

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND AT MID LAVANT, CHICHESTER  
WEST SUSSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

Authors: Lisa Smith BA (Fieldwork and Report) Caroline Wolfe Murray (Graphics)	
NGR: SU 855 082	Report No. 3201
District: West Sussex	Site Code: AS1176
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3300
Signed:	Date: October 2008

*This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

---

Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98 - 100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB.  
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
Web: [www.archeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archeologicalsolutions.co.uk)  
Registered Number: 4702122

## **CONTENTS**

### ***OASIS SUMMARY SHEET***

#### ***SUMMARY***

- 1 INTRODUCTION***
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 4 METHODOLOGY***
- 5 RESULTS***
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 8 DISCUSSION***

#### ***DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE***

#### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

#### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

- Appendix 1 Concordance of Finds***  
***Appendix 2 Concordance of Samples***  
***Appendix 3 Specialist Reports***

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex: An Archaeological Investigation</i>		
<p><i>In October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU855 082). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to permission for residential development (Planning Ref. LV/08/01497/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>Post-medieval features were found in Trench 3 (Ditch F1013) and Trench 9 (Postholes F1004 and F1012). Undated features were found in Trench 7 (Posthole F1026), Trench 8 (Ditch F1022) and Trench 9 (Posthole F1010 and Pits F1014 and F1016). Medieval features were found in adjacent Trenches 8 (Pits F1020 and F1024) and Trench 9 (Pits F1006 and F1008). The majority of pits dated to the medieval period contained just one medieval sherd (F1006, F1020 &amp; F1024), but Pit F1008 contained 7 sherds (232g). Pits F1006 and F1008 contained animal bone (64g and 30g respectively). Pit F1008 also contained CBM (158g) and oyster shell (27g). The features were predominantly located in the southern (Trenches 7 &amp; 8) and easternmost (Trench 9) sectors of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The desk-based assessment predicted that although the site is located away from the focus of the medieval settlement, its location along the road to Chichester suggests it is possible that some roadside activity may have occurred on the eastern side of the site. The majority of medieval and undated features are located in Trench 9.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>27<sup>th</sup> Oct–30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>3300</i>	Site code	<i>AS1176</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological investigation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential Development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Medieval pits and undated features</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval pottery, animal bone, CBM and oyster shell</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>West Sussex</i>	<i>Chichester</i>	<i>Mid Lavant</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Chichester District Council</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>1000 sq m</i>		
NGR	<i>SU 855 082</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 39.11m – 38.66 AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>James Kenny, Archaeological Officer, Chichester District Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Oakford Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Smith, L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3201</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2008</i>		

**LAND AT MID LAVANT, CHICHESTER,  
WEST SUSSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

*SUMMARY*

*In October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU855 082). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to permission for residential development (Planning Ref. LV/08/01497/FUL).*

*The desk-based assessment records that significant archaeological remains have been found in the vicinity of the site. It concluded that the site has a moderate to good potential for prehistoric remains (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age). The site lies to the north (440m) of Iron Age defensive entrenchments, and the projected line of the Roman road from Chichester to Silchester passes through Lavant, orientated NW/SE, approximately 400m west of the site*

*Post-medieval features were found in Trench 3 (Ditch F1013) and Trench 9 (Postholes F1004 and F1012). Undated features were found in Trench 7 (Posthole F1026), Trench 8 Ditch F1022 and Trench 9 (Posthole F1010 and Pits F1014 and F1016). Medieval features were found in adjacent Trenches 8 (Pits F1020 and F1024) and Trench 9 (Pits F1006 and F1008). The majority of pits contained just one medieval sherd (F1006, F1020 & F1024), but Pit F1008 contained 7 sherds (232g). Pits F1006 and F1008 contained animal bone (64g and 30g respectively). Pit F1008 also contained CBM (158g) and oyster shell (27g). The features were predominantly located in the southern (Trenches 7 & 8) and easternmost (Trench 9) sectors of the site.*

*The desk-based assessment correctly predicted that although the site is located away from the focus of the medieval settlement, its location along the road to Chichester suggests it is possible that some roadside activity may have occurred on the eastern side of the site. The majority of medieval and undated features are located in Trench 9.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU 855 082). The evaluation was commissioned by Oakford Homes Ltd. It was carried in compliance with a planning condition and in fulfilment of a requirement of the local planning authority (based on the advice of the Archaeological Officer for Chichester District Council (CDC) (Planning Ref. LV/08/01497/FUL). The evaluation was commissioned prior to a new residential development. A desk-based assessment had been prepared (Gailey 2008).

