



Land off

Gloster Ades Road

Honeybourne, Evesham, Worcestershire

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Honeybourne, Evesham, Worcestershire

Archaeological recording

SP 11075 43786

WSM67012

Site code: GAR15

OASIS ID: 110archa1-249797

Sean Cook BA (Hons) ACIfA

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one ten archaeology

6 Elm Close, Pebworth, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire., CV37 8XL

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SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out at Gloster Glades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire at the request of the Honeybourne Parish Council during construction of a sports ground and associated car park

Historic mapping (OS 1885) shows the study site as part of a much larger, almost triangular shaped open field forming part of an agricultural landscape that it likely to have remained unchanged for a long period of time. Housing currently standing to the east and north-east of the site marks the existing periphery of the village and the last period of residential expansion occurred around the 1950s. The HER has shown the majority of archaeological information is concentrated to the east where the focus of the early settlement of Cow Honeybourne is located.

Excavation was limited with only the topsoil being removed in trench 1. The underlying relict subsoil was undisturbed and the natural substrate (Lias clay) was not reached. In trench 2, excavation went further and a series of narrow shallow trenches truncating the clay, but no archaeological deposits were observed during their excavation.

Finds were recovered from the topsoil layers and comprised a broad range of residual material including mostly brick, modern roof tile and ceramic pipe fragments. Pottery sherds consisted mostly of 18-19th century earthenware suggesting an increased amount of agricultural activity during this period although the presence of a few sherds of abraded Roman and medieval pottery may point to earlier activity.

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works (Figs. 1 & 2)

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') carried out between July and September 2015 at Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire at the request of the Parish Council. The agent was etc Design Limited. The proposed development comprised new car parking area; play area; sports pitches; landscaping and new access via Bretforton Road. The archaeological work was required as a condition of planning permission granted in respect of an application (Ref: W/15/00167) to Wychavon District Council and was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (Nash, 2015). There were no known designated or undesignated assets within the application area, but the road which forms the southern boundary may have its origins in Romano-British times. The main part of the development comprised creation of car parking and new sports area (trenches 1 & 2; Fig. 3). A series of narrow drainage trenches were excavated to the south of these two areas across the remainder of the study site.

Geology and topography

The study site is represented by a roughly triangular plot of land situated between the junction of Gloster Glades Road and Bretforton Road, Honeybourne. The site lies at a height of about 52m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the underlying geology (BGS, 1974) comprises Lower Lias (mainly clay) This was confirmed during excavation of Area 2.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historic Environment Record (summary)

An HER search was carried out on a 500m radius centred on the study site. The study site sits within an area of lias clay and a rolling lowland topography based on bedrock of Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation with superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

The landscape is one of regular, planned enclosure in the east and north and field amalgamation in the west of the search area. Honeybourne airfield, in

the south of the search area, was operational during the Second World War, and has largely been reverted to farmland. The historic settlement pattern is nucleated, however, Honeybourne, similarly to other villages within this area, has seen considerable growth in the last 100 years with expansion into the surrounding countryside. Within the search area lie 15 Listed Historic Buildings dating to the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries as well as 8 other unlisted historic buildings dating from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

A Historic England project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire recorded 5 farmsteads within the search area dating to the 17th century. In addition to the built environment there are also monument records for a rectilinear enclosure and field systems of an unknown date in the north east of the search area. A postulated Roman road bisects the search area from the north east to the south west. Medieval ridge and furrow is prominent in the north east of the search area with a post medieval wind mill mound situated just south of the centre of the search area. In the south of the search area there is documentary evidence for Honeybourne airfield, which was in use during the Second World War, and crop mark evidence of a Pillbox.

The Portable Antiquity Scheme records several find spots of artefacts that range in date from the Roman period, early and late medieval and post medieval periods. These finds include coins, a seal matrix, stirrup, casket, brooch and a buckle.

