

**Long Marston Airfield
Stratford-on-Avon
Warwickshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
CALA Homes Midlands

CA Project: 6331
CA Report: 17535

October 2017



Long Marston Airfield Stratford-on-Avon Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Long Marston Airfield
Location:	Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire
NGR:	417357 248422
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3 August 2017, 30-31 August 2017
Planning Reference:	14/03579/OUT
Location of Archive:	to be deposits with Warwickshire Museum
Site Code:	LMA 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2017 at Long Marston Airfield Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated.

Three ditches, a gully, a pit were recorded. A series of furrows, on multiple orientations, were observed across the site which post-dated these features.

Residual pottery of Roman date was recovered from a furrow.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CALA Homes (Midlands) at Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (centred at NGR: 417357 248422; Fig. 1). The evaluation was required as a condition of planning approval from Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC; planning ref. 14/03579/OUT), as secured by Condition 46 of the decision notice. This programme of archaeological work forms part of a submission of Reserved Matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for 400 dwellings (Class C3), open space, highways works and all other associated work pursuant to planning permission 14/03579/OUT dated 28th February 2017.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The evaluation area (the site hereafter) targets areas of planned groundworks associated with new development and is approximately 10.6ha in extent. It is situated at the southern extent of the Reserved Matters planning application area, which in total is 43.87ha. The site is surrounded by lands associated with the airfield, apart from the south west where it is bounded by the B4632. The site lies at approximately 50m AOD, and is predominately level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of Jurassic and Triassic Period, with no recorded Superficial Deposits (BGS 2017). The natural substrate, comprising clay, was observed in all excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current site is part of a wider development scheme, for which an Environmental Statement (CA 2014) and geophysical survey have been completed (ASWYAS 2014).

- 2.2 A possible deserted medieval village lies to the east of the site, extant as a complex of earthworks. Ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval date are recorded at several points within the site (CA 2014).
- 2.3 The current site forms the northern extent of Long Marston Airfield. The airfield dates from 1941 and was established as an Operational Training Unit, part of the 'third phase' airfields used for training and logistics. It originally had three large hangars, situated around three landing strips in an 'A' shaped arrangement. The military airfield was closed in 1954, although it remained active for civilian light aircraft. Many of the WWII buildings have been demolished or removed, and the runway itself has been in use as a racetrack (CA 2014).
- 2.4 A geophysical survey was completed for the current site, but this did not identify any potential archaeological features (ASWYAS 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable SOADC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 14 trenches. Trenches 2-4 were 50m in length, Trench 5 was 3m in length, Trench 7 was 26m in length, Trenches 8-9: 50m in length, Trench 10 was 22m in length, Trench 11 was 35m in length, Trenches 12-15 were 50m in length, Trench 17 was 3m in length; the trenches are illustrated on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 6 and 16 and Trenches 5, 7, 10 and 17 were shortened due to site constraints such as buried services; the original trench plan is included as Appendix D of this report. The trenches were set out on

OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.

- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*: no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The trenches followed a consistent sequence of stratigraphy. The natural substrate comprising sandy-clay with gravel was overlain by plough soil, which typically measured 0.4m in thickness. In Trenches 8 and 15 this was overlain by modern made-ground, which typically measured 0.1m in thickness. All trenches were sealed by topsoil, which typically measured 0.2m in thickness. All identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by the ploughsoil unless otherwise stated below.

5.3 Furrows were recorded in Trenches 2-4 and 7-15; they cut the natural substrate and were sealed by ploughsoil. The furrows were aligned northeast-southwest, north-south and east-west; this suggests multiple phases of activity. Redeposited Roman pottery was recovered from a furrow in Trench 8. Also in Trench 8, the furrows were cut by modern ditch 808.