1.2 The evaluation (trial trenching) was conducted in accordance with a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated

14/10/08), and approved by the Archaeological Officer for CDC. The archaeological evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (revised 2001)*.

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the area
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits within the development area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, the possible present of masking colluvial / alluvial deposits
- To establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy to deal with the recorded archaeological deposits

### **Planning policy context**

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 As recorded in the desk-based assessment (Gailey 2008), the site lies in the valley of the river Lavant to the south of the South Downs. The ground gently slopes from

north-west to south-east from approximately 39.11m AOD to 36.66m AOD. The site lies approximately 200m south of the floodplain of the river Lavant. It is located in Mid-Lavant and is bound to the north by housing, to the east by Lavant road, to the south by more housing, and to the west by a former railway line.

2.2 No development had taken place within the site prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a house was built on the eastern side of the site. There was also subsequent development and demolition on the western side of the site. The British Geological Survey Sheet 317 (Chichester 1996) shows that the site is underlain by Head gravel comprising clayey gravel.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The archaeological and historical background has been summarised from the desk-based assessment (Gailey 2008).

#### *Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)*

3.2 A large scatter of Palaeolithic finds, including hand axes, roughouts and flakes, were found on the surface of raised beach deposits in Lavant approximately 800m east of the site on the edge of the floodplain of the river Lavant (CD2367 SU8620 0840). An archaeological trial trench dug to the east of the site found further material in the form of a hand axe and several more flakes (CD2398 SU8608 0845). Further isolated Palaeolithic implements have been recovered in Lavant approximately 800m east of the site on the edge of the river's floodplain.

3.3 Prehistoric flintwork including scrapers, cores and flakes were found during fieldwalking in west Lavant fields in March 2004 by members of Worthing Archaeological Society approximately 400m north of the site (CD3339 SU8550 0850). Further north, several blunt flint flakes and wasters were recovered during fieldwalking in 1999, approximately 1km north of the site (CD2992 SU854 870), and approximately 500m east of the site (CD2991 SU8540 870).

3.4 A socketed Bronze Age spearhead was found in 'Mid Lavant close to the old railway line' approximately 800m south of the site (CD2480 SU8500 0900). Two kilometres north-east of the site is the location of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site (Kenny 1994)

3.5 When the former railway line was cut through Lavant, a series of hut circles were revealed. They were dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, and located approximately 700m south of the site (CD2330 SU8619 0848).

3.6 The Devils Ditch (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) is a linear feature that forms part of the extensive linear defence earthworks known as the 'Chichester entrenchments'. These earthworks are understood to have been built to defend the northern, landward side of the Iron Age territorial Oppidum of Chichester and Selsey. The Devils Ditch forms the northernmost earthwork and can be traced along the southern edge of the South Downs. There are four straight alignments of uneven length between West Stoke and Lavant. The closest earthwork to the site lies approximately 400m south. A section was excavated in

the 1950's in an area where there was a low bank (perhaps to improve the view to Lavant House), and a V-shaped ditch over 9 feet deep was revealed with a bank to the south up to 5 feet high. Two late Iron Age sherds of pottery were found beneath the bank, and one in the lower fills of the ditch, suggesting that the earthwork was indeed originally constructed in the late Iron Age period.

*Roman (AD 43 – 410)*

3.7 A possible Roman villa was revealed during topsoil stripping prior to gravel extraction in 1985 approximately 1km west of the site, close to the alignment of the Roman road. Ditches cut the surface of the gravel and a scatter of pottery was revealed including Samian Ware and a fragment of flue tile (CD1082 SU8461 0792).

