



HARTS FARM WAY Havant

County of Hampshire

An archaeological evaluation report

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MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

HARTS FARM WAY
Havant

County of Hampshire

An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: HA-HMY06

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of Harts Farm Way, Havant, Hampshire. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Michael Sparks Associates on behalf of Dwyer plc.

Following the recommendations of an archaeological assessment nine evaluation trenches were excavated on the site.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation revealed no archaeological deposits earlier than 20th century pits. Natural chalky flint gravels were recorded at heights between 2.60m OD and 3.20m OD, respectively 1.40m and 1.10m below adjacent ground surface level.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment is low.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Harts Farm Way, Havant, Hampshire, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located to the north of Harts Farm Way and is bounded by the A27 road (the Havant bypass) to the north, and local access roads to the east. The OS National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is 470705 105905. The level of the ground surface varied between c 3.55m OD and 4.00m OD. However, in the north-east corner of the site, the area currently used for boat storage is slightly lower at c 3.00-4.00m OD and a large mound of recently tipped material immediately to the west of this is as high as 7.57m OD. The site code is HA-HMY06.

The proposed development comprises the construction of industrial and business units, with associated service areas and car parking, which will involve diverting the watercourse and building over the existing pond.

A desk-top *Archaeological desk based assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2006). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out on nine trenches on the site in 2006.

