

Archaeological Field Evaluation

On behalf of

Cardwell Hill Developments

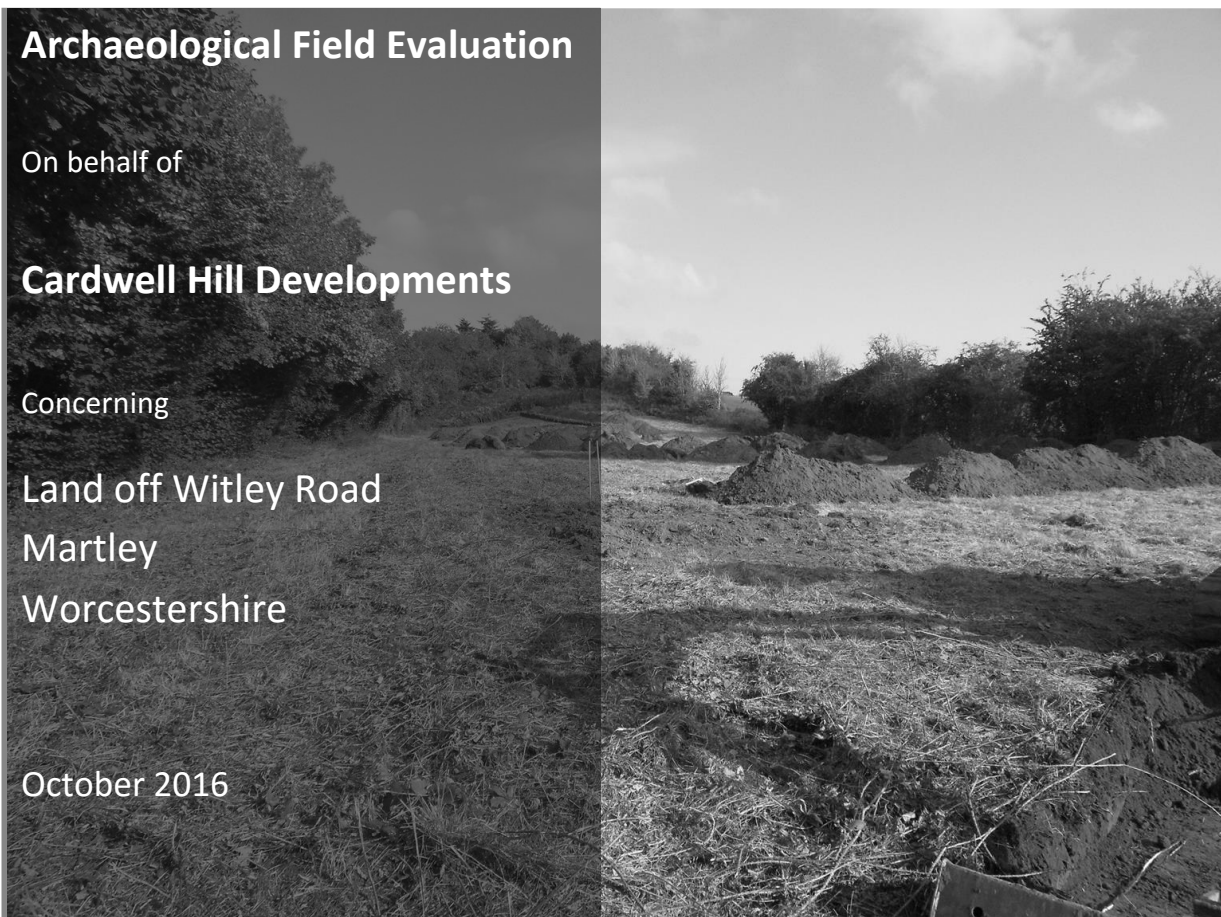
Concerning

Land off Witley Road

Martley

Worcestershire

October 2016



Report Specification:

Compilation:

Katherine Crooks BA

Artwork:

Holly Litherland BA; Owain Connors PhD

Editing:

George Children MA MCI/A

Final Edit & Approval:

Neil Shurety Dip. M G M Inst M

Date:

October 2016

Report Ref:

BA1650WRM

Grid Reference:

NGR: SO75384 60236

HER Event No.

