of the site (MBC2537) and an Iron Age coin, found in Buckland, *c*.400m south-west of the site (MBC31958).

#### Iron Age to Romano-British

Multiple sites of occupation from the late Iron Age to Romano-British periods have been identified within a 1km radius of the site. Additionally, a number of Iron Age spotfinds have been discovered within a field located *c*.400m north-west of the survey area. These include a Belgic pottery cup (HER 4301000), a bone pin (HER 4302000) and a spindle whorl (HER 4303000).

One abraded sherd of Roman colour-coated pottery was found during a walkover survey on adjacent land at Chapel Drive, probably deposited during manuring (Thornton 2013). An evaluation on land to the rear of Brook Street/London Road revealed three possible Roman field boundary ditches and one sherd of Romano-British pottery *c*.500m west of the site (CA 2009). A number of findspots of Roman coins and pottery have been made between *c*.400m and *c*.640m east of the site (MBC1168, MBC444, MBC499, MBC1460), as well as to the south (MBC1488), and west (MBC439). The Roman Road of Akeman Street, passed by the site 300m to the south-west (MBC3193).

#### Saxon and medieval

The medieval settlement of Aston Clinton was recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey and is likely, along with Buckland village, to have had its origin in the Saxon period. Although a Saxon cemetery is known from further afield, no archaeological evidence of activity of this period is known from within a 1m radius of the site.

The study site lies *c*.200m north of the medieval village core of Aston Clinton (HER MBC7383 and MBC2234) and *c*.400m east of the Shrunken Medieval Village of Buckland (MBC1342 and MBC2381). Two medieval churches are situated in the vicinity

of the site; the Church of St Michael and All the Angels, situated 500m to the south within Aston Clinton, and All Saint's Church in Buckland, *c*.750m north-east. A medieval *sheela na gig* carving can be seen on the external wall All Saint's Church (MBC2116).

A medieval Scheduled Monument moated site is situated near Moat Farm, *c*.200m northeast of the development area (HER MBC440). The site comprises a rectangular area bounded by a water-filled moat or ditch, 8.0m in width and *c*.2m deep and with a diagonal width of *c*.76m. A fishpond was later added to the northern edge as an extension of the moat. There are no extant structures as part of the monument. The possible location of an additional moated site and medieval manor are thought to have existed within Aston Clinton, *c*. 500m south-west of the site (MBC6587 and MBC6588). These monuments may indicate a prosperous medieval presence in the area.

The study site lay within the open field system of Aston Clinton in the medieval period, and historical aerial photographs and satellite imagery have identified that ridge and furrow earthworks formerly lay within the north-western field and the south-eastern field. These seem to no longer be extant having been recently ploughed out. Ridge and furrow features were not detected during geophysical survey on an adjacent south-east field.

#### Post-medieval

Five 19th-century to modern structures are recorded in the HER within the 1km radius search area, some of which are still extant. A parish map of Aston Clinton, dating from 1814 (not reproduced), shows that the site consisted of five fields, of which the middle field contained several buildings fronting onto Green End Street to the south-west (labelled *Henry Wells*). Although two outbuildings associated with this group of structures appear to be situated within the development site on early historic maps, it has been concluded that, due to an inaccurately-mapped boundary and the former presence of ridge and furrow in the position of the proposed buildings, they probably would have stood beyond the boundary of the development area.

The Enclosure Map of Aston Clinton shows that, between 1814 and 1816 (not reproduced), a number of field boundaries were removed to open up the area into larger enclosed fields. By 1861 the site consisted of three fields that remained fairly static in shape up to the present day. The Buckinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation indicates that the development area appears to have been farmland though the post-medieval and modern periods as an area of pre-18th-century enclosure.

#### Previous archaeological works

A detailed magnetometer geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the commencement of trial trenching. No clear anomalies of archaeological origin were identified, although three extremely weak linear anomalies of uncertain origin were observed (Meadows 2016). The report also notes that previous magnetometer surveys in the Aston Clinton area, over similar Gault Clay bedrock, have not always produced clear results, with known archaeology represented by very weak or no magnetic anomalies. A Desk-Based Assessment was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (Harrison 2014).

