

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north-east of Malvern Worcestershire September 2016

Report No. 16/190

Author: Adam Reid Illustrator: Olly Dindol



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MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN

www.mola.org.uk sparry@mola.org.uk

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Project Manager: Adam Yates

Author: Adam Reid Illustrator: Olly Dindol

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MOLA Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BN 01604 809800 <u>www.mola.org.uk</u> sparry@mola.org.uk

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STAFF

Project Manager	Adam Yates BA MCIfA
Text Illustrator	Adam Reid BSc MSc Olly Dindol BSc
Fieldwork	Adam Reid Ryszard Molenda Guillaume Gutel BA MA
Pottery	Phil Mills BSc PhD MCIfA
Charred plant remains	Karen Stewart BA MSc

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS No: molanort1-2686	65	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench eve east of Malvern, Worcesters	valuation on land to the north- hire, September 2016	
Summary	MOLA (Musuem of London Archaeology) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north- east of Malvern, Worcestershire. Nineteen trenches were excavated. Archaeological features, comprising ditches, pits and gullies were identified in five trenches within the development area, with the majority of features located in Trench 13, close to the centre of the site. At least four of the features can be dated to the Roman period, but many features remain undated at this time. Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were located in three trenches. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features.		
Project type	Trial Trench evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (RI 2016)	PS 2015) Geophysics (GSB	
Current land use	Arable/ pasture field		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/period	Romano-British ditches		
Significant finds	Romano-British pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Worcestershire		
Site address	Worcester Road, Malvern		
Postcode	WR14 1BD		
OS co-ordinates	SO 7916 4895		
Area (sq m/ha)	51.98ha		
Height aOD	c 49-55m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archive and	Archaeology Service	
Project Design originator	RPS		
Director/Supervisor	Adam Reid, MOLA Northam		
Project Manager	Adam Yates, MOLA Northan	npton	
Sponsor or funding body	RPS		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19/09/2016		
End date	29/09/2016		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content	
Physical		Pottery	
Paper	Worcester (WSM68010) Site records; background data, photographs; plans and sections on permatrace		
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Unpublished client report (MC		
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north- east of Malvern, Worcestershire, September 2016		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north-east of Malvern, Worcestershire September 2016

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north east of Malvern, Worcestershire. Nineteen trenches were excavated. Archaeological features, comprising ditches, pits and gullies were identified with the majority of features located in the central part of site. At least four of the features can be dated to the Roman period, but many features remain undated. Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were located in three trenches. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development, on behalf of their clients Gleeson Strategic Land and Welbeck Land, to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land to the north-east of Malvern, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79160 48950, Fig 1).

Outline planning permission is being applied for a sustainable mixed-use urban extension comprising: up-to 800 dwellings; commercial development (Class B uses); a primary school; a mixed use local centre (comprising Class A uses including local retail facilities and public house, Class C2 use, care home, and Class D1 uses including a community hall and police post); open space and landscaping; playing fields, a multi-use games area, and children's play areas; allotments land; cemetery land; wildlife area; diverted public rights of way; and associated infrastructure (Planning application ref: 15/01625/OUT), although the scheme is in the process of being revised.

The evaluation work followed on from a desk-based assessment (RPS 2015) and geophysical survey (GSB Prospection Ltd 2016). The requirements and methodology were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS (RPS 2016) in response to a brief produced by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS 2016).

MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation, and all works were undertaken according to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b). The evaluation conformed to the current best archaeological practice as defined in the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015) and with regional guidelines (WAAS 2012).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development area is located to the north- east of Malvern, lying between the A449 Worcester Road and the Malvern to Worcester rail link.

The proposed development area covers some 51.98ha and consists of a relatively level site subdivided into a series of fields comprising roughly equal areas of meadow, rough pasture and arable. Surrounding land to the south and south- west consists of areas of medium to dense residential development along both sides of the A449 and the Lower Howsell Road. Further north along the A449 and Stocks Lane, residential ribbon development is more dispersed and adjacent land use is either agricultural or open common. The proposed development area is bounded to the north and west by the Malvern to Worcester rail link, to the east by development and Stocks Lane and to the south by development and the A449 road.

The published geology of the proposed development area comprises underlying bedrock of Mercian mudstone and siltstone skerries, this is overlain by fine reddish silty clay soils of the Brockhurst 1 Association (SSEW 1983) (BGS 2016).

2.2 Previous archaeological work

A Desk-based Assessment of the development area was undertaken in 2015 by RPS, and is reproduced below.

Prehistoric and Roman

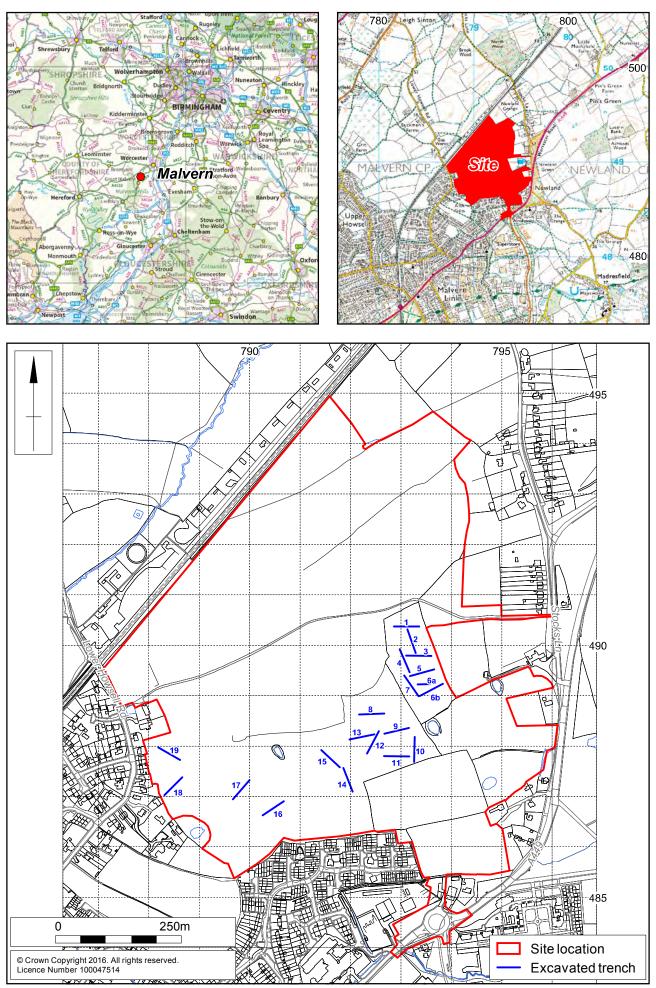
There is limited recorded evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

