Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) March 2018

Report No.18/40

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: Olly Dindol

Project Manager: Anthony Maull
Site Code: BEDFM 2016.84
NGR: TL 010 438

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ 01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) March 2018

Project Managers: Anthony Maull

Accession Number: BEDFM 2016.84

Report No.18/40

Quality control and sign off**:**

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	05/04/2018	C.Chinnock	C.Finn	A.Maull	For client approval

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: Olly Dindol

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager:	Anthony Maull Cert Arch
Text:	Jonathan Elston
Fieldwork:	Paul Sharrock BA, MA Jonathan Elston Peter Haynes Rob Smith Harry Young BA
Pottery:	Adam Sutton BA MA
Environmental evidence:	Donna Maria Brady BA
Illustrations:	Olly Dindol BSc

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No. molanor1-312616**	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) March 2018	
Short description	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Fusion Building Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Goodman Logistics Bedford (GP) LLP, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6). The evaluation identified a small pit, gullies and a ditch dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	Heritage Statement (Albion Archaeology 2015) Environmental Impact Assessment (BartonWillmore 2016) Watching Brief Evaluation (Sharman and Kidd 2016) Heritage Statement and Settlement Assessment (Strawbridge 2017) Archaeological trial trench evaluation (IWORXS) (Elston 2018) Archaeological trial trench evaluation (Infrastructure-diversion corridor) (Elston 2018)	
Current land use	Former arable fields and woodland	
Future work	Phased trial trench evaluation	
Monument type and period	Iron Age and Roman pit, gullies and ditch	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Wootton, Marston Vale	
Post code		
OS co-ordinates	TL 010 438	
Area (sq m/ha)	*c*30ha	
Height aOD	*c* 36m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA	
Project brief originator	Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer (BBCAO)	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Sharrock (MOLA) Jonathan Elston (MOLA)	
Project Managers	Anthony Maull (MOLA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Goodman Logistics Bedford (GP) LLP	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	March 2018	
End date	March 2018	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no.)**	**Contents**
Physical	Bedfordshire Museum BEDFM 2016.84	Pottery, environmental flots
Paper		Site records , plans, sections
Digital		report, photographs, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)	
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) March 2018	
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 18/40	
Author(s)	Jonathon Elston	
Page numbers	18	
Date	05/04/2018	

Contents

Figures

Tables

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) March 2018

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Fusion Building Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Goodman Logistics Bedford (GP) LLP, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6). The evaluation identified a small pit, gullies and a ditch dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by Fusion Building Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Goodman Logistics Bedford (GP) LLP, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire (Plot 6) (TL 010 438, Fig 1). The archaeological work was carried out in advance of the proposed development of multiple light industrial, storage, and distribution business units (Outline Planning Application 17/00666/MAO).

The evaluation requirement was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2018) and was carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

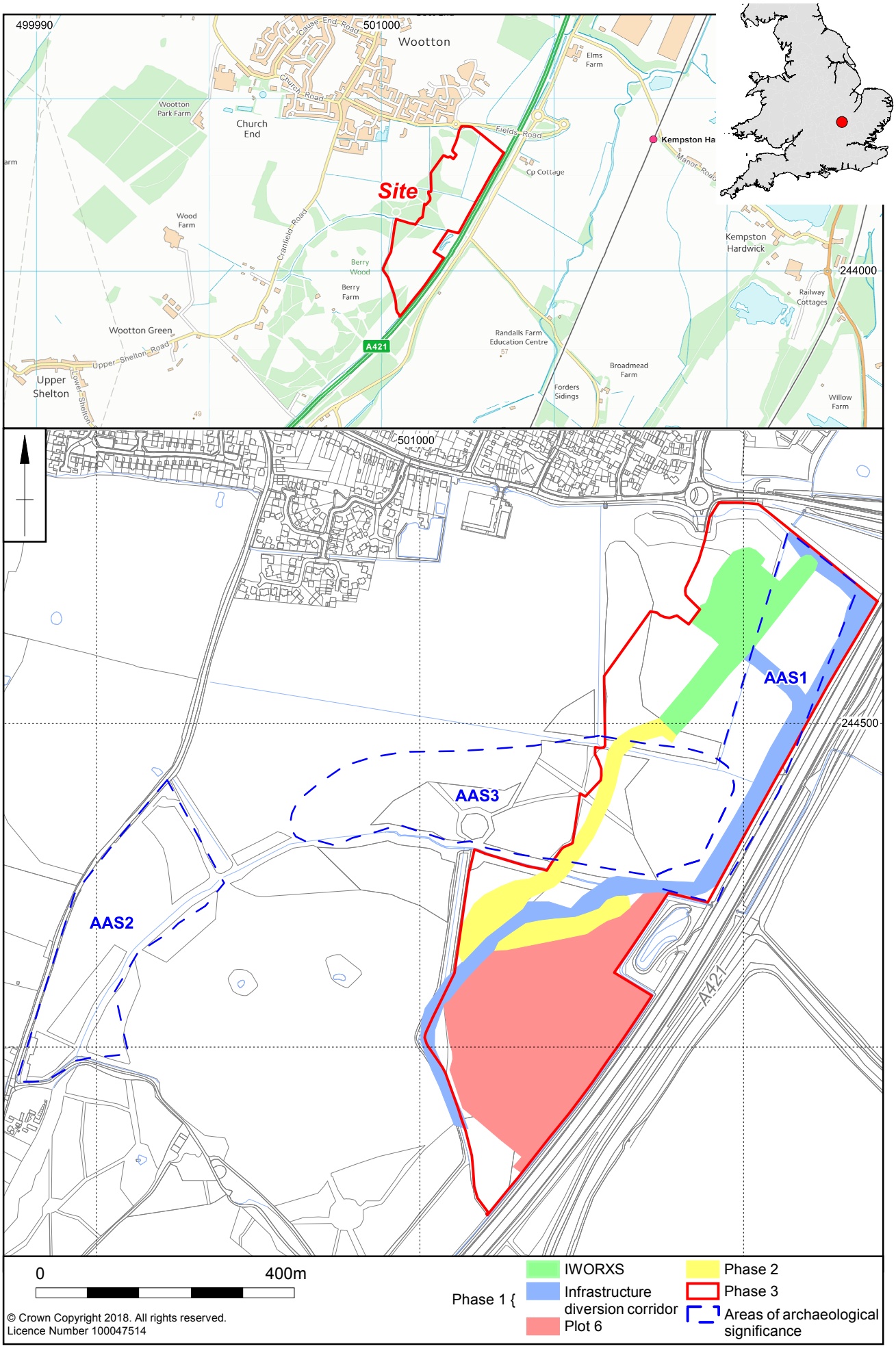
The archaeological works was undertaken in compliance with the instruction from the Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer (BBCAO).