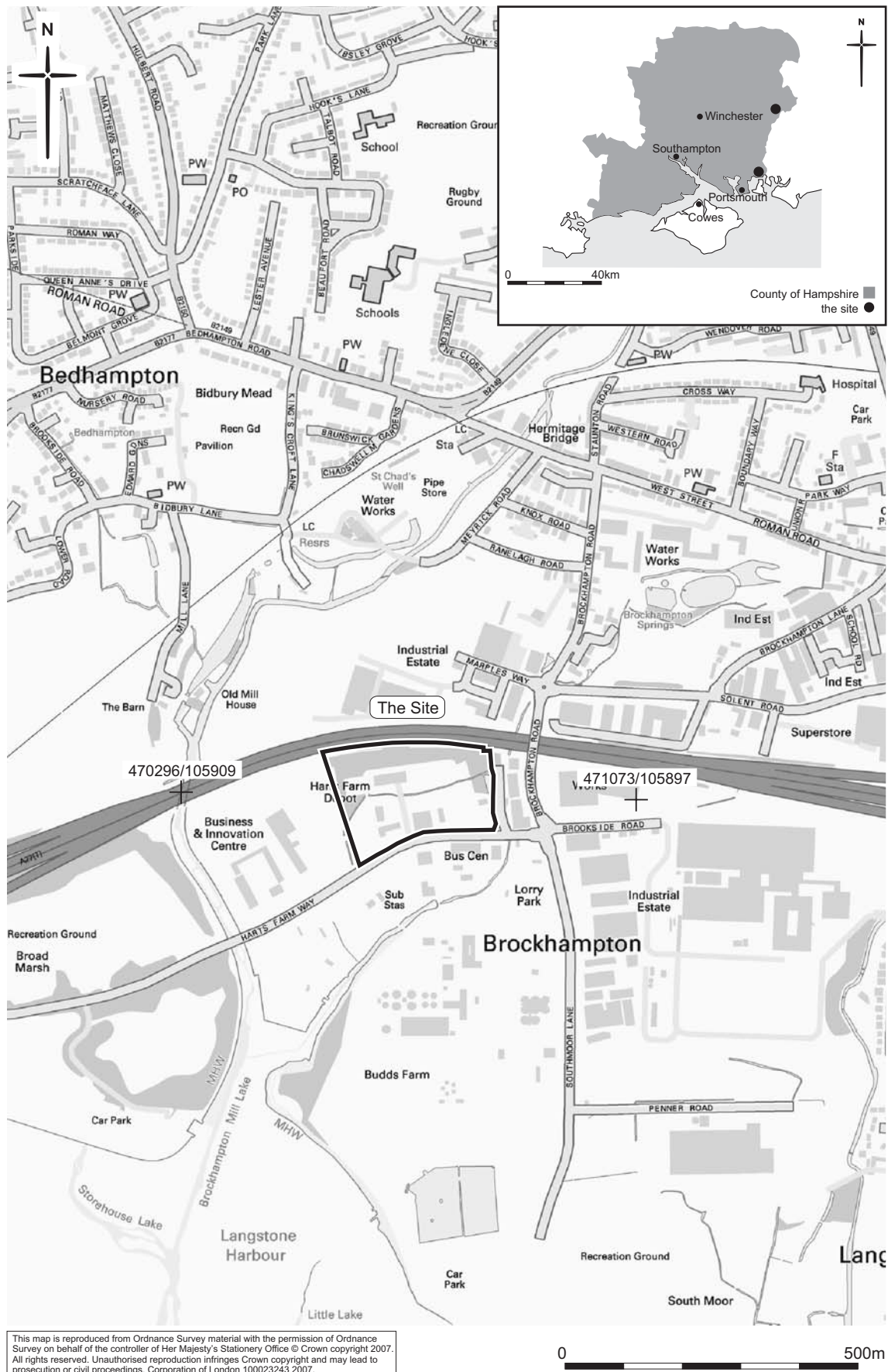


Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2006).

1.3 Planning background

The evaluation was undertaken as a pre-determination investigation prior to the submitting of a planning application on the site.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Michael Sparks Associates on behalf of Dwyer plc and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?
- Is there any evidence for salt manufacture dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods? If so in what form does this take?

- Is there any evidence of occupation on the site, particularly for the prehistoric and Roman periods?

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Introduction

There has been no previous archaeological investigation on the site itself. A previous desk based assessment on the site (MoLAS 2006) has been undertaken and a brief summary of the topography, archaeological and historical background to the site is included below.

2.2 Topography

The site is low-lying and located on the alluvial floodplain of Brockhampton Stream and an inlet of the Langstone Harbour. The underlying geology in the immediate area of the site comprises alluvium, and Brickearth sealing Head Gravel (clayey gravel), over the chalk ridge of Portsdown.

Two streams are located to either side of the site: Hermitage Stream to the west, and Brockhampton Stream to the east and south-east, both flowing into Langstone Harbour. A tributary of the Brockhampton Stream (Harts Farm Stream) flows east to west across the centre of the site. On the eastern boundary of the site is a shallow pond, which is spring-fed from the east and discharges into the watercourse.

With the exception of localised variations on the banks of the stream and the pond, ground level within the area of the site is roughly level, varying generally between c 3.55m OD and 4.00m OD. However, in the north-east corner of the site, an area currently used for boat storage is slightly lower, at c 3.00–4.00m OD. There is a large mound of recently tipped material immediately to the west of this is as high as 7.57m OD.

2.3 Prehistoric period

A Mesolithic conical core and two flint scrapers were found during roadwork's at Langstone Road, 750m to the east of the site. Four Neolithic type flints were also recovered during roadworks, where Langstone Road, joins the ring road, 750m east of the site. Bronze Age pottery was found c 500m east of the site, in an area of raised shingle beaches. Approximately 700m south-west of the site, several small hearth areas together with groups of pot boilers, flint flakes and pottery of Iron Age date were recovered during the stripping and reclamation of marshes: the density of the occupation scatter possibly indicates a salt manufacture site. Further small hearth areas, worked flints and Iron Age pottery have been recorded at another location nearby, 500m west of the site.

2.4 Roman period (AD43-410)

The site is located c 500m to the south of a Roman road which ran from Bitterne (Clausentum) to Chichester (Noviomagus) (Margary 421). The east-west road continues through Havant and approximately follows the course of the Winchester-Chichester Roman road.

To the south of Havant, near Langstone (just over 1km from the site), is the site of a Roman villa, where investigations produced pottery dated to the second and third centuries.

Other finds from within the vicinity include a Romano-British rubbish pit, a floor surface associated with 4th century pottery and a bronze coin, and some unstratified Roman pottery recorded at two locations in West Street, Havant, c 500m north of the site. Unstratified Roman pottery has also been recovered, c 850m north-east of the site during the excavation of footing trenches in Havant.

An early Roman ceramic flagon neck was found on Langstone shore, c 350m to the south-west and Roman pottery was recovered from disturbed material during a watching brief at Bedhampton Social Hall, c 600m north of the site.

2.5 Medieval period (AD410-1485)

The majority of the site falls within the parish of Bedhampton, whilst the southern edge lies within the parish of Havant. Bedhampton is first mentioned in the early 9th century when King Egbert granted the manor to the cathedral church of Winchester. Havant is first documented in AD 935. Bedhampton is described as a settlement with a church, two mills and two salt-houses Domesday Book (AD1086).