A number of works have taken place in an adjacent field to the east of the site, which has been the subject of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Thornton 2013), geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) and trial trench evaluation (Chinnock 2013). The three investigations revealed no significant archaeological remains.

An trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of Brook Street/London Road, *c*.500m west of the site, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2009. Four trial trenches were excavated revealing one probable Roman ditch and two further ditches, possibly contemporary with the first. The ditches were interpreted as field boundaries. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow were also identified.

There have been multiple phases of archaeological works on land within 1km north of the survey area, between the Grand Union Canal to the north, the A41 to the south and west and the land now occupied by the Arla Dairy to the east. These sites have produced evidence for Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (geophysical surveys Clements and Smith 2010, Walford 2015; trial trench evaluations Simmonds 2015; and open area excavations Clarke 2013, Simmonds 2015).

#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource, and to inform further planning decisions regarding the site. The trial trench evaluation was designed to gather information regarding the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of important archaeological remains within the application area:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any archaeological levels or dated environmental levels present;
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present;
- To determine 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).

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

Thirteen trenches were excavated. Eleven measured 50m long by 1.8m wide, one 20m by 1.8m, and one 30m by 1.8m. The potential features identified by the geophysical survey were targeted, along with a sample of potentially 'blank' areas. Trenches were positioned to avoid on site restrictions such as field boundaries, and overhead and sub ground services (Fig 2).

The trenches were plotted on the ground prior to the commencement of work using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey. All site levels were related to Ordnance Datum.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The machined surface was cleaned by hand sufficiently to identify and establish the extent of archaeological features. Trenches containing archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Complex features were planned at scales of between 1:20 to 1:10, as appropriate. The work was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. 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, monochrome 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.

Once the evaluation was completed and the site signed off by BCCSAPO, the trenches were backfilled, with the topsoil replaced uppermost and lightly compacted.

#### 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

#### General stratigraphy

The underlying natural geology of the site comprised a soft to firm yellow-white clay with an occasional orange tint, lying between 0.38m and 1.04m deep below the ground surface (Fig 3). This was overlain by a subsoil of soft yellow orange silty clay which became shallower to the south-east of the site, being between 0.09 and 0.56m deep. The topsoil comprised soft dark brown silt or silty clay with nodules of flint, and was between 0.17m and 0.64m deep.

No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, or 11. Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13. These comprised nine linear ditch or ditch-like features.



Example section, Trench 3, looking north-east Fig 3

Ditch [105] was aligned south-west to north-east, and was 0.49m wide by 0.17m deep, with a V-shaped profile and a rounded base (Figs 4 and 11). The fill (104), formed of gradually accumulated silty clay, did not contain any datable material.



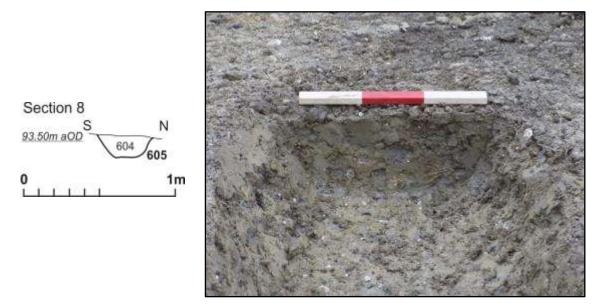
Ditch [105], Trench 1, looking south-west (scale 1:25) Fig 4

#### Trench 2

No archaeological features were observed in Trench 2, although a medieval iron spur SF1 was recovered from a layer of alluvium towards its northern end.

#### Trench 6

Ditch [605] was aligned east-west, and was 0.31m wide by 0.12m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Figs 5 and 11). The fill again was an accumulation of natural silting, and contained one sherd of Roman pottery.