3.8 The Roman road from Chichester to Silchester runs through Lavant (Margary 1955) the projected line runs from north-west to south-east, approximately 400m west of the site. A resistivity survey undertaken in 2001 to the rear of 51 Lavant Road, approximately 700m south of the site, produced some support for a road surface close to the modern ground surface (E817 SU8566 0720). However an archaeological evaluation approximately 1km south of the site along the projected line of the Roman road revealed no archaeological features or finds (E261 SU8557 0761).

3.9 Evidence of Roman remains were supposedly found during building works at the Hunters Inn, Mid Lavant, approximately 1km north of the site, (CD2973SU85340891). However a watching brief carried out during development in 2004 did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.

*Anglo Saxon and Medieval, (AD 410 – 1485)*

3.10 Mid Lavant is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086) as comprising two holdings and a mill. The latter is thought to have been located in Mid Lavant at the end of Mill Lane approximately 200m north-east of the site (CD2407 SU8571 0857).

3.11 The church of St Nicholas in Mid Lavant dates back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is located approximately 300m north-west of the site. It would have been the focus of medieval settlement along the main road to Chichester.

3.12 The excavation of a section of the Devils Dyke in the 1950's revealed that the upper layers of ditch fill contained medieval pottery suggesting that this section of the earthworks was re-used during the medieval period, perhaps as a land boundary (CD2485 SU8516 0807).

3.13 The site is located away from the focus of the medieval settlement of Mid Lavant, and was most likely agricultural land, as recorded on later post-medieval maps. However its location along the road to Chichester suggests that it is possible that some roadside activity may have occurred on the eastern side of the site.

*Post medieval and modern (AD 1486 – present)*

3.14 The 1778 Yeakell and Gardner map shows the site occupying agricultural land in between development along the main road. There was no change by the time of the 1813 Ordnance Survey map.

3.15 The 1875 Ordnance Survey map shows the site in more detail and confirms that most of the site was still undeveloped by this date. The rear (western) part of the site lay within a field bounded to the east by trees, while three small rectilinear outbuildings lay in the eastern sector.

3.16 By 1897 only one of these outbuildings had been retained while several small outbuildings had now been built along the eastern boundary of the western field. The railway line from Midhurst to Chichester was opened in 1881 and bounded the site to the west. There was no change to the site by the time of the 1912 Ordnance Survey map.

3.17 Between 1912 and 1965 a house known as Honeycroft had been built on the eastern part of the site, and to the south-east of the house on Lavant Road was a telephone call box. In the western part of the site a series of rectilinear buildings, possibly agricultural, had been built. The railway line bordering the western side of the site went out of use following the closure of Lavant station in 1971.

3.18 Between 1990 and 2008 the buildings in the western part of the site were demolished and the area retained as a tree-lined field. The buildings in the eastern part of the site were extended, and the house was now known as Meadow Lodge.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Nine trial trenches were excavated across the entire site. All of the trenches were linear in plan (Fig.2). They measured between 30 - 35m in length, and all were 1.80m wide.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

4.3 Bulk soil samples were taken according to a purposeful sampling strategy with the aims of investigating the palaeo-environment and past economy of the site.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Trench 1

**Fig. 2**

<i>Sample section: East end, South facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L100 0	Topsoil. Dark brownish black sandy clay with occasional angular gravel, rounded pebbles and fragments of CBM.



0.15 – 0.32m	L100 1	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel, flint, chalk and occasional fragments of CBM.
0.32m+	L100 3	Natural. Flint Gravel. Frequent large angular flint gravel in a mid yellowish brown sandy clay matrix with large swaths of sandy clay throughout.