5.4 Modern banks, attributable to very recent groundworks, overlay parts of Trenches 5, 7, 10 and 17.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

5.3 South-east/north-west aligned ditch 303 was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. It was linear in plan and had a shallow U-shaped profile. It was 14m in length, 0.8m in width and typically measured 0.2m in depth. It contained undated fill 304 and was cut by furrows.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 Sub-circular pit 406 was located towards the south-eastern end of the trench. The pit was 0.6m in diameter, 0.1m in depth and contained undated fill 405. It was cut by east-west aligned ditch 404. The ditch was linear in plan and had a steep U-shaped profile. It was 2.3m in length, 0.7m in width, 0.3m in depth and contained undated fill 403.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

5.5 North/south aligned ditch 804 was recorded at the western end of the trench. It was linear in plan and had a shallow 'U'-shaped profile. It measured 2m in length, 1.8m in width, 0.1m in depth and contained undated fill 805.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

5.5 North-south aligned gully 906 was recorded in the western half of the trench. It was linear in plan with a rounded northern terminus and a U-shaped profile. It measured 1.1m in length, 0.4m in width, 0.2m in depth and contained undated fill 905.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from two deposits (a furrow fill and plough soil). The recovered material dates to the Roman period. Quantities of the artefact

types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes have been assigned for this report.

Pottery: Roman

- 6.2 Three sherds (31g) of Roman pottery were recorded. Fill 807 of furrow 806 produced unfeathered bodysherds in a sandy oxidised fabric (OXI) and a shell-tempered fabric (SH). Both were heavily abraded. A rimsherd in Oxford fine oxidised ware (OXF FO) was retrieved from plough soil 701. It derives from a Young Type O39 bowl and features white barbotine decoration on the rim. This form dates to the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries (Young 1977, 196–7) and the sherd is in very good condition, with no abrasion or surface loss.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified only limited archaeological remains within the site, with the majority of trenches either devoid of archaeological features or otherwise revealing medieval or later plough furrows or likely modern ditches. The Roman pottery recovered is considered to be residual. The results of the evaluation are therefore consistent with the results of desk-based assessment (CA 2014) and geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2014), and tend to suggest the site was likely on the periphery of the deserted medieval village.
- 7.2 The earliest features recorded comprised ditch 303, ditch 404 and pit 406. While none were dated, all were observed to have been cut by furrows. The ditches could not be identified as historic field boundaries on early Ordnance Survey map imprints, however given the range of orientation of furrows (see below) it is possible that they represent the remnants of such features. The pit could not be directly dated, so no further interpretation is possible beyond a possible association with nearby medieval activity.
- 7.3 The furrows were observed in the majority of excavated trenches on three broad, and in some cases intercutting, alignments (north/south, east/west and north/east-south/west; the majority accord with field boundaries illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (dated 1884). Given the intercutting nature of the furrows, the ditches beneath and many of the furrows themselves were observed to be heavily truncated.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Andrew Hurst, Jess Stevens, Michael Joyce and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

9. REFERENCES

Archaeological Services West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (ASWYAS) 2014 *Land at Church Hill, Long Marston, Warwickshire: Geophysical Survey*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 7 September 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Long Marston Airfield Residential Development: Environmental Statement*

CA 2017 *Long Marston Airfield Stratford-on-Avon Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
2	201	Layer		Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
3	301	Layer		Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.4	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
3	303	Cut		Ditch	Southeast-northwest aligned linear in plan with shallow. U-shaped profile	14	0.8	0.2	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles	14	0.8	0.2	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.3	
4	401	Layer		Plough soil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay			0.25	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
4	403	Fill	404	Fill of ditch	Mid grey-brown clay-silt with rare pebbles	0.85	0.7	0.35	
4	404	Cut		Ditch	Northwest-southeast aligned linear in plan. Steep U-shaped profile	0.85	0.7	0.35	
4	405	Fill	406	Fill of possible pit	Mid orange-brown clay-silt with rare pebbles	0.6	0.55	0.1	
4	406	Cut		Possible pit	Sub-circular in plan with shallow U-shaped profile	0.6	0.55	0.1	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
5	501	Layer		Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM and tarmac	3	2.2	0.5	
5	502	Layer		Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
5	503	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.25	
7	701	Layer		Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.6	LC1-MC2
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
7	703	Layer		Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM and tarmac	0.5	2.2	0.5	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.25	
8	801	Layer		Made-ground	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM			0.3	
8	802	Layer		Plough soil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay			0.3	
8	803	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
8	804	Cut		Ditch	North-south aligned with shallow U-shaped profile	2	1.2	0.1	
8	805	Fill	804	Fill of ditch	Mid brown-orange sand-clay	2	1.2	0.1	
8	806	Cut		Furrow	Northwest-southeast aligned linear in plan with U-shaped profile	2.1	2.75	0.2	
8	807	Fill	806	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles	2.1	2.75	0.2	RB
8	808	Cut		Ditch	Linear in plan. Not excavated	2	1	n/a	
8	809	Fill	808	Fill of ditch	Mid grey-brown silt-clay	2	1	n/a	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare			0.3	