One piece of worked flint was found in a garden at Haynes Court, Lower Howsell Road (WSM29903) and prehistoric finds assemblages from various locations in the wider area are recorded by the HER (WSM03869).

In the wider area, Bronze Age artifacts have been recorded at prehistoric sites on the Worcester and Hereford Beacons, North Hill and End Hill. A Middle Bronze Age spear was found during metal detecting in the area (WSM63387). There are no records from the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the proposed development area.

There is a substantial body of evidence to suggest a significant level of Romano-British industrial activity in areas surrounding site and within the boundaries of the development area itself.

One of the earliest indications that the lands around Malvern Link, Lower Howsell, Leigh Sinton and Newlands were an important centre of pottery production during the Roman period came from a site of the former Hygienic Laundry in Yates Hay Road, Malvern Link, *c* 1km south-west of the proposed development area, where considerable quantities of pottery associated with a kiln site were discovered in 1887 (Peacock 1967, 18).



Scale 1:7500

Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1

Further evidence for Romano-British pottery activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area came from excavations carried out in 1955 at Queen Elizabeth Road and Duke of Edinburgh Way, where a substantial quantity of pottery sherds indicative of a kiln site were recovered 0.25km south-west (WSM09317, WSM32128).

Excavations at Grit Farm (WSM40433, WSM04585) and east of Buckman's Farm (WSM40425, WSM01315), *c* 0.8km and 0.25km northwest of the proposed development area respectively, were conducted during the 1960s and provided further evidence for Romano-British pottery kilns. Although the area of excavation at Buckman's Farm had been extensively ploughed during the past, trenches revealed surviving features cut into the underlying Keuper Marl, comprising post holes, ditches and kiln remains along with pottery and charcoal-rich fills (Water 1976).

Surface finds of Romano-British pottery sherds and kiln waste were collected from two sub-circular scatters at Newland Hopfield (WSM04072) in 1960 at a site is located 0.5km south of the proposed development area boundary. Geophysical survey, archaeological evaluation and excavation in the general area of these earlier finds were subsequently carried out in the early 1990s prior to development (WSM37534, WSM30130-30132). Although much of the overall 1.45ha site had been destroyed by ploughing, evidence for a Romano-British settlement and pottery-, glass- and metalworking areas were identified. The report notes that the excavated areas "do not represent the core areas of Roman activity and a more widespread Romano-British landscape should be envisaged" (Evans and Jones 1998, 61).

Pottery and kiln waste were recovered close to the southern boundary of the proposed development area during pipe laying activities in 1978 (WSM01510, WSM41464), while fieldwalking and limited excavation in fields to the west of the Swan Inn and within the proposed development area provided evidence for a further possible kiln site (WSM40429, WSM08228, WSM04073). This cluster of pottery production sites around Upper and Lower Howsell provides evidence for a large scale and extensive Romano-British pottery industry, which appears to have operated between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. The various pottery production sites so far identified, both within and surrounding the proposed development area, represent the largest group of Severn Valley ware kilns found so far.

Medieval

Before the Norman Conquest the hamlets of Upper and Lower Howsell and parts of Malvern Link, including much of the land within proposed development area, lay in the parish of Leigh, held by the abbey of Pershore, while Newland, Madresfield and southern parts of Malvern Link were all part of the parish of Powick. While there is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the immediate area, a charter of AD 972 defined the boundaries of the parish of Powick and refers to cultivated land on the northern boundary of the parish, indicating some form of agriculture and/or possible settlement (Smith 1978, 17). The name 'Link', which was in use by the 13th century, is probably Saxon in origin, derived from 'hlinc,' referring to the lower slopes of the Malverns (Mawer & Stenton 1927, 220), while the various former spellings of Howsell may have originated from Old French for Hugh's Hill. The name Malvern is derived from the Welsh for 'bare hill' – Moel-Bryn (ibid.)

Great Malvern and the Link are not listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but by 1074 William I had already defined the whole area of Malvern Forest as a chase reserved for hunting and subject to Forest Law (LDA 1993,10). A monastery is said to have been founded in Great Malvern by Edward the Confessor prior to the Conquest,

and the site of the Benedictine Priory was later confirmed by William I. During the reign of Henry I the Manor of Newland was also granted to Malvern Priory (Page 1924, 10). The Royal Forest of Malvern Chase extended as far north as Malvern Link and continued to be administered as such until the 17th century.

There is a small area of ridge and furrow recorded in the HER some 400m northwest of the proposed development area to the south of Great Buckman's Farm (WSM31003), although Google Earth indicates that most ridge and furrow in the wider area had been ploughed down by 1945. The available evidence, including from later mapping, suggests that the lands within the proposed development area consisted of common grazing land bordering on the northern boundaries of Malvern Chase during the later medieval period.