<i>Sample section: West end, South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 39.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above.
0.18 – 0.37m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above.
0.37 – 0.57m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## 5.2 Trench 2

## Fig.2

<i>Sample section: East end, South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.21 – 0.56m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.56m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: West end, South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.93m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.45m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.45m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## 5.3 Trench 3

## Fig. 2-3

## DP1

<i>Sample section: North end, East facing</i>
---

<i>0.00 = 39.07 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.24 – 0.46m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.46m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: South end, East facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.17 – 0.24m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.24 – 0.28m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: A ditch (F1018) was present in Trench 3.*

5.3.1 Ditch F1018 (>17.10m x 0.67m x <0.19m) was aligned NW/SE. It was excavated in three one-metre segments (labelled A, B and C). Within each segment F1018 was relatively shallow with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a mid brownish grey sandy clay with frequent angular gravel. Segment A contained a post-medieval pottery sherd (7g), CBM (272g) and a glass bottle fragment (<1g).

#### 5.4 Trench 4

**Fig. 2**

<i>Sample section: North end, East facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.25 – 0.49m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.49m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: South end, East facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.23 – 0.52m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.52m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

**5.5 Trench 5****Fig. 2**

<i>Sample section: East end, South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.75 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.25 – 0.49m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.49m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: West end, South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.67 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.18 – 0.35m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.35m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

**5.6 Trench 6****Fig. 2**

<i>Sample section: North end, East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.39m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.39m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: South end, East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.25 – 0.38m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.38m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

**5.7 Trench 7****Fig. 2-3**

<i>Sample section: East end, North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.58m AOD</i>		
---	--	--

0.00 – 0.25m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.25 – 0.54m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.54m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: West end, North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.25 – 0.52m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.52m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: A posthole (F1026) was present in Trench 7.*

5.7.1 A small rectangular posthole, F1026 (0.46m x 0.30m x 0.10m), was located at the eastern end of Trench 7. It had relatively steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1027, was a dark greyish black sandy clay with moderate angular gravel and fragments of CBM.

## 5.8 Trench 8

**Figs. 2-3 DP2**

<i>Sample section: South end, East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.76m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.20 – 0.33m	L100 2	Made Ground. Mixed deposit of rubble in a dark greyish black / mid greyish white sandy clay matrix. Frequent fragments of CBM, whole modern bricks, fragments and flecks of mortar, and moderate angular gravel.
0.33 – 0.43m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.43m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: North end, East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 39.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.17 - 0.21m	L100 2	Made Ground. As above.
0.21 – 0.42m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.42m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: Two pits (F1020 and F1024) and a ditch (F1022) were present in Trench 8.*

5.8.1 Pit F1020 (1.05m x >0.69m x 0.18m) was located at the northern end of Trench 8. It was partially revealed in plan and was likely circular. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a dark greyish black sandy clay with occasional angular gravel and flecks of CBM and mortar. A sherd of medieval pottery (7g) was present.

5.8.2 Ditch F1022 (>1.80m x 0.59m x 0.20m) was aligned roughly E/W. It was relatively shallow (0.20m). It had relatively steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel. No finds were present.

5.8.3 Pit F1024 (1.62m x >0.84m x 0.18m) was oval in plan. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1025, was a dark greyish sandy clay with frequent angular gravel, and flecks of mortar. Like Pit F1020 a sherd of medieval pottery (7g) was present.

## 5.9 Trench 9

**Figs. 2-3 DP3**

<i>Sample section: East end, South facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.73m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.20 – 0.51m	L100 2	Made Ground. As above Tr. 8
0.51m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

<i>Sample section: West end, South facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.02m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L100 0	Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.22 – 0.54m	L100 1	Subsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.54m+	L100 3	Flint Gravel Natural. As above Tr. 1

*Description: Three postholes (F1004, F1010 and F1012) and four pits (F1006, F1008, F1014 and F1016) were present in Trench 9.*

5.9.1 Posthole F1004 (0.50m x 0.45m x 0.32) was circular in plan and located at the eastern end of Trench 9. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid greyish black clayey sand with moderate angular gravel. CBM (45g) and a fragment of a glass bottle base (134g) were present.