Ditch [605], Trench 6, looking west (scale 1:25) Fig 5

A curvilinear feature was shown to sinuously cross Trench 7, aligned broadly north-west to south-east. The ditch-like feature [706] was broad but shallow, being 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep, with a U-shaped but irregular profile and an irregular base (Figs 6, and 11). The primary fill comprised natural silting, overlain by a backfill of light brown-grey silty clay (704). No finds were recovered.



Ditch [706], Trench 7, looking south-east (scale 1:25) Fig 6

#### Trench 8

95.80m aOD

Section 2 NE

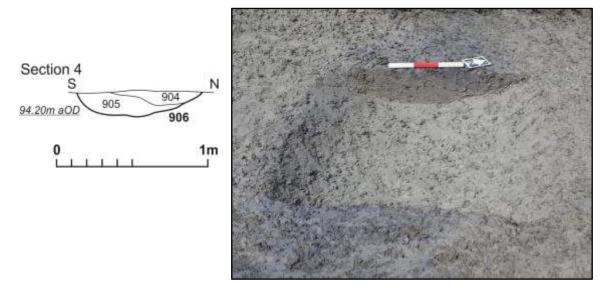
804

Ditch [805] was aligned north-west to south-east, 0.32m wide by 0.15m deep. It had a V-shaped profile and a narrow base (Figs 7 and 11). The ditch may have been used for drainage.



Ditch [805], Trench 8, looking north-west (scale 1:25) Fig 7

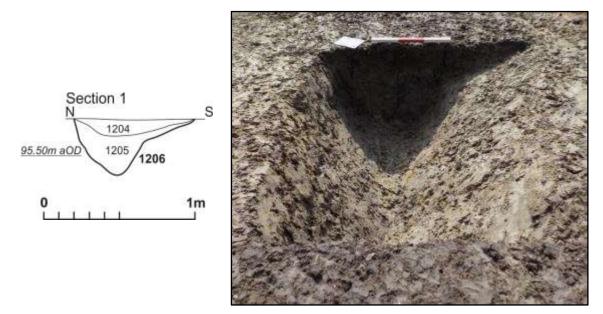
Ditch [906] was aligned east-west, and had a broad, U-shaped profile with a flat base, 0.83m wide by 0.17m deep (Figs 8 and 11). The primary fill of the ditch comprised a thick layer of silting, 0.15m deep (905), suggesting the ditch may have been used for drainage. This was overlain by a shallower silty-clay backfill (904). No finds were recovered.



Ditch [906], Trench 9, looking west (scale 1:25) Fig 8

#### Trench 12

Ditch [1206] was aligned east-west and had a V-shaped profile which was steeply sided to the south and more gently sloping to the north, with a narrow base (Figs 9 and 11). It was 0.80m wide and 0.39m deep. The primary fill comprised a mix of a dark brown-grey silty-clay with redeposited natural (1205). The feature had various irregular areas along its length, suggesting it may mark a former hedge line.