Post-medieval

The picture of settlement and activity in the wider area during the early post-medieval period was presumably similar to that of the later medieval period, when aerial photographs dating from the 1940s shown on Google Earth indicate that much of the area was apparently being used for arable farmland.

A number of early buildings survive in the wider area including a pair of 17th century timber-framed cottages (132 and 136 Lower Howsell Road, list entry numbers 1302775 and 1082773 respectively) and a 17th century timberframed thatched cottage (The cottage, List entry number 1082774), all on the east side of lower Howsell road. Two further 17th century timber framed cottages are located further south along lower Howsell Road, 79 Lower Howsell Road List entry number 1032776), and 91 Lower Howsell Road List entry number 1082775). All of these buildings are listed at Grade II.

The Ordnance Survey surveyors plan of 1812 shows the proposed development area as being a series of enclosed agricultural fields. The settlement at Lower Howsell is shown, as are buildings at Newland.

The Leigh Tithe map of 1839 provides greater detail than the OS plan of 27 years previously and records all of the land comprising the proposed development area prior to the arrival of the Great Western railway. The proposed development area is shown subdivided into a series of straight sided but irregular-shaped enclosures of varying sizes, probably indicative of gradual piecemeal enclosure of former common pasture. A number of the enclosures within the proposed development area are listed as orchards in the accompanying Tithe Award and apart from the numerous ponds no other features are marked within the proposed development area apart from a building and pond within a small enclosure at NGR 379350 248822.

The Swan Inn is shown on the Newland Tithe map of 1841. The very small parts of Newland to the west of Worcester Road are shown as orchards or buildings on this map. The first edition OS 1:2500 map of 1887 records the field boundaries marked on the 1839 tithe map surviving virtually unchanged, with several fields within the proposed development area truncated by the Great Western railway line. The cottage at NGR 379350 248822 is no longer depicted. Several of the enclosures within the proposed development are marked as orchards, while other fields include scatters of fruit trees that may indicate relict orchards. The presence of a network of footpaths crossing the centre of many of the remaining fields rather than adhering to the boundaries might suggest a pre-existing and surviving agricultural regime of orchards and pasture rather than arable cultivation within the proposed development area.

Archaeological trial trenching has recently been undertaken immediately to the south of the proposed development area in a field formerly used as allotments. No finds or features were revealed that pre-dated the 20th century (Allen Archaeology 2015).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the trial trenching evaluation were to:

- More accurately assess those remains identified by the desk-based heritage assessment and geophysical survey;
- To identify and characterise sites/ features of archaeological significance that have not been identified by the non-intrusive surveys
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, including the extent of any ground disturbance/ truncation arising from the previous use of the site, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/ alluvial deposits;
- To record any artefacts or environmental material (e.g. plant remains) that might help understand the character of activity in the area;
- To evaluate the significance of the above evidence, if present, to enable a decision to be made on whether further archaeological investigation may be required; and
- To produce a report that sets out the results of the fieldwork in a clear and comprehensive manner.

As indicated in the evaluation brief appended to the WSI (RPS 2016, 5). The results of this work will be used to establish the need for any further post-consent evaluation and/ or mitigation works that may be required. In addition the brief notes (RPS 2016, 6) that the evaluation should:

Provide sufficient information to construct a strategy for further field evaluation and/ or archaeological mitigation works if/ as required.

On this basis it is noted that further evaluation works may be required and that the County Archaeologist has confirmed any such works would take place postdetermination

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Nineteen trenches were excavated in the proposed development area (Fig 1). All trenches measured 50m in length and 2m wide, with the exception of trenches 10, 13 and 18 which were shortened to avoid footpaths, hedges and fence lines. Trench 14 was rotated about its south-eastern end to a north-south alignment to avoid a public footpath. An additional 25m length of trench was excavated to the south of Trench 6 due to human error. Trenches 1 to 7 were located in the area previously investigated by Peacock (1967), and were placed to target anomalies that had been identified from the geophysical data (GSB 2016). The other trenches were located in the western part of the development area, targeting geophysical anomalies.

Trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal archaeological features or natural substrate. All trenches were

backfilled with their up-cast material and were then lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines (MOLA 2014).

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014) and the WSI (RPS 2016). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence assigned to each trench. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.All trench locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of \pm 0.05m. A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015) and the WSI (RPS 2016).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The sequence of soils varied little across the site, comprising natural, subsoil and topsoil. The natural substrate comprised firm red-brown silty clay across the eastern part of the development area (Trenches 1 to 7) and a mixture of light orange-yellow silty sands and gravels elsewhere. Both variations were exposed between 0.36m and 0.53m below the present ground surface and were overlain by mid red-brown or orange-brown sandy silt subsoil, which had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. The topsoil comprised dark grey-brown clayey, sandy silt, between 0.19m and 0.43m thick.

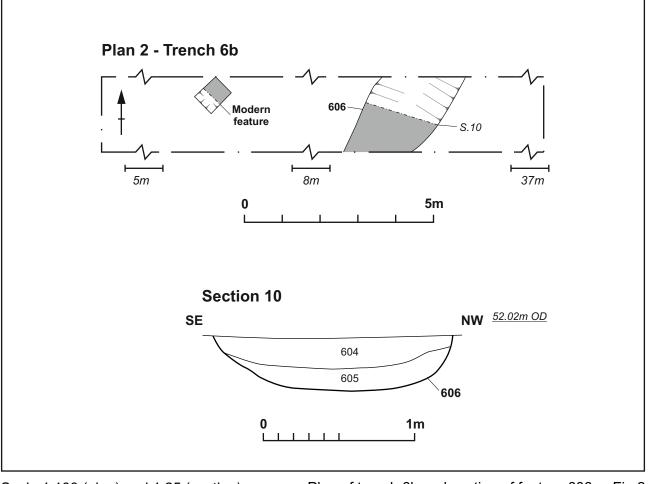
All features were cut into the natural and were overlain by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

5.2 The archaeological remains

Archaeological features, comprising ditches, pits and gullies were identified across the development area, with the majority of features located in Trench 13, close to the centre of site. At least four of the features can be dated to the Roman period, but many features remain undated at this time.

