



# The former piggyery

The Hollows, Long Compton, Warwickshire

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Archaeological evaluation

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one ten archaeology

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Front cover    trench 3, from the south

## SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out during October 2016 at the former piggery, The Hollows, Long Compton, Warwickshire as a condition of planning permission granted for the erection of five detached dwellings on the site.

The results showed that there is unlikely to be significant archaeological deposits situated within the study site. Instead, a sequence of three stratified homogenous layers were recorded throughout the majority of the site indicating an historic environment comprising of an undisturbed open agricultural landscape with little human activity until the post war construction of the piggery. This is supported by the lack of residual finds recovered from the excavation. An absence of medieval finds or deposits comparable to those recorded at Wheelwright House which lies to the north of the study site suggests that the medieval settlement of Long Compton does not extend this far south of the village.



## INTRODUCTION

### *Location and scope of work (Figs. 1 & 2)*

This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation during 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the former piggery, Long Compton, Warwickshire, CV35 0AU at the request of Colburn Homes Ltd. Planning permission has been granted (planning Ref: 14/0296/FUL) for the erection of five detached dwellings on the site conditional on a programme of archaeological work comprising initially of an evaluation.

The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the extent of the early medieval settlement of Long Compton. The earliest reference to the parish is from Domesday clearly indicating that a manorial settlement had already been established there by 1086.

The results of the evaluation would be used to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and importance of any archaeological remains, and how these may be affected by development of the site so that appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. The evaluation represents an initial investigation, in the event, that archaeological deposits are encountered during the trial trenching then an approved programme of archaeological work will be required to record the deposits prior to development.

### *Geology and topography*

Long Compton is a village and civil parish near the extreme southern tip of Warwickshire, and close to the border with Oxfordshire. The village is in the Cotswolds and is located on the A3400 (formerly the A34) from Oxford to Stratford-upon-Avon. As the name implies it is a long village. In the centre is the large church of St Peter and St Paul, which dates from the 13th century. The parish contains Weston Park, within which was the depopulated settlement of Weston-by-Cherington.

The study site (approx. 3,700m<sup>2</sup>) is situated on the southern edge of the village in an area referred to as the Hollows. It lies at approximately 126m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the underlying geology consists of Mainly Clay, brown Lias (BGS, 1982). This was confirmed during the excavation. The topography of the study site is open field. In the northern half with derelict buildings associated with a former piggery occupying the southern half.

### *Archaeological and historical background*

A total of 48 monument records and 13 event records are identified from the HER within the 1km search area centred on the site. A summary of the significant information is outlined below.

#### *Prehistoric*

MWA6041; Mesolithic flint scatter found at the Rollright Stones, 800m south east of The Hollows. The assemblage of a tight cluster of snapped blades, two possible Microliths, one Mesolithic arrowhead and a few unbroken bladelets.

MWA2379; Find spot, a Neolithic stone axe. The exact location of the find spot is unknown, but the evidence suggests the axe was found in Barton-on-the-Heath, not Long Compton.

MWA2395; The site of a possible barrow which dates to between the Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods. It is visible as an earthwork and is situated 850m south of The Hollows.

MWA2397; The site of a round barrow which dated from between the Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods. It is known through documentary evidence and was situated 800m south of The Hollows.

MWA2398; The site of a ring ditch dating from between the Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods. It is situated 800m south east of The Hollows and it is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs.

MWA2399; The site of a round barrow, probably of Bronze Age date. It is visible as an earthwork and is situated 750m south east of The Hollows.

MWA3800; The site of a trackway dating to the Iron Age period. It was found when a geophysical survey and excavation were carried out. The trackway is located 850m south east of The Hollows.

MWA5536; site of Iron Age Settlement 200m NE of King Stone

The excavation of an Iron Age settlement. Features and finds include enclosures, a ditch, pits, cesspits, an infant burial animal skulls and pottery. The site is immediately to the north east of the Rollright Stones.

#### *Roman*

MWA12196. Possible site of Romano-British Villa. Rectilinear crop marks are visible on aerial photographs.

MWA18667; Long Compton (Field 460) Romano-British A series of Romano-British artefacts found during metal detecting.

MWA3801; The site of a probable Roman settlement, suggested by a pottery scatter. It is located 700m west of the Rollright Stones.

MWA9228; site of Roman Villa located on the western edge of Long Compton parish.

MWA9552; A scatter of Roman pottery was observed from a footpath running west of the Long Compton to Little Rollright Road.

#### *Saxon/early medieval*

The name Long Compton is probably derived from Old English; 'Cumb', a valley and 'tun', an enclosure or farmstead meaning 'valley farm settlement', the long probably relating to its ribbon-like development along the main thoroughfare.