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

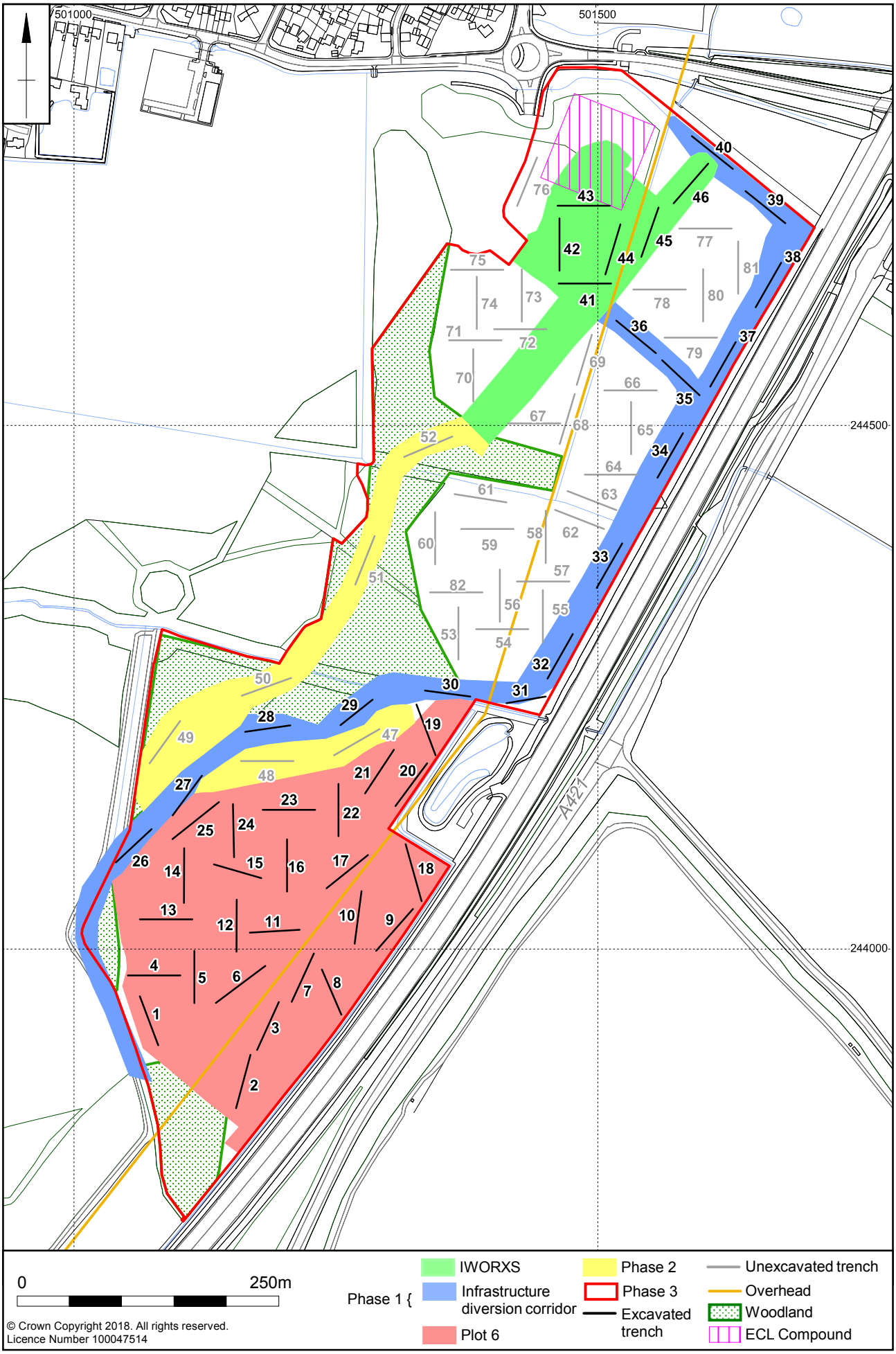
The application area lies to the south of the large village of Wootton approximately 6.5km south-west of the centre of Bedford, Bedfordshire. The site is bounded on its south-eastern border by the A421 Trunk Road and on the northern and eastern sides by a housing development which is under construction.

The development area (site) lies within the Marston Vale, a low-lying clay vale located between the valley of the Great Ouse and the Greensand Ridge. The topography of the site is fairly level, lying at around 36m above Ordnance Datum.

The area is underlain by Oxford Clay geology, with soils comprising moderate to imperfectly draining noncalcareous clays of the Rowsham Association (BGS 2018).



Scale 1:8000 Site location and phases of archaeological trial trench evaluation Fig 1



Scale 1:5000

Trench plan and phasing Fig 2

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical and Archaeological background

The current phase of archaeological works is part of a larger scheme of works investigating this area.

Previous archaeological investigations have included a Heritage Statement (Albion Archaeology 2015), trial trench evaluation including geophysical survey (Albion Archaeology 2003), and an Environmental Impact Assessment (Barton Willmore 2016). Recent work comprises a watching brief (Sharman and Kidd 2016) and a Heritage Statement and Settlement Assessment (Strawbridge 2017). Excavations as part of the A421 Corridor Road Scheme took place immediately to the east of the site (Simmonds and Welsh 2013).