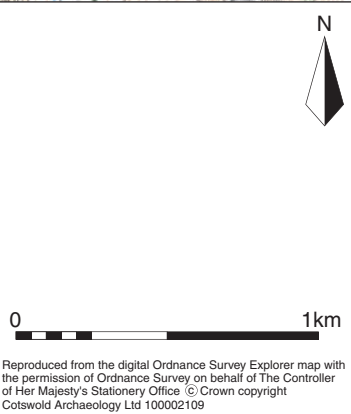
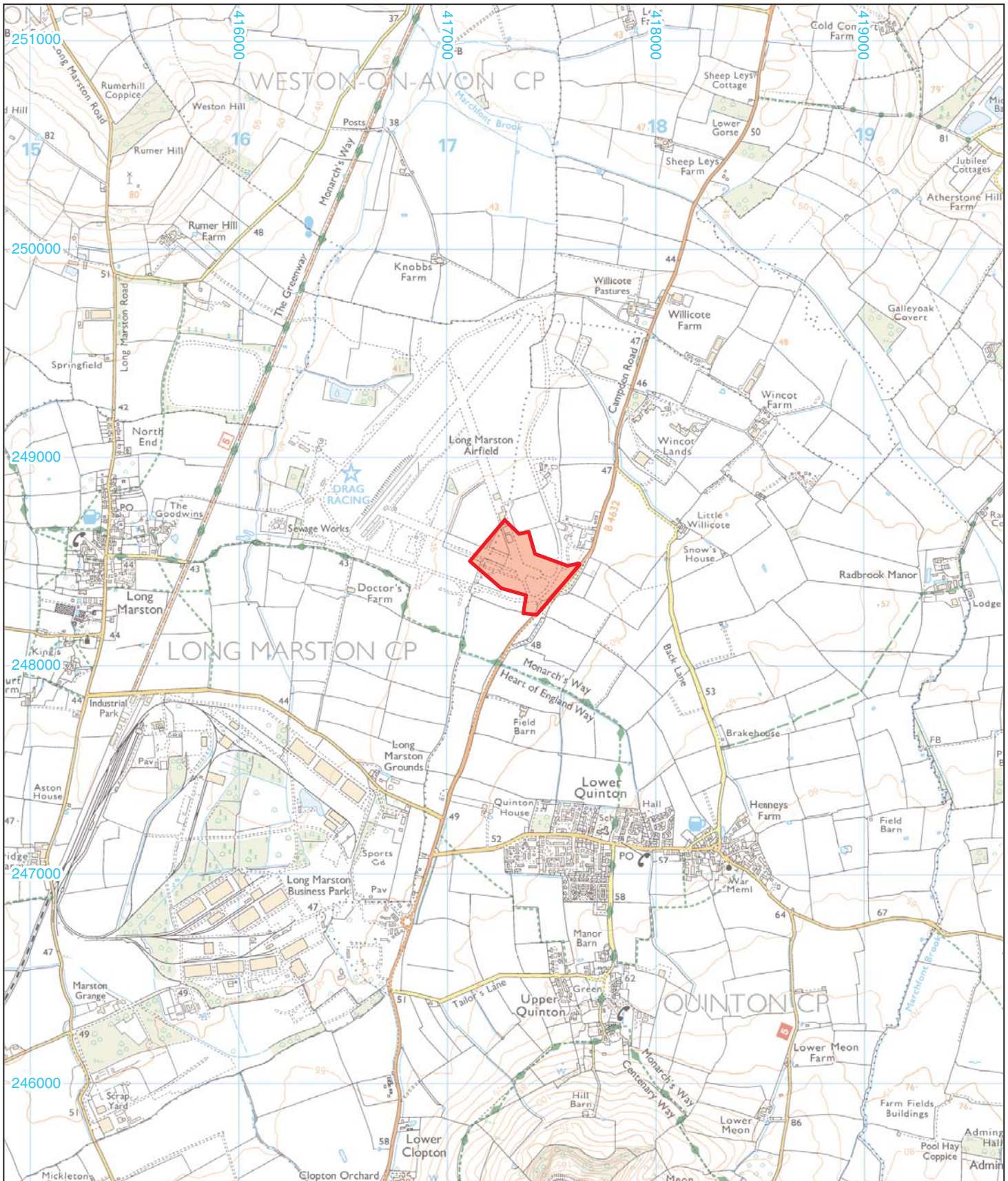
					pebbles				
9	901			Plough soil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay			0.25	
9	902			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
9	903		904	Fill of furrow	Mid orange-grey sand-clay	2	1.1	0.1	
9	904			Furrow	Northeast-southwest aligned	2	1.1	0.1	
9	905		906	Fill of gully	Mid brown-grey sand clay with rare pebbles	1.1	0.4	0.2	
9	906			Gully terminus	North-south linear in plan with shallow U-shaped profile	1.1	0.4	0.2	
10	1000			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.1	
10	1001			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
10	1002			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
10	1003			Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM and tarmac	8	2.2	0.8	
11	1100			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.15	
11	1101			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.45	
11	1102			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
11	1103			Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM and tarmac	8	2.2	0.5	
12	1200			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.15	
12	1201			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.4	
12	1202			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
12	1203			Made-ground	Mid grey-brown silt clay			0.05	
13	1300			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
13	1301			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.45	
13	1302			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
14	1400			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
14	1401			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
14	1402			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
15	1500			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
15	1501			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
15	1502			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	
15	1503			Made-ground	Mid grey-brown silt clay			0.1	
17	1700			Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.2	
17	1701			Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM and tarmac	3	2.2	2.3	
17	1702			Modern bank	Light grey-brown silt-clay with modern CBM	3	2.2	2.3	
17	1703			Plough soil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay with rare pebbles			0.5	
17	1704			Natural	Mid orange-brown sand-clay with patches of blue-grey clay			n/a	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
701	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised ware	OXF FO	1	25	LC1-MC2
807	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	OXI	1	3	RB
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	1	3	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2017 at Long Marston Airfield Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Three ditches, a gully, a pit were recorded. A series of furrows, on multiple orientations, were observed across the site which post-dated these features.</p> <p>Residual pottery of Roman date was recovered from a furrow.</p>	
Project dates	3 August 2017, 30-31 August 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Long Marston Airfield Residential Development: Environmental Statement</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Long Marston, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	417357 248422	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Warwickshire Museum	Pottery
Paper	Warwickshire Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, registers, drawings
Digital	Warwickshire Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 15535</p>		