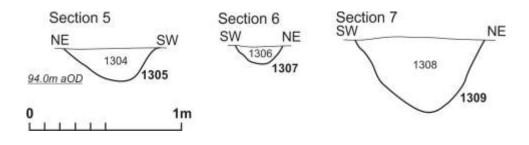


Ditch [1206], Trench 12, looking west (scale 1:25) Fig 9

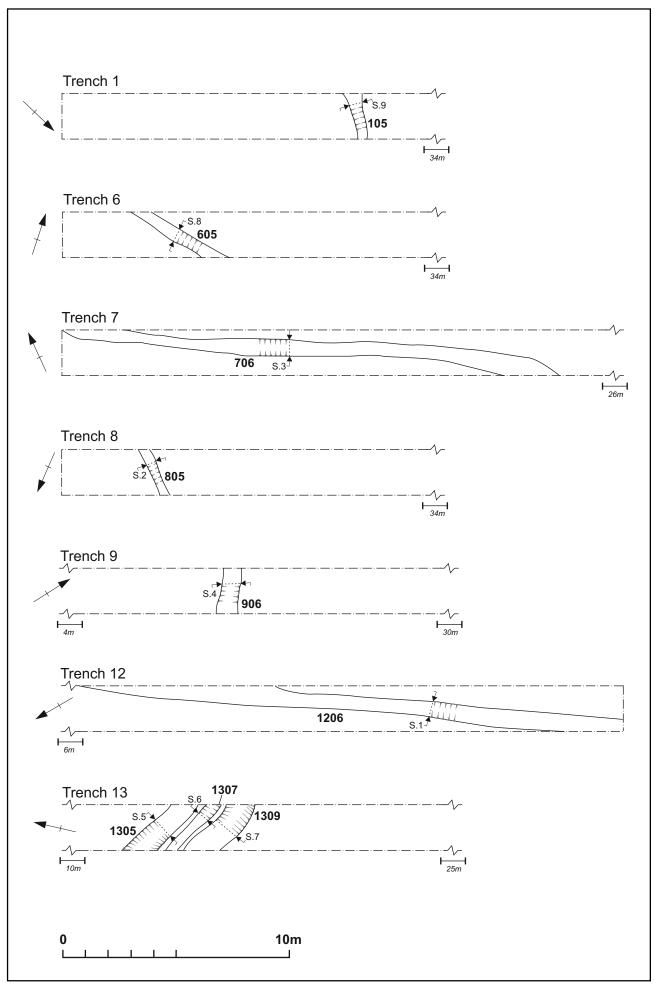
Trench 13 contained three ditches that were broadly parallel and aligned east-west (Figs 10, and 11). The westernmost ditch, ditch [1305] was slightly curvilinear, 0.82m wide by 0.21m deep, with a V-shaped profile and rounded base. The fill was waterlogged and probably formed through naturally occurring silting (1304). A single sherd of early modern pottery and one piece of animal bone was recovered from the ditch.

The central ditch of the three, [1307], was 0.31m wide with a U-shaped profile and rounded base. The fill was similar to (1304) but contained no finds.

Ditch [1309] to the east was 1.03m wide and 0.46m deep, with a V-shaped profile and rounded base. The fill again was similar to (1304) and contained no finds.



Ditches in Trench 13 (scale 1:25) Fig 10



#### 6 THE FINDS

#### 6.1 **The pottery** by Tora Hylton

Two sherds of pottery, weighing 55g, were recovered from Trenches 6 and 13. The earliest datable sherd is an abraded, undiagnostic sherd of Roman pottery, weighing 4g, which was recovered from ditch [605] in Trench 6. The fabric is sand-tempered, coarse and fired to a white/pink colour. A 2nd to 3rd-century AD date is suggested. The other sherd, a large undiagnostic bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware bowl, was recovered from ditch [1305] in Trench 13. The fabric is hard-fired, with a thin internal glaze, and it dates to the 18th/19th centuries.

#### 6.2 Other finds by Tora Hylton

An iron prick spur was recovered from an alluvial deposit (204). Although incomplete part of one side is missing and the other is damaged, it is possible to determine that it is part of a straight-sided spur, a type of spur which dates to the early medieval period. The overall length of the spur is *c*.115mm. The sides are slender with a D-shaped cross-section and they taper slightly towards the terminal, which conforms to Ward-Perkins Type Ai (Ward-Perkins 1993, fig 28). The spur has a flat rectangular plate (15 x 10mm) furnished with two rivet holes (one rivet extant). The point has a sub-circular cross-section and survives to a length of 10mm. These stylistic features are distinctive and common on prick spurs dating to the 11th and 12th century. The form disappeared by the *c*.13th century when rowle spurs were introduced (Clark 1995, 130).

#### 6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the fill of ditch [1305]. The specimen, a long bone fragment from a large mammal (cattle or horse), is undiagnostic and holds limited interpretative value. However, the relatively good state of preservation of the fragment may indicate the potential for further faunal analysis, should any further work take place at site.