In 2002 and 2003, as part of an earlier planning application which included the northern part of the site, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken to identify any extant heritage assets (Albion Archaeology 2003). The trenching concluded that the majority of the development site is of limited archaeological potential with the exception of three Areas of Archaeological Significance (AAS1-AAS3). Area AAS2 lies outside the current proposal area to the west; areas AAS1 and AAS3 fall within the bounds of the current proposal.

Further work was carried out by MOLA in AAS2 and AAS3, south-west of the development area at Marston Vale. Following initial identification by trial trenching in 2016 (Sharrock and Muldowney 2017), two mitigation areas confirmed the presence of part of a late Iron Age/early Roman rural settlement. The Iron Age activity in AAS2 comprised five circular enclosures, including three possible roundhouses, boundary ditches, pits and short linear features. The Iron Age to early Roman transition cremation cemetery in AAS3 contained 21 cremations along the eastern edge of a possible track-way of similar date (Sharrock 2017).

An archaeological watching brief carried out during geotechnical test pit work identified one linear feature, possibly a ditch, of unknown date (Sharman and Kidd 2016).

The 2015 Heritage Statement recorded that Iron Age and Roman archaeological remains within a 1–2km study area around the site included settlement remains at Marsh Leys Farm, Wootton, and to the south of the development area cropmark enclosures at Broadmead Farm in Marston Moretaine. There are also a number of farming settlements along the route of the A421 road corridor. Two medieval moated sites are known from within Wootton village. The current development area was situated within common fields during the medieval period. These were later enclosed (Albion 2015).

A more recent Heritage Statement and Settlement Assessment identified a number of listed buildings in the vicinity of the site. To the north-east of the development area is the scheduled monument of Kemptson Hardwick medieval moated site. The Wootton Conservation Area designates the medieval and post-medieval historic core of Wootton. The Stewartby Conservation Area includes the former 19th century Stewartby Brickworks and village (Strawbridge 2017).

The Phase 1 (Green- IWORXS) stage of the trial trench evaluation identified a natural pond at the northeast end of Trench 45. No archaeological features were found (Elston 2018). The next stage of works in Phase 1 (Blue, Infrastructure- diversion corridor) only identified a small Iron Age pit in Trench 36 (Elston 2018).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 *General*

The general aims of the investigation were to:

- Determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application area;
- Determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- To assess the site formation processes and effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of any archaeological features and deposits;
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions;
- To provide information to help form any mitigation strategy that may be required.

4.2 *Specific*

Specific research objectives will be drawn from national and regional research frameworks as relevant depending upon the results of the work as it progresses. During this phase of work the following research frameworks were consulted; Oake *et al* (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), and Medlycott (2011).

A site archive will be produced at the completion of all fieldwork and will be deposited with Bedfordshire Museums under Accession Number BEDFM2016.84 and included with the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

5 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation in total comprises 82 trenches that will be carried out in three separate phases (Fig 2) outlined in the WSI and agreed to by the Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer (BBCAO).

Phase 1 constitutes forty-six 50m long trenches; split into three areas allocated the colours:

- Green- (IWORXS)
- Blue- (Infrastructure-diversion corridor)
- Red- (Plot 6)

Each area will then be reported on separately as the fieldwork progresses (Fig 1).

Phase 2, the area in yellow, will commence after the relocation of the newts with Phase 3 being carried out at a later date.

This report covers Phase 1 (Red- Plot 6, Figs 2 and 3) that contained 25 trenches 50m long by 1.8m wide, numbered 1 to 25. The trenches that were moved for safety reasons were 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 17 and 18. Adjustments to four further trenches were made due to on-site conditions.

Trenches or part of trenches under an overhead power line were moved or divided as appropriate and in accordance with health and safety regulations of safe distances (see RAMS, MOLA 2018), still maintaining a length of 50m

The trenches were accurately measured in using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of ± 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.

Trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation.

All trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The machine excavated to the top of the natural geological horizon or the upper archaeological levels, whichever was the highest.

Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately on either side of the trench, at least 1m from the trench edges and were scanned by metal detector to aid the recovery of artefacts. After monitoring and approval from the monitoring officer, only the subsoil was backfilled and compacted with the excavator bucket. The topsoil was left at the side of the trench.

A photographic record on high-resolution digital images (12 megapixels) and supplemented by 35mm monochrome print film was made for all relevant deposits revealed during the programme of works. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication included a north arrow and suitable photographic scale.