Features of medieval date recorded in the vicinity of the site include a well near Havant pumping station, c 350m to the north, a late medieval pit and a floor in West Street, 500m to the north, and a further pit recorded during the digging of footing trenches 850m to the north-east. At Brockhampton Sewage Works, c 280m south of the site, medieval pottery was recorded, as well as three hearths, though the pottery could not definitely be associated. Pottery of 14th-century date was also recovered during a watching brief at Southmoor Lane, Havant, 800m to the south-east.

2.6 Post-medieval period (AD1485-present)

From the mid-17th century much of the countryside in the area of Langstone harbour given over to growing corn, which was ground in local mills at Brockhampton, Bedhampton, and Havant. The largest mill was that of Brockhampton (120m south-east of the site) was driven by the stream which rises in the grounds of the water company works and pumping station. The post-medieval mill here may have stood on the site of the mill mentioned in Domesday Book (1086).

The Ordnance Survey 1" map of Hampshire published in the 1810s (not reproduced) is not detailed but shows the settlement at Brockhampton. There appear to be no buildings within the area of the site, but the tributary of the Brockhampton Stream can clearly be seen crossing the site.

The earliest detailed maps of the site are Tithe maps (1842 - c.1845) of the parishes of Havant and Bedhampton. The later shows a group of buildings in the eastern part of the site. The accompanying Tithe apportionment indicates that the site was crossed by the 'Lane to the Common Marsh' (the line of the stream), with parts of arable and pasture fields to the north, and an arable field to the south.

The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 25" map of 1869 names the cottages in the eastern part of the site as Harts Farm, comprising a group of main buildings with two wells. The map shows a stream crossing the site and the area of the existing pond is shown for the first time and marked 'Watercress Beds'. The area immediately to the west and south-west of the site (outside) known as West Marsh, is indicated as an area liable to floods.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Nine evaluation trenches were excavated at intervals across the site.

The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The location of the evaluation trenches were recorded by the MoLAS Geomatics Department. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by using a TBM derived from two established heights of 3.96m and 4.18m OD related to an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (Drg. No. 0676-04-11-01, Hampshire Land Surveys Ltd.).

The site has produced: a trench location plan; 64 context records; 9 section drawings and 9 plan drawings at 1:50; and a series of digital photographs. In addition 2 boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code HA-HWY06 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

Fig 2 Areas of evaluation

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Northwestern corner of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.66m to 3.87m OD
Base of modern fill	3.47m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.14m OD
Natural observed	2.60m OD

Trench 1 was located in the northwestern corner of the site and was oriented northeast-southwest. It crossed a asphalt surface fenced compound and a asphalt surface open area.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.30m OD. Above this was a natural brown clayey flint gravel, recorded at 2.60m OD. This deposit was probably a version of the underlying chalky gravel were the chalk had been washed out and replaced by alluvial clay. Overlying the latter was a grey brown clay alluvium, 0.20m to 0.70m deep, at 2.80m - 3.40m OD. Truncating this layer was a make-up layer of compact chalk, 0.30 – 0.40m thick, at 3.20m OD.

Sealing the chalk were layers of made ground incorporating sand, then rubble capped by an asphalt surface.

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Northern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.93m to 4.16m OD
Base of modern fill	2.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	1.78m OD
Natural observed	2.70m OD

Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the site and was oriented northeast-southwest, to the east of Trench 1. It crossed an area of demolition debris / chalk rubble and, at either end, asphalt surfaces.

Natural chalky silty clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.60m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark brown silty clay alluvium, 0.30m to 0.60m deep, at 2.90m OD to 3.20m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried top/subsoil layer.

Truncating this deposit was a make-up layer of chalk, 0.30 – 0.80m thick, recorded at the surface at a height of 3.60m – 3.80m OD.

These deposits were capped at either end of the trench by successive layers of sand, concrete and asphalt. Elsewhere the capping had been removed by the laying down of a deposit of demolition debris and chalk rubble that in portions of the trench also truncated the underlying silty clay.