5.3 Roman-British period activity

Only one archaeological feature was identified in the field on the eastern side of the development area, which had previously been investigated by Peacock (1967). Ditch [606] measured 1.59m wide, 0.35m deep and was aligned north-east to south-west. It had a wide U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and wide concave base, with fills derived from the local silty clay natural (Figs 2 and 3). The lower fill was sandier, and appears to have formed as a result of waterborne silting. Pottery dating to the Roman period was recovered from both fills.



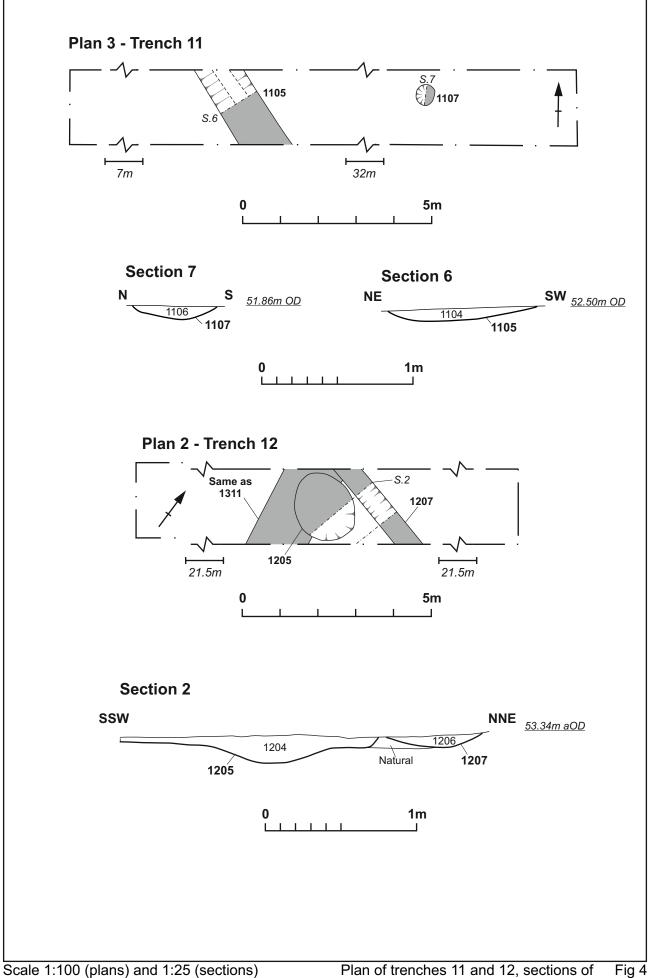
Scale 1:100 (plan) and 1:25 (section) Plan of trench 6b and section of feature 606 Fig 2

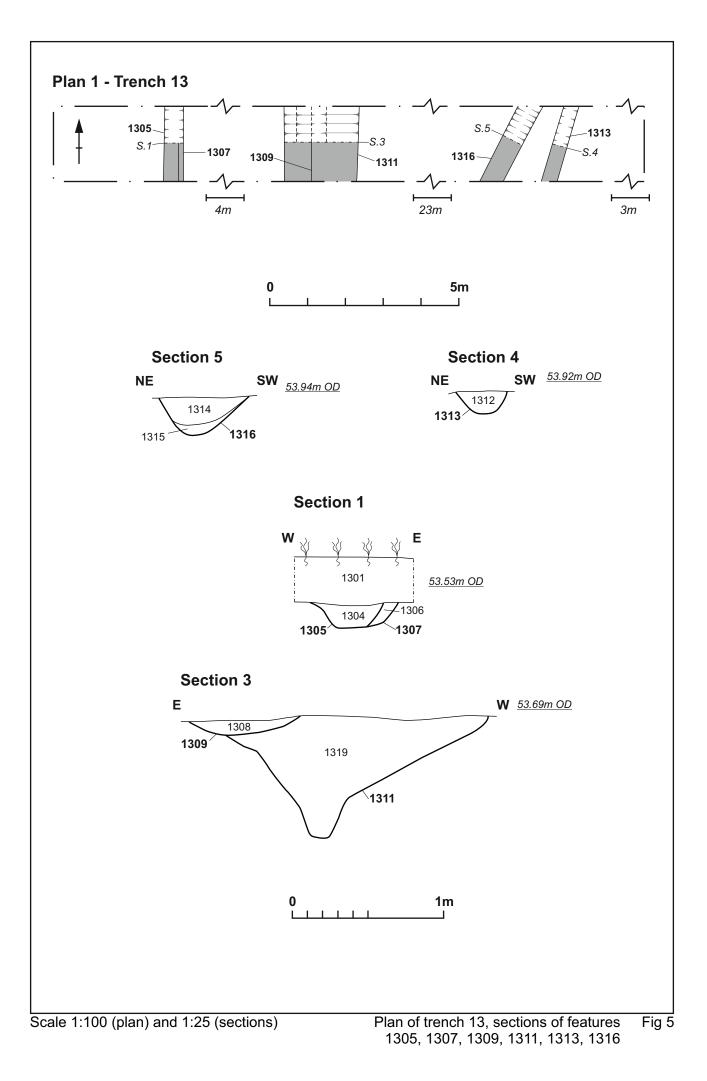


Trench 6, ditch [606], looking south-west Fig 3

A shallow elliptical pit [1205] (Fig 4), aligned roughly north-west to south-east, was located in Trench 12 (Fig 5). It measured 1.63m long by 1.50m wide and was 0.18m deep. It had a wide irregular profile and was filled with a deposit mostly comprised of large pieces of stone, which may represent deliberate backfill. The deposit contained a small quantity of early Roman pottery. A gully [1207], aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, lay directly to the north of pit [1205]. The feature had a shallow, gently curving profile measuring 0.70 wide and 0.09m deep. No finds were recovered from its gravelly silty clay fill (1206) although a Roman date is likely. A continuation of ditch 1311 (seen in Trench 13 to the north, described below), was also noted. This was cut by Pit [1205] but was otherwise unexcavated in this trench.