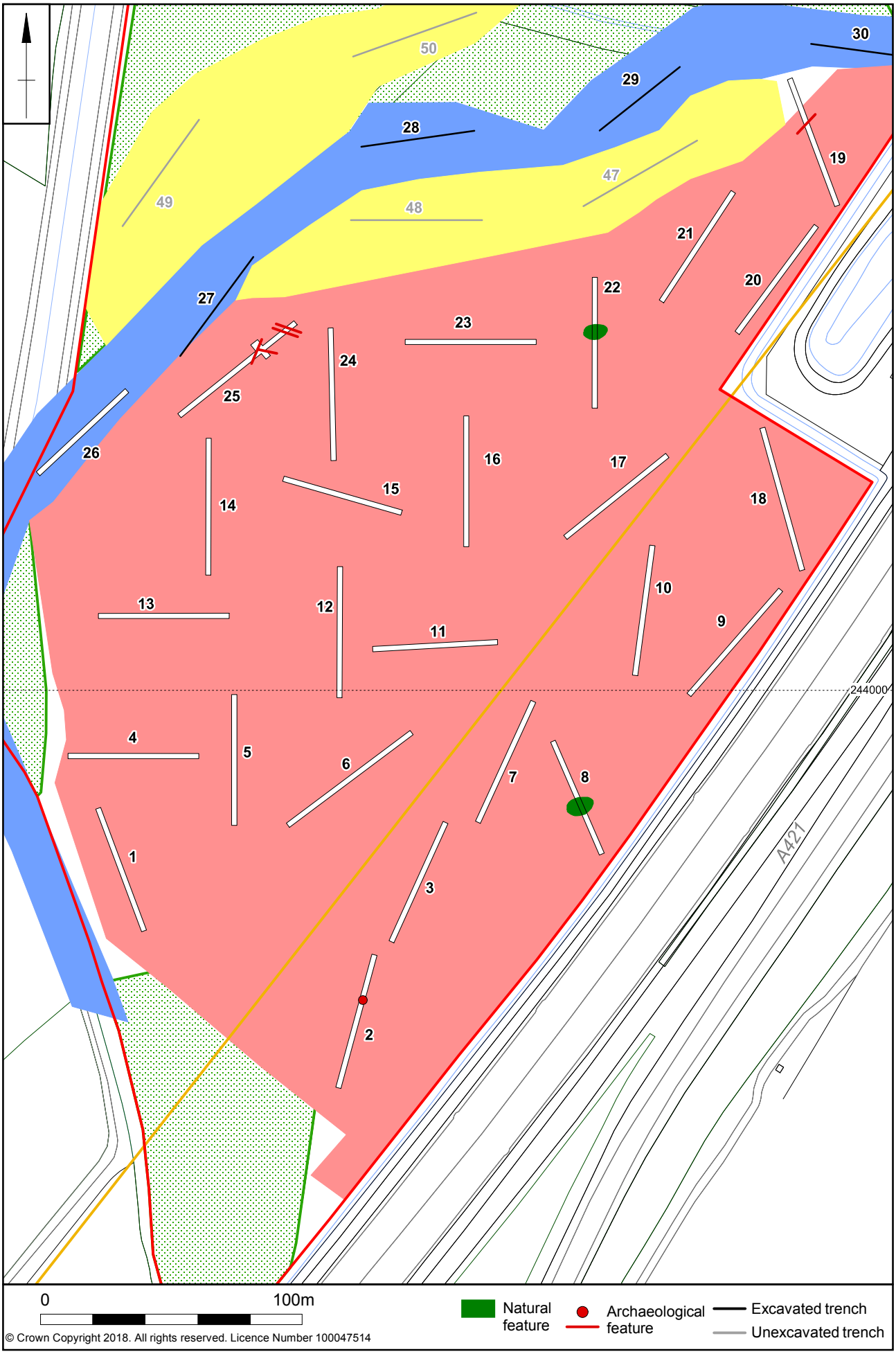
Levels in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD) were established for all trenches and excavated features using a Theodolite level from temporary bench marks (TBMs) established using GPS.

Artefacts were recovered from individual contexts and stored and packed according to type. Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (CIfA 2014c; Walker 1990; Watkinson and Neal 2001). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected. Material that comprised a large quantity of a standard product (e.g. brick or tile) was retained as a subsample representing its typical composition.

All archaeological deposits identified during the course of the evaluation were recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing in accordance with relevant guidelines (HE 2015).

All archaeological works were undertaken according to the CIfA Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a) and were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines, following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).

All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with *Historic England, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).



Scale 1:2000

Excavated trenches and features Fig 3

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

6.1 *Summary*

The natural horizon across the majority of the site comprised of mixed blue-grey clays and orange-brown sands with pockets of gravel. Subsoil was present in Trenches 26 to 37 and Trench 40, it was mid orangey-brown silty clay, approximately 0.20m thick. The topsoil was dark brown–grey silty clay that was between 0.15m and 0.32m thick (Fig 4). Features were present in Trenches 2, 8, 19, 22 and 25 (Fig 3). Three of these trenches contained archaeological features, these were Trenches 2, 19 and 25. Trench 2 contained a circular pit whilst Trench 25 contained gullies and ditches. A small quantity of pottery was recovered from some of the features. After consultation with Geoff Saunders (Archaeological Officer-Planning Services, Bedford Borough Council) a cross-extension to Trench 25 was agreed to evaluate the significance of the gullies.

Trench 19 had a ditch aligned north-east to south-west but excavation was not possible due to flooding in the field after heavy snowfall (Fig 3). The features in Trenches 8 and 22 were the result of vegetation and natural processes.

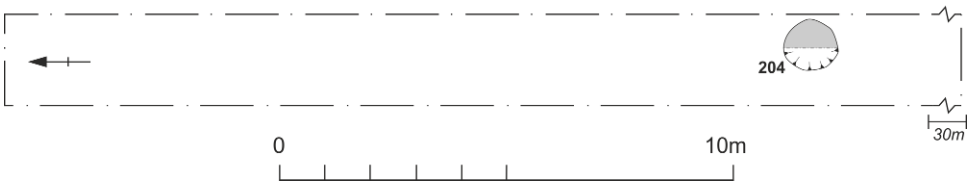
Modern ceramic field drains were present in Trenches 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 20 and 21.

No features were present in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23. Full context information is included in Appendix 1.