#### 7 DISCUSSION

Nine linear and slightly curvilinear features were identified during the course of the excavation. These comprise small ditches, the remains of a former field system.

A number of the ditches respect the alignment of the modern field boundaries, such as the ditches in Trenches 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13. It is therefore unlikely that the field system predates the village. Long irregular ditches in Trenches 7 and 12 may represent the positions of former hedged boundaries, aligned parallel to the modern hedges. Two ditches, [805] and [1307], also lay on a similar north-west to south-east alignment. Due to their similarity in size and profile, these may be considered to be part of a longer ditch feature, perhaps the continuation of the boundary to the north. A boundary in this position is shown to the rear of the plot belonging to Henry Wells on the 1814 Parish Map (Harrison 2014, fig 6), and this feature also correlates with a faint linear anomaly identifiable on the geophysical survey (Meadows 2016).

Several ditches contained fills formed by naturally occurring silting, which may suggest that they were left open for a period of time, or were used as drainage ditches.

The lack of dating evidence means it is difficult to clearly determine when the field boundaries may have been in use, although a medieval to post-medieval date is considered most probable. A sherd of post-medieval pottery recovered from ditch [1305] and the medieval spur from Trench 2 both support this hypothesis. A highly abraded sherd of Roman pottery is likely to be a remnant of the high density of Roman activity which took place nearby.

The lack of significant archaeological remains on the site is in line with previous works undertaken in the adjacent field to the east. Geophysical surveying and trial trenching also revealed no significant archaeological remains (Thornton 2013; Stratascan 2013; Chinnock 2013), suggesting these fields lay on the agricultural periphery of the main village occupation areas to the south and east. Additionally, no evidence was recovered for the survival of ridge and furrow cultivation remains in the development site. Although satellite imagery has previously shown earthworks in the north-western field and the south-eastern field, these were shown to be no longer extant.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

BCAS 2014 *Generic brief for an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)*, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service

BGS 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <u>http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/</u><u>geologyOfBritain/viewer.html</u>

Chinnock, C 2013 Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **13/191** 

ClfA 2014a Code of Conduct, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2014b Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Clarke, J, 2013 Archaeological strip, map and record of the new water and sewer pipeline from Broughton Road North to College Road North, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, October to November 2012 and March 2013, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **13/256** 

Clark, J, (ed) 1995 *The Medieval Horse and its Equipment c.1150-1450,* Medieval Finds from excavations in London, **5** 

Clements, P, and Smith, H, 2010 Archaeological geophysical survey on land east of College Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, November 2010, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **10/224** 

CA 2009 Land to the Rear of Brook Street/London Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire; Archaeological Evaluation, Cotswold Archaeology

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

Harrison, C, 2014 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land off Chapel Drive and rear of Green End Street, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, CgMs Consulting, report SM/CH/18488/01

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

Meadows, A, 2016 Archaeological geophysical survey at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, MOLA Northampton report, **16/90** 

MOLA 2014 Archaeological Fieldwork Manual, MOLA Northampton

MOLA 2016 Written scheme of investigation for archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation on land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, MOLA Northampton

Simmonds, C, 2015 A late Iron Age and early Roman settlement on land at College Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, November 2011 to February 2012, MOLA Northampton report, **15/146** 

Stratascan 2013 Geophysical Survey Report: Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Stratascan report, **J5634** 

Thornton, A, 2013 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land at Chapel Drive, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, CgMs Consulting, report **SM/AT/15743/01** 

Walford, J, 2015 Archaeological geophysical survey of the proposed 'Aylesbury Woodlands' development site between Broughton and Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire September to October 2015, MOLA Northampton report, **15/189** 

Ward Perkins, J B, 1993 (reprint) London Museum Medieval Catalogue 1940, Anglia Publishing

MOLA Northampton

31 May 2015

#### APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
1	1.8mx 50m, SE - NW	487877, 212666	92.47m	0.44 – 0.86m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.22-0.30m deep	-
102	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.16-0.56m deep	-
103	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-
104	Fill of 105	Soft mid-brown-grey silty clay	-	-
105	Cut	Cut of ditch	-	-