WSM68002

OS Licence No:

100055758

OASIS ID:

borderar1-268956

Cover: View of site looking north showing excavated trenches

General Enquiries: E: ask@borderarchaeology.com | T: 01568 610101

Border Archaeology Regional Offices

Bristol

Trelawney House, Surrey Street,
Bristol, BS2 8PS
T: 0117 3878 921

Leeds

No 1 Leeds, 26 Whitehall Road,
Leeds, LS12 1BE
T: 0113 3570390

Leominster (Administration)

Chapel Walk, Burgess Street,
Leominster, HR6 8DE
T: 01568 610101

London

23 Hanover Square, London, W1S 1JB
T: 020 3714 9345

Milton Keynes

Luminous House, 300 South Row,
Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR
T: 01908 933765

Newport

Merlin House, No1 Langstone Business Park,
Newport, NP18 2HJ
T: 01633 415339

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre, Winnal Valley Road,
Winchester, SO23 0LD
T: 01962 832777

Bristol | Leeds | Leominster | London | Milton Keynes | Newport | Winchester

Contents:

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction.....	2
3	Site Description.....	4
3.1	Soils & Geology	4
4	Historical and Archaeological Background	4
5	Methodology	5
5.1	Recording.....	6
5.2	Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data.....	6
6	Results	7
6.1	Trench 1.....	7
6.2	Trench 2.....	7
6.3	Trench 3.....	8
6.4	Trench 4.....	9
6.5	Trench 5.....	9
6.6	Trench 6.....	10
6.7	Trench 7.....	10
6.8	Trench 8.....	11
6.9	Trench 9.....	11
7	Discussion	12
8	Copyright	14
9	Bibliography.....	15
10	Appendix 1: Pottery Assessment.....	17
10.1	Summary.....	17
10.2	The pottery	17
10.2.1	Trench 3	17
10.2.2	Trench 8	17
10.2.3	Trench 9	17
10.2.4	Conclusion.....	18
10.2.5	Reference.....	18

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was instructed by Alex Young Esq Trower Davies Ltd on behalf of Cardwell Hill Developments to undertake a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) in connection with the proposed development of Land off Witley Road Martley Worcestershire. No deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered during the work.

The northern part of the site slopes sharply to the south and this unfavourable topography, together with its outlying location with respect to the historic core of the settlement, suggest the site remained in agricultural use throughout.

Berrow Hill, a small Iron Age hillfort located some 1.5km to the southwest of the site, represents the clearest evidence of later prehistoric activity in the area and, whilst there are indications of a possible field system associated with this site, no evidence for activity of this date was encountered during the evaluation.

However, the discovery of a single sherd of probable Romano-British pottery (mid 2nd to 4th century AD), when considered within the context of other finds of this date from the area, including a Roman coin and pottery scatters, provides a further indication of some level of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was instructed by Alex Young Esq Trower Davies Ltd on behalf of Cardwell Hill Developments to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) in connection with a proposed development comprising five new dwellings on Land off Witley Road Martley Worcestershire (NGR: SO75384 60236) (Planning ref. 14/00572/FUL) (*fig. 1*).

Evaluation was carried out from October 12th to 13th 2016.