5.9.2 Pit F1006 (>1.50m x 1.40m x 0.19m) was located in the centre of Trench 9. It was oval in plan. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel. A medieval pottery sherd (26g) and animal bone (64g) were present.

5.9.3 Pit F1008 (1.29m x 1.0m x 0.46m) was sub rectangular in plan and adjacent to Pit F1006 and Posthole F1010. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid greyish black sandy clay with moderate angular gravel and frequent flecks of CBM. Medieval pottery (232g), animal bone (30g), CBM (158g) and oyster shell (27g) were present.

5.9.4 Posthole F1010 (0.40m x 0.40m x 0.42) was circular in plan and located on the western edge of Pit F1008. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a mid greyish black sandy clay with moderate angular gravel and flecks of CBM. No finds were present.

5.9.5 Posthole F1012 (>0.32m x 0.29m x 0.23m) was recorded against the northern baulk of Trench 9. It was rectangular in plan. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark greyish black sandy clay with moderate angular gravel. CBM (37g) fragments and post-medieval pottery (100g) were present.

5.9.6 Pit F1014 (0.55m x 0.50m x 0.19m) was rectangular in plan. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a light brownish grey sandy clay with frequent angular gravel. No finds were present.

5.9.7 Pit F1016 (0.94m x >0.85m x 0.06m) was identified at the western end of Trench 9. It was oval in plan. It was very shallow (0.06m) and had a flattish base. Its fill, L1017, was a mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel. No finds were present.

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 Trenches 1 – 7 and 9 revealed the same stratigraphy. The topsoil, L1000 (0.15 – 0.25m deep), comprised a dark brownish black sandy clay with occasional angular gravel, rounded pebbles and fragments of CBM. It overlay Subsoil L1001 (0.17 – 0.35m thick), a mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent angular gravel, flint, chalk and occasional fragments of CBM. Subsoil L1001 overlay the natural flint gravel, L1003 (0.32m – 0.56m below the present ground surface). In Trench 8 a layer of made ground, L1002, intervened between the topsoil and subsoil. L1002 comprised a mixed deposit of rubble in a dark greyish black / mid greyish white sandy clay matrix with

frequent fragments of CBM, whole modern bricks, fragments and flecks of mortar, and moderate angular gravel.

## 8 DISCUSSION

### 8.1 Summary of the archaeology

A summary of the archaeological features recorded is tabulated:

Trench	Features	Context	Spot date
3	Ditch F1013	L1014	Post Med
7	Posthole F1026	L1027	Undated
8	Pit F1020	L1021	Medieval
8	Pit F1024	L1025	Medieval
8	Ditch F1022	L1023	Undated
9	Posthole F1004	L1005	Post Med
	Posthole F1010	L1011	Undated
	Posthole F1012	L1013	Post Med
	Pit F1006	L1007	Medieval
	Pit F1008	L1009	Medieval
	Pit F1014	L1015	Undated
	Pit F1016	L1017	Undated

*Table 1: Summary of the recorded archaeological features*

8.1.1 Post-medieval features were found in Trench 3 (Ditch F1013) and Trench 9 (Postholes F1004 and F1012)

8.1.2 Undated features were found in Trench 7 (Posthole F1026), Trench 8 (Ditch F1022) and Trench 9 (Posthole F1010 and Pits F1014 and F1016)

8.1.3 Medieval features were found in adjacent Trenches 8 (Pits F1020 and F1024) and Trench 9 (Pits F1006 and F1008). The majority of pits contained just one medieval sherd (F1006, F1020 & F1024), but Pit F1008 contained 7 sherds (232g). Pits F1006 and F1008 contained animal bone (64g and 30g respectively). Pit F1008 also contained CBM (158g) and oyster shell (27g).

8.1.4 The features were predominantly located in the southern (Trenches 7 & 8) and easternmost (Trench 9) sectors of the site.