Ditch [1311] in Trench 13 (Figs 5 and 6),was aligned north to south and measured 1.75m wide, 0.82m deep. It had a wide, moderately steeply sloped profile, which tapered down to a narrow flat base, *c* 0.20m wide. The ditch fill comprised silty clay (1310), which appeared to have formed as a gradual accumulation and contained a large quantity of early to middle Romano-British pottery. The ditch was cut on its eastern side by a later gully [1309], which had the same orientation and measured 0.75m wide and 0.10m deep. The feature had a shallow and wide gently curving profile, with a concave base. A firm silty clay fill had accumulated in the feature, which contained no finds.







Trench 13, Gully [1309] and ditch [1311], looking south

Fig 6

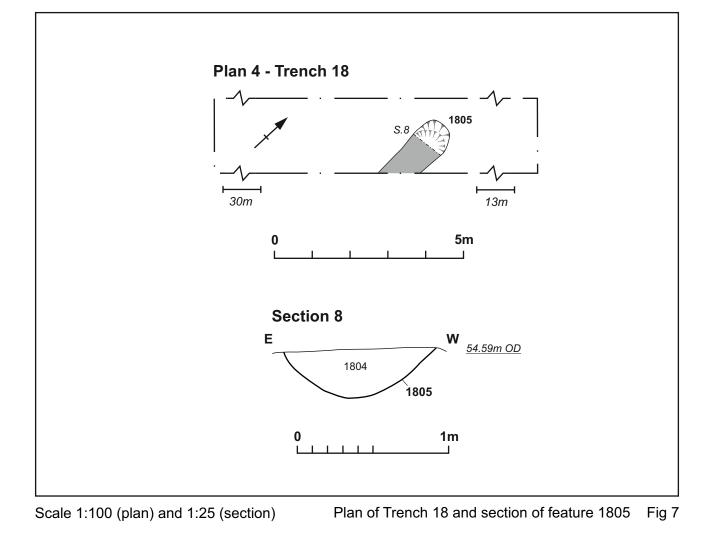
At the eastern end of Trench 13 there were two curvilinear features [1313] and [1316] (Fig 5). The features were aligned approximately north-west to south-east and were spaced less than 1m apart. Ditch [1316] was the more substantial of the two, measuring 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep with a V-shaped profile. At least two deposits of silty clay had accumulated in the feature (1314) and (1315), the upper of which (1314) contained pieces of charcoal and fired clay. Ditch [1313] measured 0.35m wide by 0.15m deep and had a gently curving rounded profile. Its silty clay fill (1312) contained much less organic material than the fills of [1316]. Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill of ditch [1313], and although ditch [1316] did not produce any artefacts, a Roman date seems likely.

5.4 Undated features

In Trench 11 35m to the east of furrow [1105] (see below), there was a small circular pit [1107] (Fig 4). The feature had a 0.55m diameter and measured 0.08m deep, with a gently sloping concave profile. It was filled with gravelly sandy silt (1106), from which no finds were recovered.

At the eastern end of Trench 13 (Fig 5) there were two intercutting ditches [1305] and [1307], which were aligned north to south. Ditch [1305] measured 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep and was the earlier of the two features. It had a firm sandy clay fill (1304), which contained no finds. Ditch [1307] had a truncated width of 0.10m, and appeared to have been cut to a similar depth to [1305]. It was filled with a deposit of mid yellow-brown silty clay, which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and fired clay.

Trench 18, at the western limit of the development area, located the terminal of a north to south aligned linear feature [1805] (Fig 7). It measured 1.03m wide, 0.34m deep and had a visible length of at least 1.93m. It had a U-shaped profile with moderately sloping sides and a regular concave base. Its single fill comprised firm dark brown-grey silty clay (context), which appeared to have formed as a gradual silting and contained no finds.



5.5 Furrows

Furrows were encountered in Trenches 3, 6a, 9 and 11. These were oriented north to south and spaced between 2m to 4m apart. An example was sectioned in Trench 11 [1105 (Fig 4). It had a wide, gently sloping profile with an irregular to flat base. It measured slightly over a metre wide and 0.08m deep and had friable clayey silt fill. No finds were recovered from the furrow.

6 THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY by Phil Mills

6.1 Introduction

There were 183 sherds, weighing 7471g with a minimum number of rims (MNR) of 9 presented for assessment. This was made up of 179 sherds weighing 7376g with an MNR of 8 from stratified deposits. This includes three probable fragments of briquatage: two from (1308) and one from (1313). A full catalogue is included as Table 1 and a concordance of fabric types as Table 2.

6.2 Dating

The briquatage includes a possible parallel to Barfield 2006 Fig 93 no 3. It is all in a very coarse sandy fabric which could be of LIA or later date (Barfield 2006 fabric 1).

There are a number of Malvernian handmade stone tempered ware vessels (Tomber and Dore MAL RE). These include two examples of tubby cooking pots from (1310) of C1- C2 date, with another example of the same date range from (1204). There was a possible complete profile of a Malvernian stone tempered jar of form Peacock 1967 nos 13-14 from (604). This is likely to be of 2nd century date.