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	Northern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.74m to 4.16m? OD
Base of modern fill	2.90m OD to 3.20m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.11m OD
Natural observed	3.00m OD

Trench 3 was located in the northeastern part of the site and was oriented northwest-southeast, to the east of Trench 2. It crossed an area of asphalt surface and at the southeastern end the top of a grassy bank by a stream.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.20m - 3.00m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark brown clayey silt gravel, interpreted as a possible alluvial deposit, which measured 0.20m to 0.50m deep, at 2.90m OD to 3.20m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried top soil.

This layer was truncated by the laying down of a make-up of chalk, 0.30 – 0.70m thick, which was recorded at 3.60m OD at the surface.

These deposits were overlain by successive layers of sand, concrete and asphalt.

<i>Evaluation Trench 4</i>	
Location	Northeastern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.58m to 4.16m OD
Base of modern fill	3.30m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2.30m OD
Level of base of deposits observed	2.00 m OD
Natural observed	2.80m OD

Trench 4 was located in the eastern part of the site and was oriented east-west, south of the boatyard and to the west of the pond.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel [66] was recorded at height of 2.80m OD.

Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark grey brown clayey gravel [63], 0.20m to 0.80m deep, the surface of which was recorded at 3.10m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as buried subsoil. Overlying this deposit was a dark grey brown clayey silt alluvium [65], 0.20m thick, at surface 3.33m OD. This deposit also contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried top soil.

Truncating the buried topsoil and sealed by further deposition of organic soil were two c19th/ 20th century pits ([56] and [59]) of unknown function but containing fire debris, recorded to a maximum depth of 2.30m OD. The upper surface of the pits was recorded at 3.20m OD. A third feature [62] truncated the natural, but was not distinguishable as man-made and may have been a tree-bole.

Overlying these pits was a 0.20-0.30m thick make-up layer of grey brown silty gravel. Sealing this was a topsoil incorporating a dense growth of wild plants.

<i>Evaluation Trench 5</i>	
Location	Southwestern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.74m to 4.14m OD
Base of modern fill	2.40m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	1.79m OD
Natural observed	3.00m OD

Trench 5 was located in the southwestern part of the site and was oriented east-west, to the south of Trench 1. It crossed an area of demolition debris / chalk rubble and, at either end, asphalt surfaces.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.40m - 3.00m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark brown clayey silt gravel alluvium, 0.20m to 0.50m deep, at 2.60m OD to 2.90m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried subsoil.

This layer was truncated by the laying down of a make-up layer of chalk, 0.30 – 0.50m thick, at surface 3.10m OD.

These deposits were overlain by successive layers of sand, concrete and asphalt.

<i>Evaluation Trench 6</i>	
Location	Southwestern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.92m to 3.74m OD
Base of modern fill	2.70m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	1.88m OD
Natural observed	2.40m OD

Trench 6 was located in the southwestern part of the site and was oriented north-south, to the east of Trench 5. It crossed a asphalt surface area.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.50m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid grey brown clayey silt gravel alluvium, 0.15m to 0.25m deep, at 2.70m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried subsoil.

This layer was truncated by the laying down of a make-up layer of chalk, 0.30 – 0.50m thick, at surface 3.00m OD.

The above deposits were overlain by successive layers of sand, concrete and asphalt.

<i>Evaluation Trench 7</i>	
Location	Southern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.89m to 4.04m OD
Base of modern fill	2.80m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.04 m OD
Natural observed	2.80m OD

Trench 7 was located in the southern part of the site and was oriented northeast-southwest, to the east of Trench 6. It crossed a asphalt surface area.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.80m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark grey brown grey brown clayey silt gravel alluvium, 0.15m to 0.50m deep, at 3.10m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried subsoil.

This layer was truncated by the laying down of a make-up layer of chalk, 0.30 – 0.50m thick, at surface 3.50m OD.

These deposits were overlain by successive layers of sand, concrete and asphalt.

<i>Evaluation Trench 8</i>	
Location	Southeastern part of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	3.54m to 3.77m OD
Base of modern fill/	3.00m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.20m OD
Natural observed	2.60m OD

Trench 8 was located in the southeastern part of the site and was oriented east-west, to the east of Trench 7. It crossed a asphalt surface area and an area of scrub.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at 2.60m OD. Overlying the gravel was a mid to dark grey brown grey brown clayey silt gravel alluvium, 0.40m to 0.70m deep, at 3.10m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried subsoil.

This layer was truncated at the western end of the trench by the laying down of was a make-up layer of chalk, 0.30 – 0.50m thick, at surface 3.30m OD. Above this was a layer of sand, 0.5m to 0.20m deep, at 3.50m OD.