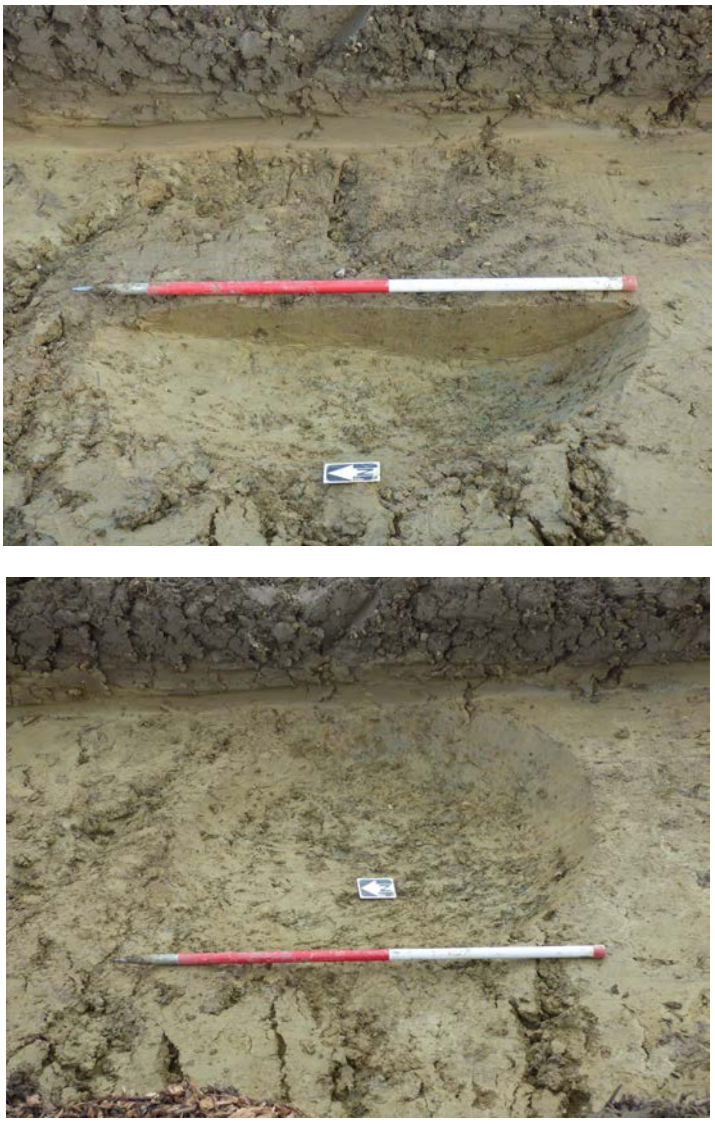
Trench 25 stratigraphy, looking north-east Fig 4

6.2 *Iron Age pit*

At the north end of Trench 2 was an isolated circular pit [205] that contained a small fragment of pottery (Fig 5 and 6). The pit had a wide shallow irregular profile and a uneven concave base that measured 1.07m wide by 0.14m deep. The fill (204) was mid brown-grey silty clay that has developed naturally through water action. A small fragment of pottery was recovered from the fill that was undiagnostic but likely Iron Age. After discussion with the County Archaeologist on site, it was decided to fully excavate the pit to maximise artefactual recovery and clarify the characteristics of the feature.



Trench 2 plan Fig 5



Pit [205] section (top) and fully excavated (bottom), looking east Fig 6

6.3 *Roman ditch and gullies*

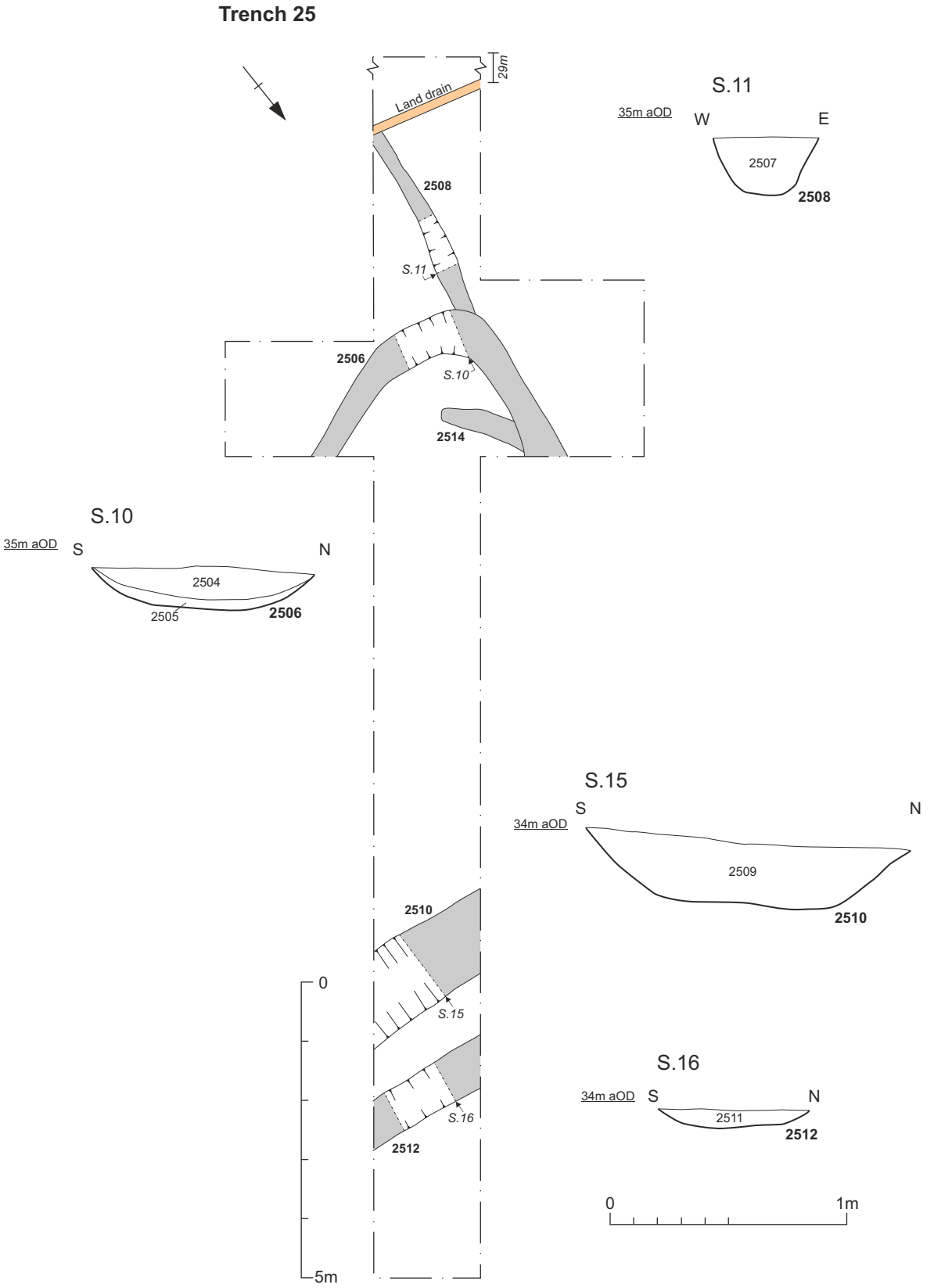
In Trench 25 there was a small concentration of archaeological features that consisted of a ditch and three gullies (Fig 7). All the features in this trench were sealed beneath mid brown-grey clay subsoil (2502) that was 0.35m thick.