The most common pottery fabric was Severn valley oxidised ware (Tomber and Dore 1998 SVW OX). There were 5 wide mouth jars of type Webster 1976 No 21, of mid to late 2nd century date from (1310). There was a further SVW wide mouth jar of form Webster 1976 type 24 of late 2nd to 3rd century date from (902).

The focus of material around Trench 13 is of mid to later 2nd century date with perhaps a slightly later hint of activity near Trench 9.

6.3 Taphonomy

The material from Trench 6is all from ditch deposits. The material from Trench 9 was all recovered from subsoil. The material from Trench 12 is all from pit deposits. The material from Trench 13 is 97% from ditches and 3% from gullies.

Whilst the small quantity of material means that these figures needed to be treated with caution there is nothing to suggest that this material derives from anything other than a basic level rural site.

The large sherd size overall and possible almost complete profile from (604) may indicate structured deposition but there is not enough evidence from the current assemblage to support this.

6.4 Supply

Class G, gritted wares, made up 24% by No of sherds of the assemblage, and comprised mainly handmade Malvernian rock tempered fabric, with a small amount of briquatage.

Class O, at 76% mainly comprises Severn valley wares and these proportions seem to be what would be expected for the area.

6.5 Functional analysis

As there are only 8 stratified rims the functional analysis cannot be rigorously investigated although there is a high level of wide mouth jars (71% of the rims) for such an assemblage, with the rest being medium mouth jars. Again, there is nothing to contradict a basic rural settlement.

6.6 Discussion

This is a small group of pottery and briquatage which seems typical for a rural site in the region. The bulk of the material is concentrated around trench 13 and would appear to be of mid to late 2nd century in date. There is perhaps a slightly late shift in deposition practice given the later 2nd to 3rd century date of the vessel from Trench 9.

There is a surprisingly high level of wide mouth jars in the assemblage although this may be a product of the small number of vessels in the assemblage. It may however relate to the suggestion of pottery production in the vicinity but more evidence would be needed to check this.

The assemblage is too small to warrant any further work, however, if there is any further archaeological intervention in the site then the material should be reported on alongside any further pottery recovered.

ء	¢t	ode	Ę				-		nts	
Trench	Context	Fabric Code	Function	Form	Part	NoSh	Wt (g)	MNR	Comments	Period
12	1204	G34			Body	4	12	0		
12	1204	G34	J	Peacock 1965 no 1-9	Rim	1	9	0	Tubby Cooking pot	C2
12	1204	O00			Body	1	8	0	p	
13	1308	G00			Body	2	79	0	Briquotage as Barfiled 2006 Fig 93 no 3.	LIA+
13	1310	G34			Base	1	7	0		
13	1310	G34			Body	2	8	0		
13	1310	G34			Body	2	11	0		
13	1310	G34	J	Peacock 1965 no 1-9	Rim	1	8	1	Tubby Cooking	C2
13	1310	G34	J	Peacock 1965 no 1-9	Rim	1	12	1	pot Tubby Cooking pot	C2
13	1310	O00			Body	36	276	0	P - 1	
13	1310	O20			Body	31	236	0		
13	1310	O20			Body	20	5520	0		
13	1310	O20			Body	36	555	0		
13	1310	O20	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 21	Rim	1	26	1		M C2 - L C2
13	1310	O20	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 21	Rim	3	93	1		M C2 - L C2
13	1310	O20	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 21	Rim	5	122	1		M C2 - L C2
13	1310	O20	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 21	Rim	2	47	1		M C2 - L C2
13	1310	O21	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 21	Rim	1	69	1		M C2 - L C2
13	1312	G00			Body	1	6	0	Briquotage	
13	1312	G34			Body	3	25	0		
6	604	G34		Peacock 1965 no 13-14	Rim	1	97	1	HM Malvernian jar with everted straight slightly thickeing rim	C2
6	604	G34			Body	13	117	0		
6	605	G34			Body	11	33	0		

Table 1: I	Pottery	catalogue
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Trench	Context	Fabric Code	Function	Form	Part	NoSh	Wt (g)	MNR	Comments	Period
9	902	O00			Body	1	4	0		
9	902	000	WMJ	Webster 1976 no 24	Rim	1	45	1		L C2- C3
9	902	R00			Body	2	46	0		

 Table 2: Fabric concordance

Fabric	National Code	Worcester code	Nosh	Wt	MNR
G00		5.1	3	85	0
G34	MAL RE A	3	40	339	2
O00		13	39	333	1
O20	SVW OX	12	99	6568	5
R00		14	2	46	0
Ν			183	7471	8

7 THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS by Karen Stewart

Introduction/methodology

During evaluation at Malvern two environmental samples were taken for the retrieval of archaeobotanical and other organic remains in order to assess their potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site. The samples were {1} taken from [1314] and {2} taken from [605], both ditch fill deposits.

The samples were processed by flotation, using a Siraf flotation tank, with meshes of 0.25mm and 1.00mm to catch the flots and residues respectively. The flots and residues were dried and sorted by eye for artefacts and environmental material. The flots were scanned briefly, using a low-powered binocular microscope, and the abundance, diversity and character (method of preservation, unusual features) of plant macrofossils and any faunal or artefactual remains were recorded. The following scale was used to record this material:

• Abundance + = 1–10 items, ++ = 11–50, +++ = 50+ items

Results

Plant material was preserved by charring. Results are summarised in Table 1 below.