There have been several archaeological events within this search area which includes finds retrieval, 3 desk based assessments, 4 surveys, 2 watching briefs and 2 evaluations. Romano-British features, deposits and artefacts are documented from within this area, as well as medieval and post medieval features, field systems, earthworks and artefacts. There is good potential, therefore, for archaeological features and deposits from the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods from within this search area. Finally, a Historic England project to identify the potential for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Worcestershire recorded a deposit in the north east of the search area with potential for archaeology dating back to 476050BC.

RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Method and nature of the excavation

Archaeological recording was undertaken to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the site. Machine

excavation was only used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision at all times using a toothless bucket. Two trenches each comprising large rectangular areas were stripped of topsoil. Trench 1 was subsequently built up with a membrane, hardcore and tarmac to form the new car park. Trench 2 was also stripped of topsoil, after which a series of shallow connecting soakaway (drainage) trenches were excavated, approx. 0.30 wide and 0.30m deep. Finally, to the south of trenches 1 and 2 a series of narrow drainage trenches aligned north-east to south-west, approx. 0.20m wide and 0.60m deep were excavated at 5m intervals across the southern half of the site.

Description of deposits

Context 102 (natural geology)

The surface of the geological horizon (context 102), a natural substrate comprising a stiff light yellowish-brown Lias clay was not exposed in trench 1, but was truncated during excavation of the soakaway (drainage) trenches in area 2. The surface of this deposit was recorded throughout the excavation at a level height of approx. 51.40m AOD and was truncated during machining to a depth of about 0.15m throughout the excavation. No archaeological features were observed cut into or overlying this layer.

Context 101 (layer)

Overlying the natural substrate within trenches 1 and 2 was a layer of undated relict subsoil (context 101), comprising a Light greyish-brown silty-clay silt with a small component (3-5%) of small rounded pebbles. The deposit was revealed at a depth of approx. 0.15m throughout the excavated drainage trenches in trench 2.

Context 100 (topsoil)

Overlying the relict subsoil layer throughout trenches 1 and 2 to a depth of about 0.15m was the modern topsoil layer (context 100) consisting of a dark greyish-brown loam.