### 8.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

8.2.1 Mid Lavant is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086) as comprising two holdings and a mill. The church of St Nicholas in Mid Lavant dates back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is located approximately 300m north-west of the site. It would have been the focus of medieval settlement along the main road to Chichester. The desk-based assessment correctly predicted that although the site is located away from the focus of the medieval settlement, its location along the road to Chichester suggests it is possible that

some roadside activity may have occurred on the eastern side of the site. The majority of medieval and undated features are located in Trench 9.

8.2.2. Relatively few post-medieval features were present, and they are associated with the previous buildings on the site (Sections 3.15 – 3.18 above)

### **8.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography**

8.3.1 The ground gently slopes from north-west to south-east from approximately 39.11m AOD to 36.66m AOD. The archaeological features were recorded principally in the southern and easternmost sector of the site.

### **8.4 Finds and environmental evidence**

8.4.1 The range of finds associated with the medieval features was relatively restricted comprising pottery with some animal bone (Pits F1006 & F1008, 64g & 30g respectively), oyster shell (Pit F1008, 27g) and CBM (Pit F1008, 158g).

8.4.2 The pottery assemblages were small comprising one sherd (Pits F1006, F1020 & F1024) and seven sherds (Pit F1008).

### **8.5 Research potential**

8.5.1 While the site had the potential to reveal prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, clearly the research potential of the site centres on the medieval features recorded in Trenches 8 and 9. It has the potential to help further characterise the medieval settlement of Mid Lavant and to aid in plotting its extent.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site to the collections of Chichester and District Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Oakford Homes Ltd for their co-operation and funding of this evaluation

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of James Kenny, Archaeological Officer, Chichester District Council

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**



Gailey, S., 2008 *Land at Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

## APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005	9		Posthole Fill			45		Glass Bottle Base (1), 134g
1006	1007	9		Pit Fill	11th - 13th	(1), 26g		64	
1008	1009	9		Pit Fill	Mid 12th - 13th	(7), 232g	158	30	Oyster Shell (2), 27g
1012	1013	9		Posthole Fill	17th - 18th	(2), 100g	37		
1018	1019	3	A	Ditch Fill	18th - 19th	(1), 7g	272		Glass Bottle Fragment (1), <1g
1020	1021	8		Pit Fill	11th/12th - 13th	(1), 7g			
1024	1025	8		Pit Fill	12th - 13th	(1), 7g			

**APPENDIX 2**  
**CONCORDANCE OF SAMPLES**

## APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 13 sherds weighing 376 grams. The pottery consisted of 10 moderately abraded medieval sherds but including a well-preserved jar rim, and 3 post-medieval red earthenware sherds.

<i>Ware/fabric type</i>	<i>Sherd number</i>	<i>Fabric weight</i>	<i>Diagnostic sherds</i>
Medieval Fabric 1: chalk temper	1	25	Sagging base
Medieval Fabric 2: coarse sand, flint and chalk	9	243	Round bodied jar with flaring rim
Post-medieval red earthenware	3	108	2x lustrous brown internally glazed sherds from a bowl with folded out rim

Pit F1006 contained a single sagging base sherd from a medieval vessel. It had a slightly micaceous external surface, but contained within the fabric almost exclusively chalk temper, much of it decayed. Pit F1008 contained 7 sherds mainly in handmade Fabric 2 comprising in varying quantities, coarse round quartz sand, angular flint and chert, and rounded white chalk inclusions. The group included a large fragment weighing 134g comprising the upper portion of a round shouldered jar with a wheel-made flaring rim. Similar examples were found at Worthing and dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Mephram 2001, Fig. 4.14, Fig. 5.18). However, the Chichester coarse fabric equates most closely with Fabric Q403 from Worthing (but with more flint), which marked the end of Saxo-Norman traditions in the region and a move from hand to wheel-made fabrics (Mephram 2001, 139). A mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date is therefore suggested for this feature.