Gully [2512] was aligned east to west, had a wide shallow profile and a flat base, 0.65m wide by 0.08m deep. The fill (2511) was a naturally formed mid grey silty clay with orange mottling. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill. Immediately to the south of the gully, ditch [2510] was aligned on the same orientation (Fig 8). The ditch had a wide U-shaped profile to flat base that was 1.40m wide by 0.25m deep. The fill comprised a similar material to gully [2512] and produced no datable material.

Ditch [2510] and gully [2512] looking west Fig 8

Approximately 8m to the south-west a small gully [2508] was aligned north to south and had been truncated by a later larger gully [2506]. Gully [2508] had a steep U-shaped profile that was 0.45m wide by 0.24m deep and filled by (2507), a naturally formed sterile silting deposit (Fig 9). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Gully [2506] was aligned east to west and had a wide shallow profile that was 0.95m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig 7). On the base of the gully was a thin layer of light yellow-grey clay (2505) that may have been stained geology. The main fill overlying (2505) was a naturally formed mid-grey silty clay (2504) from which Roman pottery was recovered. An environmental sample taken from this deposit did not produce anything of environmental significance.



Scale 1:25 (sections) & 1:100 (plan) Trench 25 plan and sections Fig 7

Gully [2508] and larger gully [2506], looking north Fig 9

After consultation with the County Archaeologist, it was agreed that two small extensions should be added to further investigate gullies [2506] and [2508] (Fig 7). The extension identified that the larger gully [2506] turned towards the north in the north-west extension and turned to the north-east in the south-east extension (Fig 7 and 10).

A small gully terminus [2514] was also identified aligned north-west to south-east. Although the terminus was not excavated, it may have been related to small gully [2508] as larger gully [2506] also could be seen on the surface to clearly truncate it.

The ditch [1904] in Trench 19 was aligned north-east to south-west, was approximately 2m wide, and filled with mid grey silty clay. The location has been recorded (Fig 3) and it was likely a field boundary ditch, possibly associated with a hedgerow identified in Trenches 31 and 32 (Infrastructure-diversion corridor; Elston 2018b).

Trench 25 extension, looking north-west Fig 10

6.3 *Natural features and vegetation disturbance*

Trenches 8 and 22 contain features that required investigation but after excavation were identified as natural and not of archaeological interest.

In Trench 8 there appeared on the surface, a large ditch-like feature aligned northeast to southwest. After small investigative hand excavation, mechanical excavation was applied to clarify the nature of the feature (Fig 11 and 12).

Trench 8 plan Fig 11

The feature [806] had a wide shallow irregular profile that undulated on the base and was 5.5m wide by 0.45m deep. In the undulations was light grey-brown-yellow clay with chalky inclusions (805) that varied in depth. Overlying these undulations was mid brown-grey silty clay (806) that was 0.45m thick and appeared to be a natural formation through water infiltration of the overlying soils into a depression in the geology.

In Trench 22 there were irregular pockets of disturbance throughout the length of the trench. Two of the better defined features were investigated.

Natural depression [806], looking south-east Fig 12

Both interventions identified irregularly shaped shallow features up to 3.0m wide by 0.16m deep that had shallow wide profiled with undulating bases and had clear root channels within the natural geology (Fig 13).

Vegetation disturbance [2207], looking north Fig 13

7 THE FINDS

7.1 **The pottery** by Adam Sutton

The pottery from Marston Vale (Plot 6) dates to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Ten sherds weighing a total of 28g were recovered. These were recorded using the fabric series published for Milton Keynes by Marney (1989), with an additional fabric being reserved for the Iron Age sandy wares – this equates to the same fabric found on the Marston Vale (Elston 2018b) site. Table 1 shows the fabrics found and offers concordance with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998) where possible; Table 2 quantifies the fabrics by context. The assemblage was poorly preserved with an average sherd weight of just 2.8g. No rim sherds were found, thus prohibiting the quantification of the assemblage by estimated vessel equivalents (EVE).

Fill (203) of pit [204] produced the earliest pottery from the site, this being present as a single small sherd of a coarse, slightly sandy fabric that is probably Iron Age in date. Contexts (2504) and (2511) produced fabrics that can be easily paralleled within Marney's fabric series: these include shelly wares and sandy coarsewares, both of which are probably of local origins and have wide date ranges. The sandy wares, in particular are provided with dates from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD by Marney (1989, 182), although the grog-tempered ware represented by a single small sherd found in (2504) is unlikely to have survived very far into the 2nd century (*ibid*. 190-193).

Table 1: Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics

Fabric	NRFRC	Description
1	ROB SH	Shell-gritted ware
46	SOB GT	'Belgic' grog-tempered ware
19/29	-	Oxidised sandy coarseware
IA sandy	-	Iron Age-style sandy coarseware

Table 2: Pottery quantification by sherd count and weight (g)

Contexts	**(203)**		**(2504)**		**(2504)***		**(2511)**		**Total**	
Fabric	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	**No**	**Wt (g)**
1	-	-	2	7	2	1	1	2	**5**	**10**
46	-	-	-	-	1	+	-	-	**1**	**+**
19/29	-	-	3	17	-	-	-	-	**3**	**17**
IA sandy	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1**	**1**
Total	1	1	5	24	3	1+	1	2	**10**	**28**

* denotes finds from sample

\+ denotes fabric present as single sherd <1g in weight

7.2 **The environmental evidence** by Donna-Maria Brady

A 20 litre sample was taken from context (2504), fill of ditch [2506]. The sample was processed at MOLA Northampton using a siraf tank fitted with a 1mm mesh and a 500 micron sieve to collect the flot. The dry residue was sieved using a 10mm, 4mm

and 2mm sieve before being hand sorted and analysed with a desk magnifier (1.75x magnification) and also a high powered binocular microscope (40x magnification).