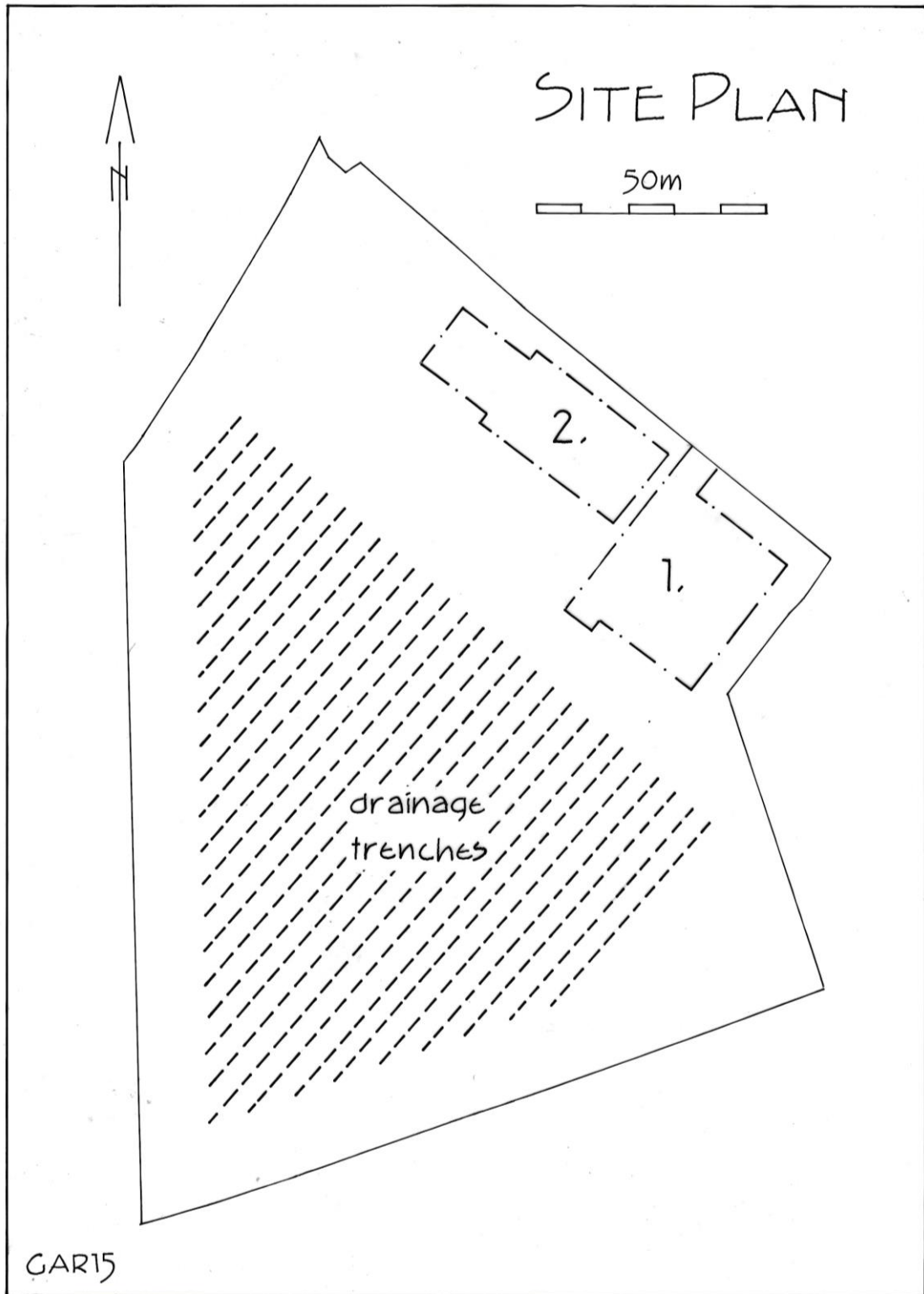


Fig. 3; site plan and trench locations

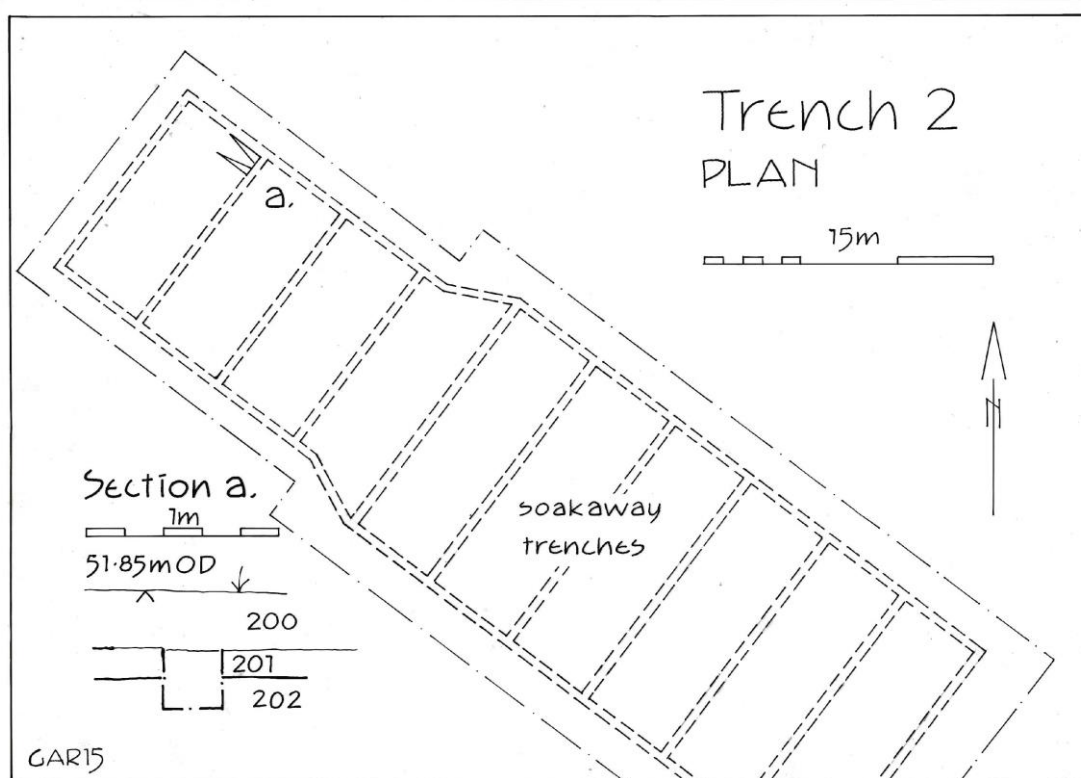


Fig. 4; trench 2 plan & section

FINDS

Finds were recovered from the topsoil layers in both excavation areas. In area 1 (context 100) these comprised 14 fragments of brick (450g); a single fragment of modern roof tile (30g) and a pottery assemblage consisting of five sherds of white porcelain (19/20th century) and four sherds of abraded glazed red earthenware (18/19th century). Three fragments of iron weighing approx. 350g comprised a nail and probable broken elements of agricultural machinery.

In area 2 finds were broadly similar. Three fragments of brick (51g); three pieces of modern roof tile (150g) and eight fragments of ceramic pipe (151g) were recovered. The two iron objects (39g) consisted of a nail and part of an agricultural implement. There was also a small piece of glass (5g). Pottery comprised six sherds (45g) of red glazed earthenware and three abraded sherds of Roman/medieval pottery (29g).

None of the finds retrieved during the excavation were from stratified contexts, but instead were residual being recovered from the topsoil layers from where they are likely to be redeposited. These finds will not be retained.

Environmental data

A single fragment (5g) of unidentifiable animal bone was retrieved from context 100 (topsoil in area/trench 1). None of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.



Plate 1; trench 1 under excavation, from the south-east



Plate 2; trench 1, detail of trench section (south-east end)



Plate 3; trench 2 south-east half, from the east



Plate 4; trench 2, north-west half, from the north



Plate 5; trench 2, soakaway trench, from the north-east



Plate 6; soakaway trench, section a, detail

DISCUSSION