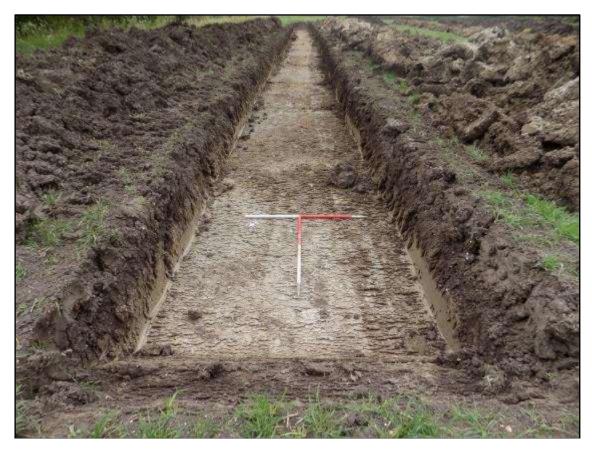
Overview of Trench 1, looking north-west Fig 12

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
2	1.8mx 50m, N-S	487904, 212718	91.81m	0.46 – 1.04m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.26-0.64m deep	-
202	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.20-0.40m deep	-
203	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-
204	Alluvium	-	-	SF1 spur



Overview of Trench 2, looking south Fig 13

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
3	1.8mx 50m, NW-SE	487943, 212695	92.36m	0.67-0.78m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.32-0.44m deep	-
302	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.24m-0.35m deep	-
303	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-



Overview of Trench 3, looking north-west Fig 14

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
4	1.8mx 50m, NW-SE	487937, 212686	92.28m	0.39 – 0.56m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.25m-0.36m deep	-
402	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.13m-0.26m deep	-
403	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-



Overview of Trench 4, looking north-west Fig 15

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
5	1.8mx 50m, E-W	487958, 212623	93.39M	0.38m- 0.51m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.26m-0.35m deep	-
502	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.12m-0.22m deep	-
503	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-



Overview of Trench 5, looking east Fig 16

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
6	1.8mx 50m, NW-SE	488006, 212592	94.05M	0.53-0.58m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.30m deep	-
602	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.23m-0.28m deep	-
603	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-
604	Fill of 605	Soft mid-brown-grey silty clay	-	Pot sherd
605	Cut	Cut of ditch	-	-



Overview of Trench 6, looking north-east Fig 17

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
7	1.8mx 50m, SE-NW	488073, 212631	94.361m	0.60-0.75m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Soft dark brown, silty clay	0.30m deep	-
702	Subsoil	Soft light brown-grey silty clay	0.30m-0.45m deep	-
703	Natural	Soft light grey-yellow clay	-	-
704	Fill of 706	Soft light brown-grey silty clay, few small flint pebbles	0.76m wide, 0.17m deep	-
705	Fill of 706	Soft light grey-orange silty clay, small flint pebbles	0.62m wide, 0.09m deep	-
706	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, SE-NW aligned, U- shaped, uneven base	0.76m wide, 0.26m deep	-



Overview of Trench 7, looking north-west Fig 18

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
8	1.8mx50m, NE-SW	488160, 212538	96.26m	0.45m- 0.56m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Soft dark brown silt	0.26m-0.34m deep	-
802	Subsoil	Soft yellow-orange silty clay	0.18m-0.22m deep	-
803	Natural	Soft light yellow-white clay with an orange tint	-	-
804	Fill of 805	Soft grey silty clay, some small pebbles	0.32m wide, 0.15m deep	-
805	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, NW-SE aligned, U-shaped with steep sides and narrow base	0.32m wide, 0.15m deep	-