The flot from the sample comprises mainly of modern rootlets and small fragments of charcoal, and terrestrial snail shells. The flot contained partial remains of a beetle which appear to be a modern intrusion. The flot did not contain other material of environmental significance (Table 3).

The 10mm, 4mm and 2mm residue fraction did not yield a high amount of significant archaeological or environmental remains. Remains from these fractions consisted of three pottery sherds too small to identify, and one fragment of fired clay.

In summary, this sample did not produce anything of environmental significance.

Table 3: Summary of material recovered from Sample 2

Fill / Cut / Type	**Material recovered**	
2504 / 2506 / ditch (Sample 2)	**from flot**	**from dry sieving (10mm, 4mm, 2mm)**
Charcoal	++	-
Shell	+++	-
Pot	-	3
Fired Clay	-	1

Abundance scale key:
+ = Rare (1-3) ++ = Occasional (4-20)
+++ = Frequent (21-50)

8 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation within the area of Phase 1 (Plot 6) identified archaeological features in Trench 2 and 25.

The isolated pit in Trench 2 dated to the Iron Age and represented a low level of activity in the area of what would have been open field and consistent with the findings of Phase 1 (Elston 2018b).

A concentration of archaeological features was located in and around Trench 25 with a series of gullies and a ditch that were Roman in date. Although pottery was not recovered from each feature, they were all sealed beneath the subsoil and likely to have been of similar date. The trench extension identified the large gully present in the trench appeared to either form a small enclosure or paddock to the north and it was apparent at least two phases of activity were present. The site is located on the periphery of nearby settlement to the west, identified during trial trenching in 2016 (Sharrock and Muldowney 2017) and excavated as a mitigation area AAS2 (Sharrock 2017), which identified possible Iron Age roundhouses, ditches and pits.

The findings are consistent with the previous stages of works carried out in 2002 and 2003 (Albion Archaeology 2003), which concluded the limited archaeological potential of the site with the exception of the areas of archaeological significance (AAS1-AAS3).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2003 Archaeological and Geophysical Survey (produced as a contribution to the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Land South of Fields Road Wootton development area), Albion Archaeology report, **2003/22**

Albion Archaeology 2015 *Land south of Fields Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire*: *Heritage Statement*, Albion Archaeology report, **2014/217**

Barton Willmore 2016 *Land to the South of Fields Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report*, Barton Willmore report, **26385/A5/EIAScreening**

BGS 2018 British Geological Survey GeoIndex, http://bgs.ac.uk/geoindex, (accessed 01/03/2018)

Brown, N, and Glazebrook, J, 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper, **8**

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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

Elston, J, 2018a *Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire, (IWORXS)* MOLA Northampton report, **18/24**

Elston, J, 2018b *Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Wootton, Marston Vale, Bedfordshire, (Infrastructure-diversion corridor)* MOLA Northampton report **18/39**

Glazebrook, J, (ed) 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1: Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper, **3**

HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Historic England

Marney, P.T., 1989, *Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes, 1972-82*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series, **2**.

Medlycott, M, 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper, **24**

MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Museum of London Archaeology

MOLA 2018 *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching at Marston Vale, Wootton Bedfordshire February 2018,* MOLA Northampton

Oake, M, Luke, M, Dawson, M, Edgeworth, M, and Murphy, P, 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy,* Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph, **9**

Saunders, G, 2017 *Brief*: *Archaeological trial trenching at Marston Vale Innovation Park, Bedford, Bedford Borough Council*

Sharman, T, and Kidd, B, 2016 *A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording of works on land at Marston Vale, Wootton, Bedfordshire*, MOLA Northampton report, **16/212**

Sharrock, P, 2017 *Archaeological excavation at Wootton Field Road South Bedfordshire*: Assessment Report and Updated Project Design, December 2017, MOLA Northampton report, **17/136**

Simmonds, A, and Welsh, K, 2013, *The Iron Age and Roman Landscape of Marston Vale, Bedfordshire: Investigations Along the A421Improvements*, *M1 Junction 13 to Bedford*, Oxford Archaeology Monograph.

Sharrock, P and Muldowney, L, 2017 *Trial trench evaluation Fields Road South, Wootton, Bedfordshire*, MOLA Northampton Interim report, **17/25**

Strawbridge, M, 2107 *Marston Vale Innovation Park, Wootton, Bedfordshire: Heritage Statement & Setting Assessment, MOLA London report*

Tomber, R, and Dore, J, 1998, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook*, MoLAS Monograph **2**

Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage,* United Kingdom Chartered Institute for Conservation

Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 2001 *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition reprinted), United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

MOLA Northampton
5th April 2018

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
1	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**38.00m aOD**	**37.58m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
101	Topsoil	Mid brown – grey silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.18m thick	-
103	Natural	Blue-grey and yellow-brown clays with patches of orange brown sands	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
2	**NNE-SSW 50mx1.8m**		**37.99m aOD**	**37.69m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
201	Topsoil	Dark brown – grey silty clay with occasional small stones	0.30m thick	-
202	Natural	Blue-grey and yellow-brown clays with orange brown gravels	-	-
203	Fill of [204]	Mid brown-grey clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks	0.17m thick	Pottery
204	Cut of pit	Circular pit with shallow wide profile and uneven concave base	1.07m wide 0.17m deep	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
3	**SE-NW 50mx1.8m**		**37.33m aOD**	**36.93m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
301	Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones	028m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay (starts approximately 8m from SE end of trench)	0.12m thick	-
303	Natural	Blue-grey and yellow-brown clays	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
4	**E-W 50mx1.8m**		**37.24m aOD**	**36.90m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
401	Topsoil	Mid brown – grey silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
403	Natural	Blue-grey and yellow-brown clays with orange brown sands	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
5	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**34.10m aOD**	**33.60m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
501	Topsoil	Mid greyish –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
502	Natural	Blue-grey and yellow-brown clays with orange brown sandy gravels	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
6	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**37.56m aOD**	**37.11m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
601	Topsoil	Mid greyish –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.30m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay, moderate small stones	0.15m thick	-
603	Natural	Blue-grey clays with orange brown mottling and occasional pockets of sands	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
7	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**36.61m aOD**	**36.29m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
701	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.20m thick	-