These modern make up layers were overlain by a layer of concrete 0.20m to 0.30m deep, recorded at 3.70m OD. In the eastern third of the trench the concrete was overlain by sand and capped by a layer of asphalt. In the western portion of the trench the surface comprised a mixture of made ground and soil covered by scrub.

<i>Evaluation Trench 9</i>	
Location	Southeastern corner of site
Dimensions	30m by 2m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	3.50m to 4.29m OD
Base of modern fill	2.90m to 3.60m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	2.30m OD
Natural observed	3.20m OD

Trench 9 was located in the southeastern part of the site and was oriented north-south, north of the car park and to the south of the pond.

Natural chalky clay flint gravel was recorded at height of 3.20m OD.

Overlying the gravel was a dark grey brown silty gravel, 0.30m to 0.50m deep, surface at 2.90m OD. This deposit contained organic growth remnants and was interpreted as a buried subsoil. Overlying this deposit was a dark grey brown clayey silt alluvium, 0.20m thick, which also included remnant plant material and was interpreted as a buried topsoil. The surface of this deposit was at 3.40m to 4.10m OD. Portions of this deposit were truncated by the laying down of made ground comprised of sandy gravel.

Overlying these deposits was a 0.20-0.30m thick make-up layer of grey brown silty gravel, the upper portion of which included a dense growth of wild plants.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

Natural chalk was recorded at 2.30m OD. The chalk was overlain by clay flint gravels recorded at 2.20m to 3.20m OD. Alluvial clay and clay/ silt gravels overlay the flint gravels at 2.60m to 3.40m OD. In most cases these latter had become organic soils. Local geotechnical boreholes and trial pits had previously revealed a strata succession of chalk, gravel, clay, and made ground (Foundation and Exploration Services 2002).

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

The earliest identified deposits were late post-medieval to 20th century pits recorded in trench 4.

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The latest deposits identified were 20th century made ground and asphalt surfacing.

- Is there any evidence for salt manufacture dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods. If so in what form does this take?

There was no evidence for salt manufacture dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods.

- Is there any evidence of occupation on the site, particularly for the prehistoric and Roman periods?

There was no archaeological evidence of occupation on the site.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is moderate to high, however no archaeologically significant features were noted during the course of the evaluation.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Harts Farm Way, Havant involves the construction of industrial and business units, with associated service areas and car parking, which will involve diverting the watercourse and building over the existing pond. As no archaeological remains have been identified during the course of the evaluation it is unlikely to have any destructive threat to the local archaeological resource.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed lies with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank David Sorapure for his archaeological assistance and Stewart Hughes of Readypower for exceptional assistance in the mechanical excavation of the site.

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7.1 Cartographic sources

Hampshire Record Office

Plan of the Parish of Bedhampton in the county of Southampton, nd (c 1845) (21M65/F7/16/2)

Bedhampton Tithe Apportionment, 1845 (21M65/F7/16/1)

A Plan of Havant Parish in the county of Hants (Chas Lewis Surveyor & C), Havant, 1842 (21M65/F7/110/2)

Havant Tithe Apportionment, 1842 (21M65/F7/110/1)

Ordnance Survey maps

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1" map of Hampshire, published 1810s

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map (1869)

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:25" map (1897)

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:25" map (1939)

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. Sheets SU 7005-7105 (1952-72)

Engineering/Architects drawings

Michael Sparks Associates – Site Layout Plan (proposed), dated Nov 2005

Hampshire Land Surveys - Harts Farm, Havant Site Survey dwg. No. 0676_04_11_01
rev A, dated Nov 04

8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-22004

Project details

Project name HARTS FARM WAY

Short description of 9 EVALUATION TRENCHES DUG TO NATURAL the project

Project dates Start: 27-11-2006 End: 06-12-2006

Any associated HA-HMY06 - Sitecode
project reference
codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type CL Modern

Significant Finds SN Modern

Methods & 'Targeted Trenches'
techniques

Development type Rural commercial

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the Between deposition of an application and determination
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE HAVANT HARTS FARM WAY

Postcode PO 9

Study area 46000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 70705 05905 50.8477795196 -0.995545847157 50 50 52 N 000
59 43 W Point

Height OD Min: 2.60m Max: 3.20m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation

Project brief Consultant
originator

Project design Consultant
originator

Project Stewart Hoad
director/manager

Project supervisor Simon Gannon

Type of DWYER PLC
sponsor/funding
body

Name of DWYER PLC
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents 'Survey'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey', 'Text'
available

Paper Archive LAARC

recipient

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Entered by Simon Gannon (sgannon@molass.org.uk)

Entered on 3 January 2007



Fig 2 Evaluation trench locations

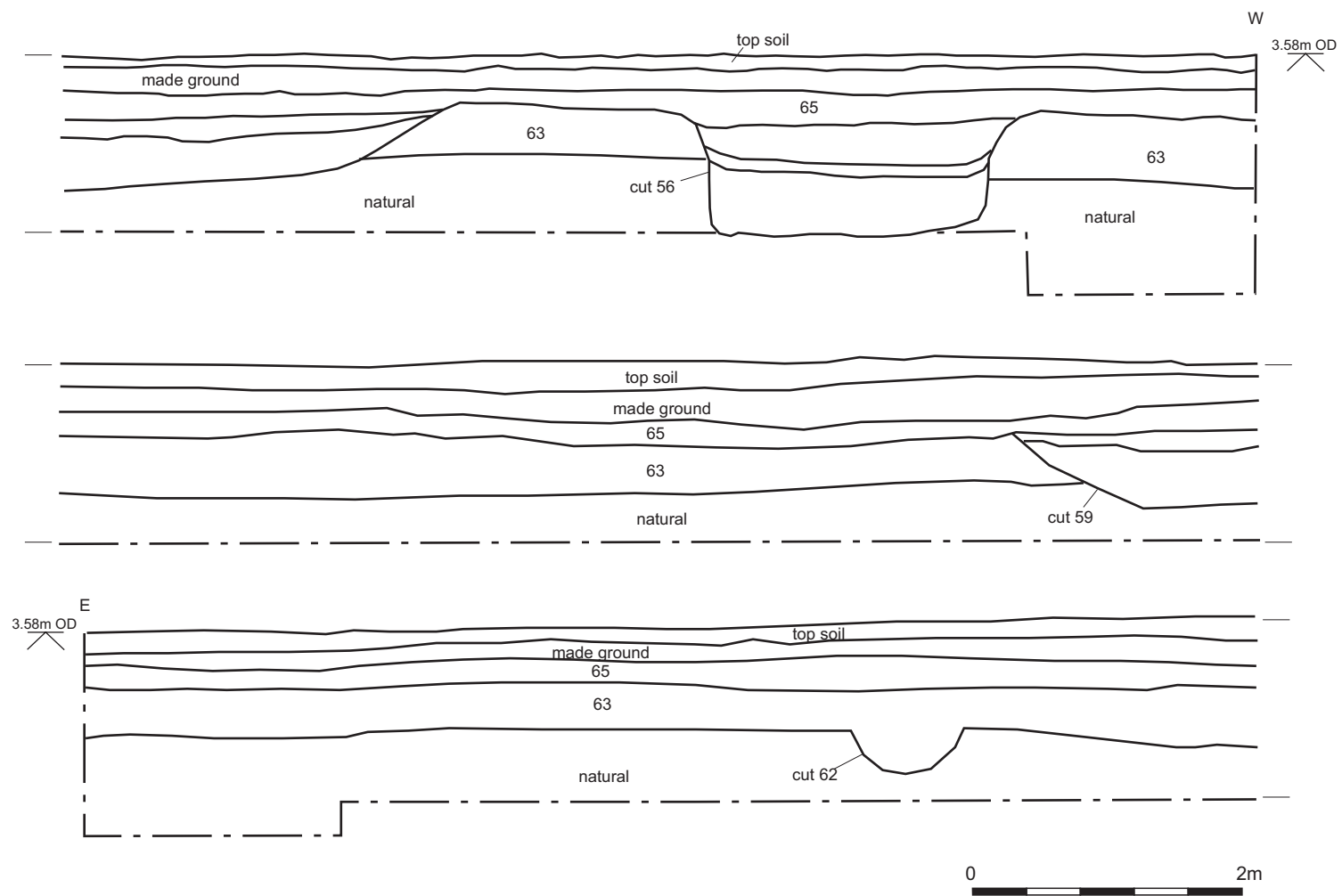


Fig 3 Trench 4: south section