Historic mapping (OS 1885) shows the study site as part of a much larger, almost triangular shaped open field situated between the junction of Bretforton Road and Gloucester Ades Road on the west edge of the village. Prior to the existing development the field formed part of an agricultural landscape that it likely to have remained unchanged for a long period of time. Housing currently standing to the east and north-east of the site marks the existing periphery of the village and the last period of residential expansion, probably around the 1950s. The HER has shown the majority of archaeological information is concentrated to the east where the focus of the early settlement of Cow Honeybourne is located.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OS First Edition, 1885

Archive Location

The archaeological documentary archive arising from the work will be appropriately conserved and deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum. A pdf copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Digital archive

X1 pdf report

APPENDIX 1: OASIS

Project name	Land off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne; archaeological recording
Short description of the project	Archaeological recording was carried out at Gloster Glades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire at the request of the Honeybourne Parish Council during construction of a sports ground and associated car park.
Project dates	Start: 16-07-2015 End: 08-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WSM67012 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	GAR15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	SN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN Medieval
Significant Finds	SN Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON HONEYBOURNE Land off Gloster Ades Road
Postcode	WR117PD
Study area	2.61 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 11075 43786 52.091894332403 -1.838328906798 52 05 30 N 001 50 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.4m Max: 51.4m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	one ten archaeology

Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne; archaeological recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Warks.
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