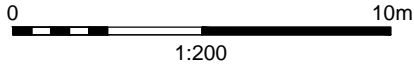
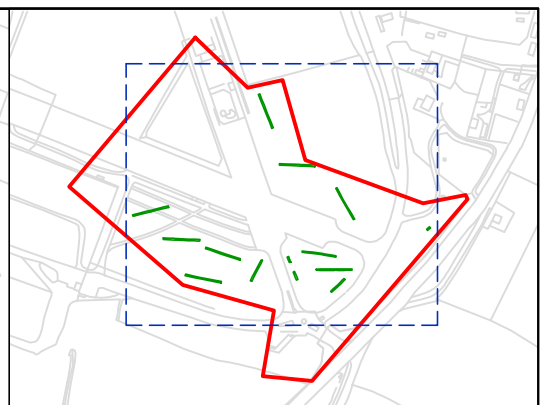

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PROJECT TITLE
 Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

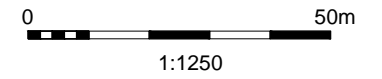
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- furrow
- modern
- section location



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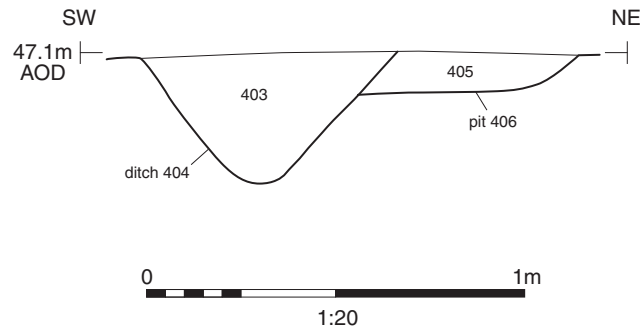
PROJECT TITLE
Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 06/09/2017	2
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P:\6331 - Long Marston Airfield, SoA, Marks EVA\Illustration\Drawings\6331 - Long Marston Airfield - Eval_Fig02.dwg

Section AA



Ditch 404 and pit 406, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Long Marston Airfield, Stratford-on-Avon,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: Section and Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3

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