fig. 1: Site location

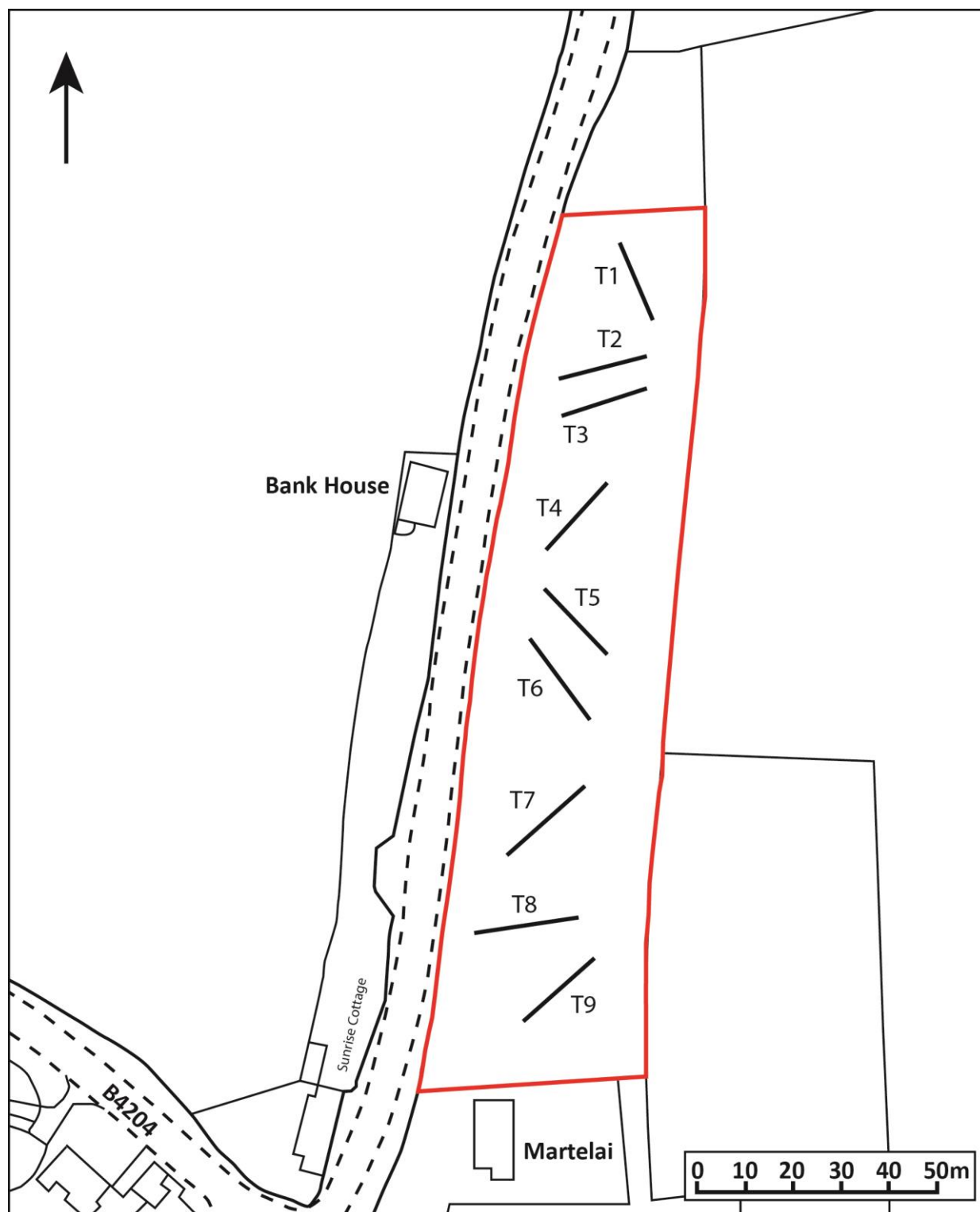


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of evaluation trenches

3 Site Description

The site lies at a height of approximately 68m AOD to the S, rising to 71.5mAOD to the N and extending along the eastern site of the B4197 Great Witley road, immediately N of its junction with the B4204 Clifton-upon-Teme road.

Much of this area to the N of Martley is situated within the Martley Conservation Area 'Sub-area 4' (MHDC 2013, 4), although the site itself lies immediately outside to the N of the Conservation Area boundary.

The site covers an area of approximately 6,500m² of farmland and is bounded to the E by open countryside, which continues on the opposite side of the road to the W, beyond 'Bank House' (*fig. 2*).

3.1 Soils & Geology

The soils are typical brown earths of the BROMSGROVE series (541b), composed of well-drained coarse loamy soils, mainly over soft sandstone, and deep in places, with associated fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. The underlying geology is composed largely of Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous sandstone and siltstone (SSEW 1983).

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

Berrow Hill, a small scheduled univallate Iron Age hillfort approximately 1.5km to the SW of the site (SAM No. 1005332; Mon No. 113954) (NGR SO 7444 5851), comprises an elongated irregular enclosure with a single rampart bank occupying the summit of a steep-sided hill overlooking the River Teme. The hillfort is aligned NE/SW and measures 355m long and about 90m wide at its narrowest point, opening out to 135m at the NE extent and 115m at the SW end. Only the N end and the E side are visible on aerial photographs of the site, the remainder of the hillfort being obscured by tree cover.