Charred remains

Charcoal was recovered from both samples. In sample {1} [1314] there was a significant volume (c 40 ml) of charcoal fragments but these were all quite small (generally lesss than 1 cm³). Included in the assemblage were small shoots/stems and buds. Charred parenchymatous tissue which may derive from charred tubers was also recorded in low volumes. The charred material was quite abraded and encrusted with sediment.

In sample {2} [605] very small fragments of charred wood were recorded in low volumes.

General discussion

Sample {1} [1314] may represent waste from an industrial process, given the presence of both charcoal and slag within the assemblage. However the assemblage was very small and abraded and may represent secondary deposition. The encrustation of the charred fragments could indicate fluctuating water levels in the feature following deposition.

The material from sample {2} [605], given the very low volumes of charcoal and presence of worm egg sacs (see Table 1), is unlikely to be of any archaeological significance, with the charcoal more likely to be the result of silting or bioturbation than purposeful activity.

Potential of the material

The assemblages from the samples have little potential to add to the interpretation of archaeology at the site, though charcoal from {1} [1314] is suitable for radiocarbon dating.

				Woo	Wood charcoal		Charred scellaneous	Mis	scellaneous
Sample	Context	Description	Flot vol. (ml)	Amount	Comment	Amount	Comment	Amount	Comment
1	1314	Ditch fill	50	+++	Includes buds and very young stems	+	Tuber/pare nchymatou s tissue frags	+	Very small vesicular frags
2	605	Ditch fill	5	+	-	-	-	+	Worm egg sacs

Table 3: Composition of samples

8 DISCUSSION

It was anticipated that there was a medium to high potential for archaeological remains associated with the production of pottery during the Roman period (Peacock 1967, WAAS 2016). Although the geophysical anomalies (GSB 2016) corresponded with cut features dating to the Roman period, no clear evidence of activity related to pottery production was identified. The geophysical report had previously suggested that the two anomalies identified as possible spreads of burnt/fired material were of a low order of confidence, and may not have been considered as such without prior knowledge of the site.

Three trenches, 6, 12 and 13 contained features which were dateable through pottery to the Roman period. Together, these features indicate Roman activity, perhaps involving settlement in the east and central parts of the proposal site.

Undated cut features were also present in Trenches 11 and 18. Other features seen during the evaluation represented medieval or later ploughing.

The physical archive will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire. Ashort summary will be provided to West Midlands Archaeology and a digital copy of the report provided to ADS.

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MOLA Northampton November 2016

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m E-W	379286, 249037	49.14m	0.53m 48.61m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.38m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Friable light brown-orange clayey silt.	0.15m thick	-
103	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with grey mottling and occasional small rounded pebbles	-	-



Trench 1 general view looking west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (SE end)	Surface height, SE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m NW-SE	379329, 248984	49.98m	0.41m 49.57m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.31m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown clayey silt.	0.10m thick	-
203	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with grey mottling.	-	-



Trench 2 general view looking north-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m E-W	379311, 248979	50.45m	0.46m 49.99m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.31m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Friable light brown-orange clayey silt.	0.15m thick	-
303	Natural	Firm dark brown-red silty clay with patches of light grey sandy clay. Very mixed at western end.	-	-



Trench 3 general view looking east

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50m NW-SE	379298, 248992	50.15m	0.47m 49.68m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.31m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-orange clayey silt.	0.16m thick	-
403	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow clayey sand mixed with patches of light brown-red silty clay and gravels.	-	-



Trench 4 general view looking north-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	50m E-W	379317, 248946	52.16m	0.43m 51.73m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.32m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-orange clayey silt.	0.11m thick	-
503	Natural	Firm mid red-brown silty clay tending towards clayey silt at western end.	-	-



Trench 5 general view looking west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	50m E-W	379334, 248923	52.83m	0.37m 52.46m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.28m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Friable light brown-orange clayey silt with occasional charcoal and small angular stones.	0.09m thick	-
603	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with grey mottling and occasional siltstone fragments.	-	-
604	Fill of [606]	Firm mid brown-red silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and small to large angular and sub-angular quartz and limestone.	L:2m+ W:1.59m D:0.22m	Pottery
605	Fill of [606]	Friable-firm light brown-grey clayey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and occasional large angular stones at base.	L:2m+ W:1.51m D:0.15m	Pottery, sample 2
606	Ditch	Linear feature, aligned NE to SW, with wide U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and wide concave base.	L:2m+ W:1.59m D:0.35m	-



Trench 6 general view looking west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	50m NW-SE	379306, 248940	52.53m	0.36m 52.17m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.28m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Friable-firm mid brown-orange clayey silt.	0.08m thick (maximum)	-
703	Natural	Firm mid brown-red silty clay tending towards red-grey silty clay at south-eastern end.	-	-



Trench 7 general view looking south-east

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m E-W	379217, 248940	52.53m	0.47m 52.06m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.36m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow-brown clayey silt.	0.09m thick (Maximum)	-
803	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow silty clay, which becomes chalky and sandier towards eastern end.	-	-



Trench 8 general view looking south-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	50m E-W	379267, 248825	53.65m	0.43m 53.22m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.34m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Friable light brown-yellow clayey silt.	0.09m thick	-
903	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow silty clay.	-	-



Trench 9 general view looking east

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (N end)	Surface height, N end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	50m N-S	379328, 248818	52.42m	0.51m 51.91m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.43m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Friable dark brown-grey gravelly sandy silt.	0.08m thick (maximum)	-
1003	Natural	Friable-firm mid brown-red gravelly clayey silt with frequent rounded and sub-angular stones.	-	-