Posthole F1012 contained two sherds from an internally glazed bowl rim. The lustrous brown glaze and folded out, almost hooked rim, suggests a date centred on the 18<sup>th</sup> century

Mephram L 2001 'Pottery' in Lovell J. (ed.) Excavations on a medieval site at Little High Street, Worthing, West Sussex, 1997. Sussex Archaeological Collections 133-145

### The CBM

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation produced 510g of ceramic building material. The condition of all of the material is of moderate to heavy abrasion. Pit F1010 contained one piece of possible brick which was heavily burnt. The only measurement available was a breadth of 3.3 cm which is in keeping with medieval great bricks, the earliest post-Roman brick to be used in Britain, and dated c. mid 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. One surface is smoothed however, and so it is also possible the fragment is a piece of thick medieval floor tile, in which case a later medieval date is also possible.

The remaining ceramic material would all suit a post-medieval to early modern date and is catalogued by context below.

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Quantity and description</i>	<i>Date</i>
1004	1005	3x46g Tile. Fine orange fabric, fine to medium quartz but few other inclusions	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
1010	1009	1x155 Brick? Common sub-rounded medium to coarse quartz. Rare calcareous and red clay pellets. 3.3cm deep. Burnt, with grey surfaces and red core	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -mid 13 <sup>th</sup> ? but could be later med
1012	1013	1x27g Peg tile, similar fabric to F1004 2x12g Brick? Fairly fine red brown fabric with fine to medium quartz, occasional small black inclusions and rare large white calcareous	17 <sup>th</sup> -mid 19 <sup>th</sup>
1018	1019	1x224g Peg tile. Common medium to coarse, grey, clear and white quartz. Occasional red clay pellets and white calcareous 1x9g burnt Peg tile (as above) 3x37g Brick? Highly abraded fine slightly micaceous fabric with few visible inclusions bar rare very coarse limestone and flint	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>

## **The Animal Bone**

*By Dr James Morris*

### Shell

Two oyster shell fragments were recovered from feature F1008. One fragment is very small and eroded, the other consists of a near complete lower bivalve. The feature dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Oysters were commonly consumed in the medieval period, and are a common occurrence on archaeological sites (Wilson 1991, 42). It is likely further excavation may produce a small sized shell assemblage of a similar composition.

### *Animal bone*

A small assemblage of six animal bones was recovered from features F1006 and F1008 (Table 1). The assemblage dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Taxonomic

identifications were checked utilising available reference collections. Where fragments could be assigned to a particular size of mammal but not to species, the categories 'SAR' (small ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from sheep/goat, pig (*Sus scrofa*) size mammals, and 'LAR' (large ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from cattle (*Bos taurus*) size mammals.

Feature	Context	Species	Element	Comments
1006	1007	Pig	Mandible	Left hand mandible. The incisors, canine, M1, M2 and M3 are present. Grant wear stages, e, c and 1/2, give a mandible wear score of 22. The mandible is in 14 fragments, in part due to modern damage.
1008	1009	Sheep /goat Pig LAR SAR	Metacarpal Metapodial Rib (x2) Shaft fragment	Fragment of distal shaft, modern break present Small fragment of metapodial shaft Two fragments of rib shaft Small long bone shaft fragment

Table 1. Summary of the faunal remains per feature.

A fragmented mandible from a pig was recovered from feature F1006. The third molar was not yet fully erupted and the Grant (1982) mandible wear score of 22 indicates the animal was between 14 and 21 months old (using, Hambleton 1999, 65). A prime age to slaughter pigs for meat. The faunal remains from feature F1008, consisted of lower limb fragments from sheep/goat and pig, as well as large ungulate rib fragments.

The size of the assemblage, although not large has indicated that a variety of species were deposited on the site. However detailed understanding of the uses and husbandry of these species is not possible due to its small size. The preservation of the assemblage was good and any further work on the site will be likely to produce a faunal assemblage.

### Bibliography

Grant, A. 1982. 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates' in Wilson, B., C. Grigson & S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*. BAR British Series 109, Oxford, 91-108

Hambleton, E. 1999 *Animal Husbandry Regimes in Iron Age Britain*. BAR British Series 282, Oxford

Wilson, C. A. 1991 *Food and Drink in Britain. From the Stone Age to the 19th Century*. Academy Chicago Publishers, Chicago