The site was surveyed by English Heritage in 2002 and distinct back-scarps to the rampart were recorded at the N and S extremities and along the NE side, up to 1.2m in height. The SE entrance was considered original but this was less certain with regard to the entrance on the W side. The presence of substantial hedge banks of some antiquity forming existing field boundaries around the hill were noted and considered to be potentially indicative of an Iron Age field system (Mon No. 1361577) (NGR: SO744 585) previously recorded in 1971 (Bowden 2002).

The discovery of a Roman coin near the village centre, together with limited pottery finds within the wider vicinity, provides some limited evidence of Romano-British activity.

Martley was held by Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor, in 1066. This is reflected in the Domesday entry for Doddingtree Hundred, which states: 'The King holds Martley. Queen Edith held it...' The entry goes on to detail the holding as comprising '10 hides and 1 virgate of land. In lordship 8 ploughs; 47 villagers, 16 smallholders and 2 riders with 43 ploughs. A mill at 8s; 2 weirs pay 2,500 eels and 5 sticks. A reeve and a beadle have 2 virgates of land and 2 ploughs' (Thorn & Thorn 1982).

The site lies some 320m to the NW of the centre of Martley. It is thought that the earliest surviving building in the village is the early 12th -century Grade I listed Church of St Peter (List entry No. 1082960) (SO 75635 59814) last restored in 1909 by Sir Charles Nicholson. During the restoration of the church medieval wall paintings were uncovered. The existing church appears to have been predated by an earlier Saxon church located to the N. A number of Grade II Listed Buildings are recorded in and around Martley, the earliest of these clustering around the church itself, including the 14th -century Old Hall, the former rectory. Outlying development probably reflects farming and quarrying activity in the wider vicinity.

Notable among the outlying farms within the vicinity of the proposed development is 'The Noak' (List entry No. 1082965) (NGR: SO 75108 60420), an early 17th -century farmhouse with later additions, roughly 300m NW of the site. This was the principal residence of the Nash family, of which the Worcestershire antiquary, Rev. Treadway Russell Nash, was a member. Traces of a moat have been noted to the S of the farmhouse (Page & Willis-Bund 1924, 290-1).

5 Methodology

AFE was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014). BAL adheres to *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015) and the ClfA *Code of conduct* (2014).

Approximately 325m² of evaluation trenching, equivalent to 5% of the site area, was opened to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and to assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits. Investigation was sufficient to define any identified archaeological deposits, features and structures in terms of their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enable an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate.

Nine trenches, each measuring 20m × 1.80m, were opened by machine and toothless bucket (*fig. 2*). All machining was carried out under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

Topsoil was removed in successive, level spits. As no archaeological horizon was revealed, machining continued to natural deposits, with the exception of a *sondage* in Trench 3, which was excavated to confirm that natural deposits had been reached. Trench excavations did not exceed a depth of 1.20m.

No archaeological deposits or features were present. No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were encountered.

5.1 Recording

A full written record was made using BAL's standard trench recording sheets. Annotated sketch plans and measured trench profiles were made. Temporary benchmarks (TBMs) were established at appropriate locations and levels added to each trench sheet.

A photographic record of all stratigraphic units was made using a high-resolution digital camera and an appropriate scale. Subject and direction of view were entered onto a standard photographic recording sheet and referenced by frame number, this number being cross-referenced to the relevant written record. A representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work was also made.

5.2 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

Associated artefacts were retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), the aim being to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (ClfA 2014).

Artefactual evidence was bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed from site. Pottery has been assessed according to typological and chronological criteria; no conservation needs were identified.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	101	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.26m thick, trench wide. Overlying (102)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	102	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compacted, but soft, bright reddish-brown sand; occasional chalk flecks & fragments natural stone; <0.25m thick, trench wide. Underlying (101), overlying (103).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	103	-	Deposit	Bedrock in base of trench	Red Triassic sandstone. Underlying (102).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.2 Trench 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	201	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.37m thick, trench wide. Overlying (202)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	202	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compact, but soft, bright reddish-brown sand; occasional black flecks & fragments of natural stone; 0.30m deep, trench wide. Underlying (201), overlying (203)	-	-	-	-	-	Upper levels indicated some disturbance