Trench 10 general view looking southt

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (W end)	Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	50m E-W	379267, 248780	53.13m	0.40m 52.73m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.24m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Friable dark brown-grey gravelly clayey silt.	0.16m (maximum)	-
1103	Natural	Friable-firm mid yellow-grey sandy silt with patches of gravelly clayey silt at eastern end. Tends towards firm light grey-yellow sandy silt with clay patches at western end.	-	
1104	Fill of furrow [1105]	Firm-friable mid red-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal.	W:1m D:0.08m	-
1105	Furrow	Linear feature, aligned NW to SE with gently sloping profile, with irregular base.	W:1m D:0.08m	-
1106	Fill of pit [1107]	Firm mid brown-grey gravelly sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal.	L:0.55m W:0.50m D:0.08m	-
1107	Pit	Shallow circular cut with gently sloping sides and concave base.	L:0.55m W:0.50m D:0.08m	-



Trench 11 general view looking west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	50m NE-SW	379256, 248830	53.77m	0.36m 53.41m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.29m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.07m thick	-
1203	Natural	Firm mid grey-yellow silty clay with patches of root disturbance/weathering.	-	-
1204	Fill of pit [1205]	Firm orange-brown clay with frequent stones and gravel.	L:1.63m W:1.50m D:0.18m	Pottery
1205	Pit	Elliptical cut, aligned SW to NE with an irregular profile. Base was mostly flat, with a deeper concave part in the centre.	L:1.63m W:1.50m D:0.18m	-
1206	Fill of gully [1207]	Firm mid brown clay with infrequent gravel and stone.	W:0.70m D:0.09m	-
1207	Gully	Linear feature, aligned E to W, with gently curving profile and round concave base.	W:0.70m D:0.09m	-



Trench 12 general view looking north-east

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (SW end)	Surface height, SW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
13	50m NE-SW	379199, 248813	53.98m	0.41m 53.57m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.32m thick	-
1302	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-yellow sandy silt.	0.09m thick (maximum)	-
1303	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow silty clay with grey mottling.	-	-
1304	Fill of ditch [1305]	Firm light grey-brown sandy clay with frequent flecks of charcoal.	W:0.50m D:0.15m	-
1305	Ditch	N to S oriented linear feature with gently curving sides and broad base.	W:0.50m D:0.15m	-
1306	Fill of ditch [1307]	Firm mid yellow-brown clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, burnt clay and sub-angular stones.	W:0.10m D:0.15m	-
1307	Ditch	N-S aligned linear with gently curving sides and broad base.	W:0.10m D:0.15m	-
1308	Fill of ditch [1309]	Firm mid grey-brown clay with occasional stones and gravel.	W:0.75m D:0.10m	-
1309	Ditch	N-S aligned linear with gently curving sides and rounded concave base. Cuts ditch [1311]	W:0.75m D:0.10m	-
1310	Fill of ditch [1311]	Firm mid grey clay with occasional stones and gravel.	W:1.75m D:0.82m	Pottery
1311	Ditch	N-S aligned linear feature with a wide, moderately steeply sloped profile, tapering down to a narrow flat base.	W:1.75m D:0.82m	-
1312	Fill of gully [1313]	Firm light grey silty clay with moderately frequent stones and gravel.	W:0.35m D:0.15m	Pottery
1313	Gully	NW-SE aligned linear with gently curving profile and rounded concave base.	W:0.35m D:0.15m	-
1314	Fill of ditch [1316]	Firm mid brown clay with black lenses, containing occasional stones and charcoal flecks.	W:0.60m D:0.20m	Sample 1
1315	Fill of ditch [1316]	Firm mid brown-yellow clay with occasional stones and gravel.	W:0.60m D:0.07m	-
1316	Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear feature with V-shaped profile and rounded base.	W:0.45m D:0.25m	-



Trench 13 general view looking west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (N end)	Surface height, N end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
14	50m N-S	379186, 248756	54.08m	0.41m 53.76m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1401	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.33m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-orange clayey silt.	0.08m thick	-
1403	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow silty clay tending towards gravels at southern end.	-	-



Trench 14 general view looking north

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	50m NW-SE	379142, 248792	54.77m	0.38m 54.39m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1501	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.31m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Friable mid orange-brown clayey silt.	0.07m thick	-
1503	Natural	Firm light yellow-grey silty clay.	-	-



Trench 15 general view looking north-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
16	50m NE-SW	379068, 248690	53.39m	0.49m 52.90m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1601	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.35m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-orange clayey silt.	0.14m thick	-
1603	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow sandy silt with frequent gravel patches.	-	-



Trench 16 general view looking south-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
17	50m NE-SW	378999, 248733	54.43m	0.50m 53.93m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1701	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.38m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-yellow sandy silt.	0.12m thick	-
1703	Natural	Firm dark brown-orange clayey sandy gravel.	-	-



Trench 17 general view looking north-west

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NE end)	Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
18	50m NE-SW	378866, 248738	54.92m	0.44m 54.48m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1801	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.19m thick	-
1802	Subsoil	Friable mixed red silty clay and dark brown-grey clayey silt.	0.25m thick	-
1803	Natural	Firm light orange-yellow clayey sand with patches of firm mid brown-red silty clay tending towards gravel at NE end of trench.	-	-
1804	Fill of ditch terminal [1805]	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones.	L:1.93m+ W:1.03m D:0.34m	-
1805	Ditch terminal	N to S aligned linear with U- shaped profile and moderately sloping sides, with concave base.	L:1.93m+ W:1.03m D:0.34m	-



Trench 18 general view looking north-east

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (NW end)	Surface height, NW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
19	50m NW-SE	398862, 248772	55.73m	0.40m 55.33m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1901	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey sandy silt.	0.31m thick	-
1902	Subsoil	Friable mid brown-grey clayey silt.	0.09m thick	-
1903	Natural	Friable-firm light orange-yellow clayey sand. Patches of red-grey silty clay noted at NW end.	-	-



Trench 19 general view looking south-west







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