Overview of Trench 8, looking south-west Fig 19

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
9	1.8m x 50m NE-SW	488045, 212570	94.91m	0.42m- 0.79m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	Topsoil	Soft dark-brown silty clay	0.20m-0.35m deep	-
902	Subsoil	Light brown-grey soft silty clay	0.22m-0.44m deep	-
903	Natural	Soft light yellow-white clay with an orange tint	-	-
904	Fill of 906	Soft dark brown-grey silty clay, few small flint pebbles	0.46m wide, 0.10m deep	-
905	Fill of 906	Soft mid-brown silty clay. few small flint pebbles	0.83m wide, 0.15m deep	-
906	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, E-W aligned, very broad U-shaped ditch, even flat base	0.83m wide, 0.17m deep	-



Overview of Trench 9, looking north-east Fig 20

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
10	1.8m x 50m W-E	487996, 212512	94.89m	0.53m- 0.80m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Soft dark-brown silty clay	0.27m-0.42m deep	-
1002	Subsoil	Light brown-grey soft silty clay	0.25m-0.38m deep	-
1003	Natural	Soft light yellow-white clay	-	-



Overview of Trench 10, looking east Fig 21

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
11	1.8m x 50m NW-SE	488054,212465	96.20m	0.44m- 0.47m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Soft dark-brown silty clay	0.20m-0.22m deep	-
1102	Subsoil	Light brown-grey soft silty clay	0.25m deep	-
1103	Natural	Soft light yellow-white clay	-	-



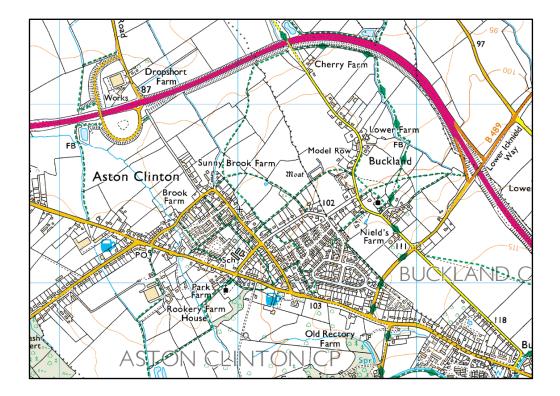
Overview of Trench 11, looking south-east Fig 22

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
12	1.8m x 50m NE-SW	488148, 212512	96.66m	0.43m- 0.51m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Soft dark-brown silt	0.34m-0.37m deep	-
1202	Subsoil	Soft yellow-white silty clay	0.09m-0.14m deep	-
1203	Natural	Soft yellow-white clay	-	-
1204	Fill of 1206	Soft dark-brown-grey silty clay	0.79m wide, 0.12m deep	-
1205	Fill of 1206	Soft mid-brown-yellow silty clay, some flint pebbles	0.79m wide, 0.26m deep	-
1206	Cut	Cut of Linear ditch, E-W aligned, V- shaped with a steeper S side, narrow base	0.80m wide, 0.39m deep	-



Overview of Trench 12, looking south-west Fig 23

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth of natural
13	1.8m x 50m SE-NW	488076, 212695	94.70m	0.86m – 0.88m deep
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Soft dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules	0.17m-0.30m deep	-
1302	Subsoil	Mid-grey-brown silty clay with occasional small flint nodules	0.19m-0.26m deep	-
1303	Natural	Light orange-grey silty clay with rare flint nodules	-	-
1304	Fill of 1305	Firm mid-grey-brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular flint nodules	0.82m wide, 0.21m deep	Pot sherd, animal bone
1305	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, E-W aligned with sloping sides and rounded base	0.82m wide, 0.21m deep	-
1306	Fill of 1307	Firm mid-grey-brown silty clay, occasional small flints	1.02m wide, 0.45m deep	-
1307	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, E-W aligned with sloping sides and rounded base	1.02m wide, 0.45m deep	-
1308	Fill of 1309	Firm mid-grey-brown silty clay with occasional flints	1.03m wide, 0.46m deep	-
1309	Cut of ditch	Cut of linear ditch, E-W aligned, sloping sides and rounded base	1.03m wide, 0.46m deep	-









MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 809 800 www.mola.org.uk mmuldowney@mola.org.uk