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	203	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm mid greyish-brown clayey sand; white flecking; >0.30m thick, trench wide. Underlying (202).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.3 Trench 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	301	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.16m thick, trench wide. Overlying (302).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	302	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compact, but soft, strongly reddish-brown sand silt; occasional flecks of natural stone & black flecking; 0.35m deep, trench wide. Underlying (301), overlying (303)	-	✓	-	-	-	Single sherd at subsoil/natural interface
3	303	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm greyish-brown gritty clay; 1.23m thick. Underlying (302)	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Sondage</i> to white/green stone to confirm natural

6.4 Trench 4

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	401	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.60m thick, trench wide. Overlying (401)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	402	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compact, but soft, reddish sand silt; occasional fragments of natural sandstone & black flecks; 0.30m deep, trench wide. Underlying (401), overlying (403)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	403	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm mid brown gritty clay sand; >0.10m thick, trench wide. Underlying (402).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.5 Trench 5

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	501	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.30m thick, trench wide. Overlying (502)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	502	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Soft, but compact, red sand; occasional red natural sandstone & black flecking; 0.15m thick, trench wide. Underlying (501), overlying (503).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	103	-	Deposit	Natural	Greyish-brown gritty sand clay; white flecks; >0.15m thick, trench wide. Underlying (502).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.6 Trench 6

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	601	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.26m thick, trench wide. Overlying (602)	-	-	-	✓	-	Clay tobacco pipe
2	602	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Soft, but compacted, bright reddish-brown sand; occasional black flecks & fragments of natural stone; 0.25m deep, trench wide. Underlying (601), overlying (603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	603	-	Deposit	Natural	Mid greyish-brown gritty clayey sand; white flecks; firmly compacted; >0.20m thick, trench wide. Underlying (602).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.7 Trench 7

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	701	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt; grit, black flecks & rooting; 0.39m thick, trench wide. Overlying (702)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	702	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compacted, but soft, bright reddish-brown sand; occasional chalk flecks & fragments natural stone; <0.25m thick, trench wide. Underlying (701), overlying (703).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	703	-	Deposit	Natural	Gritty mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand with some clay; occasional orange flecks (natural sandstone) & manganese; >0.10m thick, trench wide. Underlying (703).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.8 Trench 8

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	801	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt; black flecks & rooting; 0.36m thick, trench wide. Overlying (802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	802	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compact, but soft, bright reddish-brown sand; occasional black flecks, white (chalk) flecks & orange fragments of natural stone; 0.30m deep, trench wide. Underlying (801), overlying (803).	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	203	-	Deposit	Natural	Light yellowish-brown/grey sandy silt; manganese flecks, occasional natural sub-angular sandstone, grittier at interface with (802); >0.33m thick, trench wide. Underlying (802).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

6.9 Trench 9

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	901	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt; grit, black flecks & rooting; 0.30m thick, trench wide. Overlying (902).	-	✓	-	-	-	-
2	902	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Compacted, but soft, bright reddish-brown sand clay; occasional chalk flecks & fragments natural stone; 0.40m thick, trench wide. Underlying (901), overlying (903).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	903	-	Deposit	Natural in base of trench	Red clay with grey patches and natural chalk/lime deposits; >0.10m thick, trench wide. Underlying (903).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposition

7 Discussion

The site slopes from c.71.5m AOD at its northern extent (Trench 1) to about 68m AOD at the S, the steep gradient, particularly at the N end of the field, probably being sufficient to discourage occupation. Additionally, the distance of some 320m from the historic core of village, thought to lie close to St Peter's Church, would also make it likely that the site remained in use as agricultural land throughout, as reflected in the Conservation Area Appraisal, which states that the part of the village adjoining the site was not developed until the 19th century (MHDC 2006).



Plate 1: View NE showing Triassic sandstone bedrock in the base of Trench 1

Considerable variation in natural deposition was noted across the site, with natural chalk/lime deposits at the base of Trench 9 at the southern end of the site (*Plate 3*) and red Triassic sandstone at the base of Trench 1 to the N (*Plate 1*).

The thickness of the topsoil, up to 0.60m deep in Trench 4, indicates a lengthy period of cultivation, with the addition of a considerable amount of organic matter. Compared to the immediate surrounding areas, the S end of the site appeared noticeably flat, probably as a result of ploughing.

Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe recovered from the topsoil thus probably relates to agricultural land-use and the importation of material to fertilise the soil.