702	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay, moderate small stones	0.12m thick	-
703	Natural	Mid to light yellow-brown clay and occasional orange-brown sand patches	-	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
8	**SE-NW 50mx1.8m**		**35.46m aOD**	**35.06m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
801	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.30m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
803	Natural	Orange-brown sandy gravel and grey blue clay	-	-
804	Fill of [806]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with rare small stones	0.25m thick	-
805	Fill of [806]	Light grey-brown- yellow clay with rare small chalky stones	0.20m thick	-
806	Natural depression	Linear aligned NE-SW irregular shallow sides onto undulating base	5.5m wide 0.45m deep	-
807	Fill of [808]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with rare small stones	0.08m thick	-
808	Natural hollow	Sub-circular wide shallow hollow with uneven base	1.75m wide 0.08m deep	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
9	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**34.65m aOD**	**34.13m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
901	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.32m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
3403	Natural	Mottled blue – grey and yellow-brown clay	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
10	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**34.86m aOD**	**34.41m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1001	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.30m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay, moderate small stones	0.15m thick	-
1003	Natural	Mid to light yellow-brown clay with pockets of orange-brown sandy clay	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
11	**W-E 50mx1.8m**		**35.72m aOD**	**35.37m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1101	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
1103	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and blue-grey clay with orange sandy gravels	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
12	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**35.57m aOD**	**35.24m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1201	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.08m thick	-
1203	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and blue-grey clay with orange sandy gravels	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
13	**E-W 50mx1.8m**		**36.26m aOD**	**35.87m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1301	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
1302	subsoil	Firm mid yellow-brown clay	0.15m thick	-
1303	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and blue-grey clay with orange sandy gravels	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
14	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**35.43m aOD**	**35.03m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1401	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	-
1403	Natural	Orangey-brown sand and grey-blue clay	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
15	**W-E 50mx1.8m**		**35.51m aOD**	**35.16m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1501	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
1503	Natural	Mid yellow-brown and blue-grey clays	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
16	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**34.86m aOD**	**34.46m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1601	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	-
1603	Natural	Yellow-brown and grey-blue clay with orange sand	-	-
Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
17	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**34.68m aOD**	**36.31m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1701	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.12m thick	-
1703	Natural	Yellow-brown and grey-blue clay with orange sand	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
18	**NNW-SSE 50mx1.8m**		**34.49m aOD**	**34.09m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1801	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
1802	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	-
1803	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

Trench No	Alignment, Length & width		Surface height	height of natural
19	**NW-SE 50mx1.8m**		**33.98m aOD**	**33.58m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
1901	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-

1902	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	-
1903	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-
1904	Ditch	Dark grey silty clay fill of 2m wide ditch aligned NE-SW	Unexcavated as trench flooded	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
20	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**34.30m aOD**	**33.95m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2001	Topsoil	Dark grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
2002	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.11m thick	-
2003	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
21	**NE-SW 50mx1.8m**		**34.43m aOD**	**34.08m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2101	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
2102	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.10m thick	-
2103	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
22	**NW-SE 50mx1.8m**		**34.29m aOD**	**34.02m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2201	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
2202	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.02m thick	-
2203	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

2204	Fill of [4005]	Mixed mid grey-brown and yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	0.10m thick	-
2205	Tree root disturbance	Irregular shaped with uneven base. Root holes present throughout	2.0m wide 0.10m deep	-
2206	Fill of [2207]	Mixed mid grey-brown and yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	0.14m deep	-
2207	Tree root disturbance	Irregular shaped with uneven base. Root holes present throughout. Cut by two ceramic land drains	0.14m deep 2.5m wide	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
23	**W-E 50mx1.8m**		**34.90m aOD**	**34.45m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2301	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
2302	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.20m thick	-
2303	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
24	**N-S 50mx1.8m**		**35.05m aOD**	**34.66m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2401	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.24m thick	-
2402	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.15m thick	-
2403	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-

Trench No	**Alignment, Length & width**		**Surface height**	**height of natural**
25	**NW-SE 50mx1.8m**		**35.39m aOD**	**34.79m aOD**
Context	***Context type***	***Description***	***Dimensions***	***Artefacts/ Samples***
2501	Topsoil	Mid grey –brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.25m thick	-
2502	Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.35m thick	-
2503	Natural	Orange-brown sand and grey blue clay	-	-
2504	Fill of [2506]	Mid brown-grey silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks	0.13m thick	Pottery Sample 2
2505	Fill of [2506]	Mid yellow-grey clay with occasional stones	0.05m thick	-
2506	Cut of gully	Linear aligned E-W with wide U-shaped profile onto flat base	0.95m wide 0.18m deep	-
2507	Fill of [2508]	Mid grey-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.25m thick	-
2508	Cut of gully	Linear aligned N-S with U-shaped profile and narrow flat base	0.45m wide 0.25m deep	-
2509	Fill of [2510]	Dark grey with orange mottles silty clay	0.25m thick	-
2510	Cut of ditch	Linear aligned E-W with wide u-shaped profile onto flat base	1.40m wide 0.25m deep	-
2511	Fill of [2512]	Mid grey silty clay with orange mottles, occasional small stone and charcoal fleck	0.08m thick	pottery
2512	Cut of gully	Linear gully aligned E-W with shallow wide onto flat base	0.65m wide 0.08m thick	-
2513	Fill of [2514]	Mid grey silty clay	-	-
2514	Cut of gully terminal	Linear gully terminal aligned southeast to northwest	Not excavated	-

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk