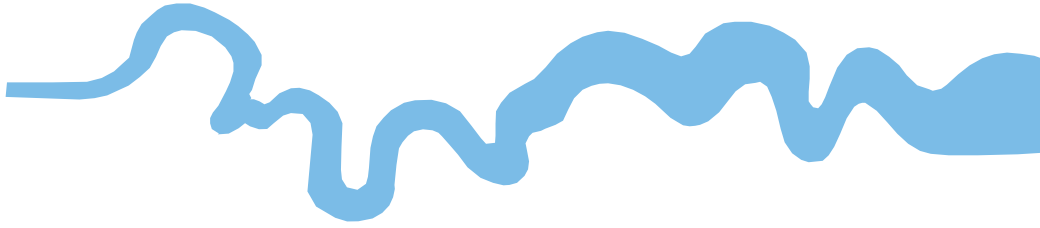


**T V A S**



**NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Land off Brockholes Crescent,  
Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Nikki Snape and Laura Schenck**

**Site Code: BCP19/27**

**(SD 3547 3873)**

# **Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire**

**Archaeological Excavation**

**For Keyworker Homes**

by Nikki Snape and Laura Schenck

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BCP 19/27

**March 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire

**Grid reference:** NGR SD 3547 3873

**Site activity:** Archaeological Excavation

**Date and duration of project:** 11th-15th March 2019

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Nikki Snape

**Site code:** BCP 19/27

**Area of site:** 3.87ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended and sixteen trenches were successfully excavated but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

**Location of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent but will be deposited with a repository nominated by LAAS in due course. In addition, copies will be deposited with Lancashire HER and the National Monuments Record in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford	✓ 28.03.19
	Steve Preston	✓ 28.03.19

# Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Nikki Snape and Laura Schenck

**Report 19/27**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at Land at Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (NGR SD 3548 3873) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Keyworker Homes, 1 Hawking Place, Blackpool, FY2 0JN. Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage, Dairyhouse Lane, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 2PW acted as their archaeological advisor during the course of the work,

Outline planning permission (16/00742/OUTMAJ) has been granted for the erection of up to 108 dwellings by Wyre Borough Council, subject to the condition that a scheme of archaeological investigation be carried out at the development site. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (LAAS) (Avalon Heritage 2018). The fieldwork was undertaken by Laura Schenck and Nikki Snape between 11th and 15th March 2019 and the site code is BCP 19/27.

The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent but will be deposited with a repository nominated by LAAS.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on a pastoral field at a height of 8m aOD, on the southern margins of Poulton-le-Fylde Lancashire. The field lies to the south of Brockholes Crescent and is bounded by a small dyke and then Old Field Carr Lane to the south and farmland and a sewage pumping station to the north-east.

There are (BGS 2019).

The underlying geology consists of glacial till and boulder clays, superficial tidal deposits of clay and silt tidal deposits and areas of peat all above Permo-Triassic red mudstones, siltstone and sandstones. The area was previously covered in extensive mosslands and lowland raised bog until the advent of post-medieval drainage. A substantial depth (c. 2m) of peat is present at the northern end of the site.

## **Archaeological background**

The site history and archaeological context have been documented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Avalon Heritage 2018). In summary, there are no known archaeological deposits on the site. There is a wide if incomplete range of sites and finds recorded for the environs of Poulton le Fylde. Notable evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity to the south is that of an elk skeleton, dating to c. 13500BC to 11500BC, killed presumably by the barbed antler harpoons found within skeleton. Five Mesolithic flint scatter sites are also recorded in the general vicinity of the town.

There is more evidence of Neolithic and early Bronze Age activity in the area, in the form of findspots of flint, stone and metal tools, and Bronze Age pottery. There is little evidence of Iron Age activity in the areas but the palaeoecological record suggests extensive woodland clearance throughout the area

The Roman period is better represented . Excavations at Garstang Road East, 600m north east of the site found a Roman settlement with round houses inside a rectilinear enclosure (McElligott 2014). Other Roman including three coins are recorded for the town. Excavations at Kirkham, 6km south of Poulton-le-Fylde, suggested three successive temporary camps were used by Roman troops during the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD.

There is little Saxon evidence of settlement in Poulton-le-Fylde. It is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086, within the hundred of Amounderness. Roger de Poictou held all the land in the parish, with Pulton (Poulton) having two carucates of land (Fishwick 1885, 5). The church in Poulton-le-Fylde is dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon St Chad, possibly suggesting an earlier origin (LCC 2005, 14), however this church was first documented in 1094 and the current building dates to the 17th century. The name Poulton means settlement by the inlet, which comes from Pull or Pill meaning inlet or pool (possibly referring to the Wyre estuary) and Ton meaning settlement or farmstead. The le-Fylde element was added in the 19th century to differentiate it from Poulton-le-Sands, which is now known as Morecambe.

There is little evidence for the exploitation of the wetlands from the medieval period until the 17th century when they started to be reclaimed and used for a mixture of peat extraction and rough pasture.

There have been four previous schemes of archaeological or related investigations within the proposed development area. A watching brief was carried out on the laying of a water pipeline at the north end of the site but nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (Vannan 2010). A programme of palaeoecological coring was undertaken within the northern half of the application site, focusing on the area of peat. This survey revealed peat

deposits in excess of 2m deep, with bands of blue/grey clay. Data from preserved pollen in the samples suggested a wooded landscape with increasing clearance and possible cultivation towards the top of the sequence.

Two further archaeological investigations were carried out within the application site in 2017, consisting of a geophysical survey and auger survey. The results of the auger survey showed less extensive peat than in the previous core samples, concluding that the pseudo- fibrous peat present was subject to intermittent wetting and was not likely to hold significant palaeoenvironmental remains (Gardiner 2017). The geophysical survey identified several possible soil filled features although it was unclear whether these represented archaeological features. Anomalies relating to modern disturbance from service pipes were also identified, as well as evidence of field boundaries and possible plough features (Dickinson 2017).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. General aims of the project were;

- to verify the nature of the soil filled features identified in the previous geophysical survey;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological remains and their potential significance in accordance with NPPF;
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded;
- establish the character of these features and deposits in order to define functional areas and spatial relationships between differing zones of activity;
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region;
- to inform upon the need for further archaeological work prior to development commencing;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of publication.

Specific research objectives could relate to the following:

- should archaeological features be present when was the site first occupied and is there evidence for multi-period activity within the site;
- at what date was the site abandoned and why;
- what is the date and nature of the archaeological features and deposits and identified;
- how do the archaeological features compare with comparable contemporary settlement and/or activity in the vicinity e.g. north of Garstang Road;
- what is the date and nature of any landscape features encountered, for example, fields, boundaries, enclosures, and what is their spatial organization;
- what is the chronology and pattern of any field systems uncovered;
- how did landscape features relate to settlement spots;

- what is the palaeo-environmental setting of the area;
- evidence for continuity or change between late Iron Age and Roman periods;
- evidence for settlement/agricultural regimes in the pre-Roman period;
- evidence for relict field systems.

The Archaeological Research Framework for North West England (Brennand 2007) has provided regional specific agenda that includes several research topics that are relevant to the study of archaeological remains at Poulton-le-Fylde:

- the onset of woodland management, clearance and cultivation during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages;
- the date and character of enclosed and unenclosed settlements during the Iron Age along with density of population during this period;
- the relationship between the location of Roman military sites and the distribution of the native population during the Roman period;
- land use and climate change in the medieval period.

It was proposed to dig 16 trenches, each 30m long and 1.6m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels and carried out by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features and deposits were exposed these were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation in-situ.

## **Results**

The 16 trenches were excavated as intended (Fig 2). The trenches were 1.6m wide, and measured between 26.7m and 30.7m long and were between 0.37m and 0.63m deep (Fig 3). A complete list of trenches detailing lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### **Trenches 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 15 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 2, 6, 8)**

Trenches 1, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 15 were 27.0m - 30.7m long, 2.0m wide and between 0.45m - 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy of each trench was the same and consisted of soft mid brown clay silt topsoil and a firm silty clay natural geology varying between light brownish red and light greyish yellow. Trenches 3 was backfilled on the approval of the consultant prior to inspection by LAAS due to flooding caused by wet weather.

#### Trenches 2, 4, 8 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 2, 6, 8)

Trenches 2, 4 and 8 were 26.8m - 29.5m long, 2.0m wide and between 0.37m - 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy of each trench was the same and consisted of soft mid brown clay silt topsoil and a firm silty clay natural geology varying between light brownish red and light greyish yellow. Trench 2 (Fig 2; Pl 1) revealed a NW-SE ditch which was not excavated due to the presence of post medieval white china, iron, and a brass door handle protruding from the fill. Trench 4 (Fig 2) had two probable N-S ditches, which were not fully excavated because they contained modern brick, pottery and concrete. Trench 8 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl 5) revealed a N-S ditch and was again not excavated because it too contained modern brick, flagstones and plastic piping. Trench 2 and 4 were backfilled on the approval of the consultant prior to inspection by LAAS due to flooding caused by wet weather.

#### Trenches 6, 7, 11, 14 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3, 4)

Trenches 6, 7 and 11 were 26.7m - 29.9m long, 2.0m wide and between 0.43m - 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy of each trench consisted of soft mid brown clay silt topsoil, plastic dark brown peat, firm mid brownish grey clay containing wood, and a firm silty clay natural geology varying between light brownish red and light greyish yellow. In trenches 6, 7 and 14, the peat and the grey clay with wood is present in the northern half, while in trench 11 it extends along the length. Trench 14 was backfilled on the approval of the consultant prior to inspection by LAAS due to health and safety concerns about flooding and the wet peat present.

#### Trenches 12, 13, 16 (Fig 2; Pl 7)

Trenches 12, 13, 16 were 27.0m -29.3m long, 2.0m wide and between 0.44m - 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy of each trench was the same and consisted of soft mid brown clay silt topsoil, plastic dark brown peat, firm mid brownish grey clay, firm silty clay natural geology varying between light brownish red and greyish yellow. Trench 16 was backfilled on the approval of the consultant prior to inspection by LAAS due to health and safety concerns about flooding and the wet peat present.



## Conclusion

16 trenches were successfully excavated as intended however despite possible features in the geophysical report, no finds or features of archaeological interest were present. The site is therefore considered to have no archaeological potential.

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## APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	29.9	1.6	0.45	0 - 0.30m soft mid brown clay silt topsoil; 0.30m+ firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology)
2	29.5	1.6	0.37	0 – 0.31m topsoil; 0.31m+ firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
3	28.4	1.6	0.58	0 - 0.28m soft mid brown clay silt topsoil; 0.28m+ firm light reddish brown silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
4	28.5	1.6	0.38	0 – 0.37m topsoil; 0.37m+ firm light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)
5	30.7	1.6	0.43	0 - 0.21m topsoil; 0.21m+ firm light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)
6	29.9	1.6	0.43	0 - 0.18m topsoil; 0.18m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.15m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay with wood; firm mixed light brownish red and greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
7	29.7	1.6	0.52	0 - 0.37m topsoil; 0.37m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.27m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay with wood; firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
8	26.8	1.6	0.53	0 – 0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
9	28.1	1.6	0.57	0 – 0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ firm mixed light brownish red and light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)
10	28.8	1.6	0.49	0 – 0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ firm mixed light brownish red and light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 6]</b>
11	29.6	1.6	0.51	0 – 0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.10m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay with wood; firm light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)
12	28.1	1.6	0.44	0 – 0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.12m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay; firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology)
13	29.2	1.6	0.54	0 – 0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.13m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay; firm light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
14	26.7	1.6	0.63	0 – 0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.12m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay with wood; firm mixed light brownish red and light greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)
15	30.7	1.6	0.52	0 – 0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ firm light brownish red silty clay (natural geology) <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
16	27.0	1.6	0.55	0 – 0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ plastic dark brown peat (0.12m depth); firm mid brownish grey clay; firm mixed light brownish red and greyish yellow silty clay (natural geology)





38900

38800

38700

38600



SD 35400

35500

35600

BCP 19/27

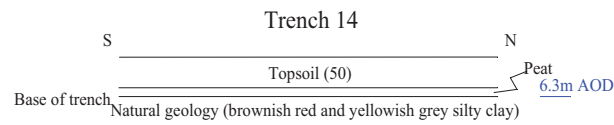
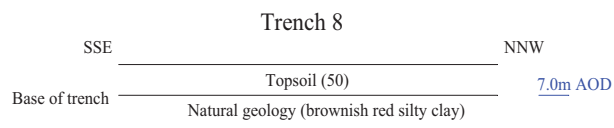
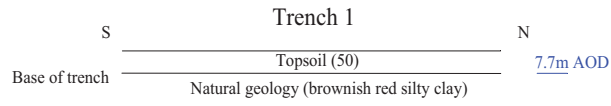


**Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-Le-Fylde,  
Lancashire, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Site Plan  
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**Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-le-Fylde,  
Lancashire, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Representative section.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking east, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking north, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking north Scales: 1m and 2m.

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**Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-le-Fylde,  
Lancashire, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 to 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 8, looking north, Scales: 1m and 2m



Plate 6. Trench 10, looking north,  
Scales: 1m and 2m



Plate 7. Trench 13, looking north,  
Scales: 1m and 2m



Plate 8. Trench 15, looking east, Scales: 1m and 2m

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**Land off Brockholes Crescent, Poulton-le-Fylde,  
Lancashire, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 to 8.**

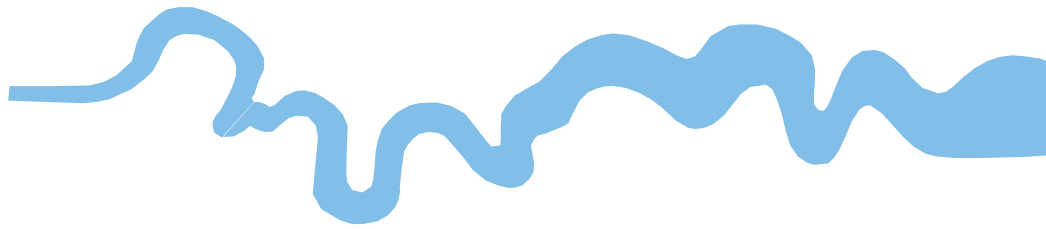


## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC







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