Plate 2: View N of sondage into natural clay in Trench 3



Plate 3: View W of Trench 9 showing red clay and marled/chalky clay natural

A single, much-abraded sherd of probable Malvernian wheel-thrown ware dating from the mid-2nd to 4th century AD was recovered from at subsoil/natural interface (302) in Trench 3 and this, together with the Roman coin previously found in the centre of the village and pottery scatters recorded elsewhere in the vicinity, suggests some limited level of Romano-British activity in the area (BAL 2016). The abraded condition of this single sherd and the fact that no further pottery of this date was present on the site would appear to indicate that the focus of such activity lay elsewhere within the vicinity.

8 Copyright

BAL shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the Client and the Council for the use of the report by the Client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

9 Bibliography

Border Archaeology Ltd, 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Programme of Field Evaluation at Land off Witley Road, Martley*

Border Archaeology Ltd, 2014, *Archaeological Field Recording Manual*

Boucher, A., 2013, *Land at Martley Worcestershire: Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey*, Headland Archaeology Report Ref. TWMW13

Bowden, M., 2002, *Berrow Hill, Martley, Worcestershire: Level 2 Archaeological Survey*, Archaeological investigation report series, English Heritage

Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd Edition)

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

ClfA, 2014, *Code of Conduct*

DCLG, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*

Hogg, A. H. A., 1979, *British Hillforts: An index*, British Archaeological Report (BAR) British Series **1**, 62

Lee, E., 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, Historic England

Malvern Hills District Council, 2006, *Martley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy*

Page, W. & Willis-Bund, J. W. (Eds.), 1924, 'Parishes: Martley with Hillhampton', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, London

(British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp289-297> [accessed 16 August 2016])

SSEW, 1983, *Soil Map of England and Wales Scale 1:250 000*, Silsoe

Swan, V. G., 1984, *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, RCHME, Supplementary Series **5**

Thorn, F. & Thorn, C., 1982, *Domesday Book: Worcestershire*, Chichester

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V., 2001, *First Aid for Finds*, London

Watt, S., 2011, *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*, Oxford

Webster, P. V., 1976, 'Severn Valley ware: a preliminary study', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, **94**, 18-46

10 Appendix 1: Pottery Assessment

K. H. Crooks

Border Archaeology Ltd

10.1 Summary

A total of six sherds of pottery were recovered from the site and, with the exception of a single sherd from Trench 3, of Romano-British date, all material date to the post-medieval or later post-medieval periods.

Pottery was washed and examined by eye and under magnification (×10).

10.2 The pottery

10.2.1 Trench 3

Context	Wt. (g)	Date	Comments
302	7.89	Late C2 to C4	Possible Worcestershire Fabric 19. Greatly abraded, little surface treatment surviving, making identification uncertain

10.2.2 Trench 8

The single sherd of pottery from Trench 8 was recovered from the topsoil/subsoil interface.

Context	Wt. (g)	Date	Comments
802	34.0	C18/C19	Coarse kitchenware or dairying vessel; internal brown glaze, red slip. Sandy fabric.

10.2.3 Trench 9

Context	Wt. (g)	Date	Comments
901	2.3	C19/C20	Transfer-printed ware; cobalt transfer
901	3.0	C17	Black glazed ware. Internal & external black glaze. Highly fired
901	1.7	C18	Internal & external black glaze. Yellow/cream fabric – Staffordshire
901	5.2	C18	Black glazed ware; internal & external black glaze. Red fabric – Staffordshire(?)

10.2.4 Conclusion

Only a small amount of pottery was recovered during the field evaluation at Martley. The majority was recovered from the topsoil and probably represents waste material incorporated into organic matter used fertiliser.

The single sherd of probable wheel-thrown Malvernian ware (Worcestershire Fabric 19) discovered at the subsoil/natural interface in Trench 3 was abraded to the point where little surface treatment survived, making identification uncertain.

The small size of the assemblage, the insecure nature of the deposits from which it was recovered and the extremely abraded condition of the possibly Romano-British material means that no further work is thought to be necessary.

10.2.5 Reference

<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/>

Report Title		Report Ref	
Archaeological Field Evaluation: Land off Witley Road Martley Worcestershire		BA1650WRM	
Compiled by	Katherine Crooks BA		
Edited by	George Children MA MCIfA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	October 2016	Neil Shurety Dip. M G M Inst M