#### *Medieval*

MWA8968; The probable extent of the Medieval settlement, based on the first edition (OS 1884). Listed in Domesday, in Barcheston Hundred as a huge and very valuable settlement. The 1884 map shows the settlement mostly to the east of the main road, intersected by lanes running west/east. In the north end the settlement spreads both sides of the road. In the south, there are lines of trees around The Hollow that look like old field boundaries or perhaps a shrunken settlement.

The church (WA2367) dates from the C13th. Fragments of 12th to 13th century pottery and a single piece of possibly 15th or 16th century monochrome floor tile were recovered during the excavation of a new foul sewer extending north from the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.



A possible holloway is apparent on aerial photographs and was mapped as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Project

Trial trenching (EWA10308) at Barncroft, Clarks Lane (Gethin, 2013) uncovered the footings of three stone buildings, confirming suggestions arising from the preceding geophysical and topographical survey. Pottery recovered from one of the buildings suggested domestic occupation into the early 13th century, and two other buildings were interpreted as being agricultural due to a general lack of finds. The pottery had a restricted date range from the 11th to the early 13th century, a date broadly similar to a site excavated 400m to the south (EWA10515) at Wheelwright House, Old Road, (Gethin, 2012) where remains dated between the 11th and 14th centuries were recorded. Small amount of mid-11th century pottery, but mostly 12th or 13th century. One trench contained single narrow stone wall which. Together these sites might suggest that the southern end of Long Compton grew up at this time.

The other large estates in south Warwickshire (eg. Brailes, Tredington and Ilmington) split up as they developed into nucleated villages (Upper and Lower Brailes for example) or they formed (presumably from earlier hamlets) a number of nucleated villages. Apart from the hamlet of Wymel, Long Compton remained mostly as a single very large settlement. The observation of an area of settlement remains at the Hollows at its southern extremity strengthens the impression that the village had a remarkably elongated plan with its ladder of side streets.

Excavation at Maryvale, on the East Street frontage (EWA10512) of Long Compton revealed ditches of probable 12th to 13th century date. These features may represent a former burbage plot boundary or subdivisions within a plot and associated activities (Gethin, 2015).

Archaeological Observation and Recording carried out during the groundworks stage of work (EWA10513) showed that the two medieval ditches recorded in the evaluation continued, to the south, and to the east, and a large medieval pit was also recorded. Further stone walls were recorded, some of which correspond to buildings or boundaries on the first edition map, while others may be of earlier date (Coutts, 2015).

MWA2371; A possible deserted settlement dating to the Medieval period that is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs. It is situated 1km north east of the Rollright Stones.

#### *Post-medieval*

MWA3802; site of possible Post Medieval Pound in Long Compton

Site of a pound which was used for penning livestock during the Medieval to Post Medieval period. It was situated 100m south west of the Old Chapel House at Long Compton.

*Undated*

MWA12197; a circular bank with a pair of parallel banks extending from it to the north east is visible on aerial photographs. Suggestions are that it is the remains of a windmill with a raised track leading to it or a small reservoir.

MWA12198; Rectilinear ditched enclosure located at the southern end of Long Compton observed on aerial photographs.

MWA12199; Spiral shaped mound 45m to the south east of King Stone Hollow, Long Compton was evident on aerial photographs.

MWA20336; Unknown date cropmark enclosure of rounded square with outward spurs located near Turnpike Hill, Long Compton.

MWA4779; A linear feature that is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs. The feature is possibly an enclosure and is undated. It is located 750m west of The Hollows.

MWA4780; The site of an earthwork that is visible on aerial photographs. The feature is possibly an enclosure and is undated. It is located 900m west of the Rollright Stones.

## EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

### *Aims of the work*

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area likely to be threatened by the proposed development in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional and national context could be made. This information would clarify whether any remains should be considered for preservation *in situ*, or form the basis of a mitigation strategy.

### *Sample size and scope of fieldwork*

The evaluation comprised a four per cent sample of the study site equating approx. to 150m<sup>2</sup> of trenching. The trench locations were aimed where feasible to target the main areas of impact and were divided accordingly. Trenches 1 and 2, each 5 and 7m long respectively, were positioned to investigate deposits situated at the south end of the study site, trench 2 positioned in the footprint of one of the proposed dwellings. Trenches 3-5 were located within the northern half of the study site where the remaining three proposed dwellings are located. Trench 3 was 30m long, an east-west trench arm extension was excavated at the south end and an eastern arm extension at the north end. Trench 4 was 20m long and trench 5 was 15m long. All the trenches were excavated to a width of 1.50m.

### *Fieldwork methods and recording*

The archaeological field work and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014). All deposits were excavated removing the overburden under close archaeological supervision and investigated for archaeological features. A plans and sample sections of the trenches were made and recorded during excavation.

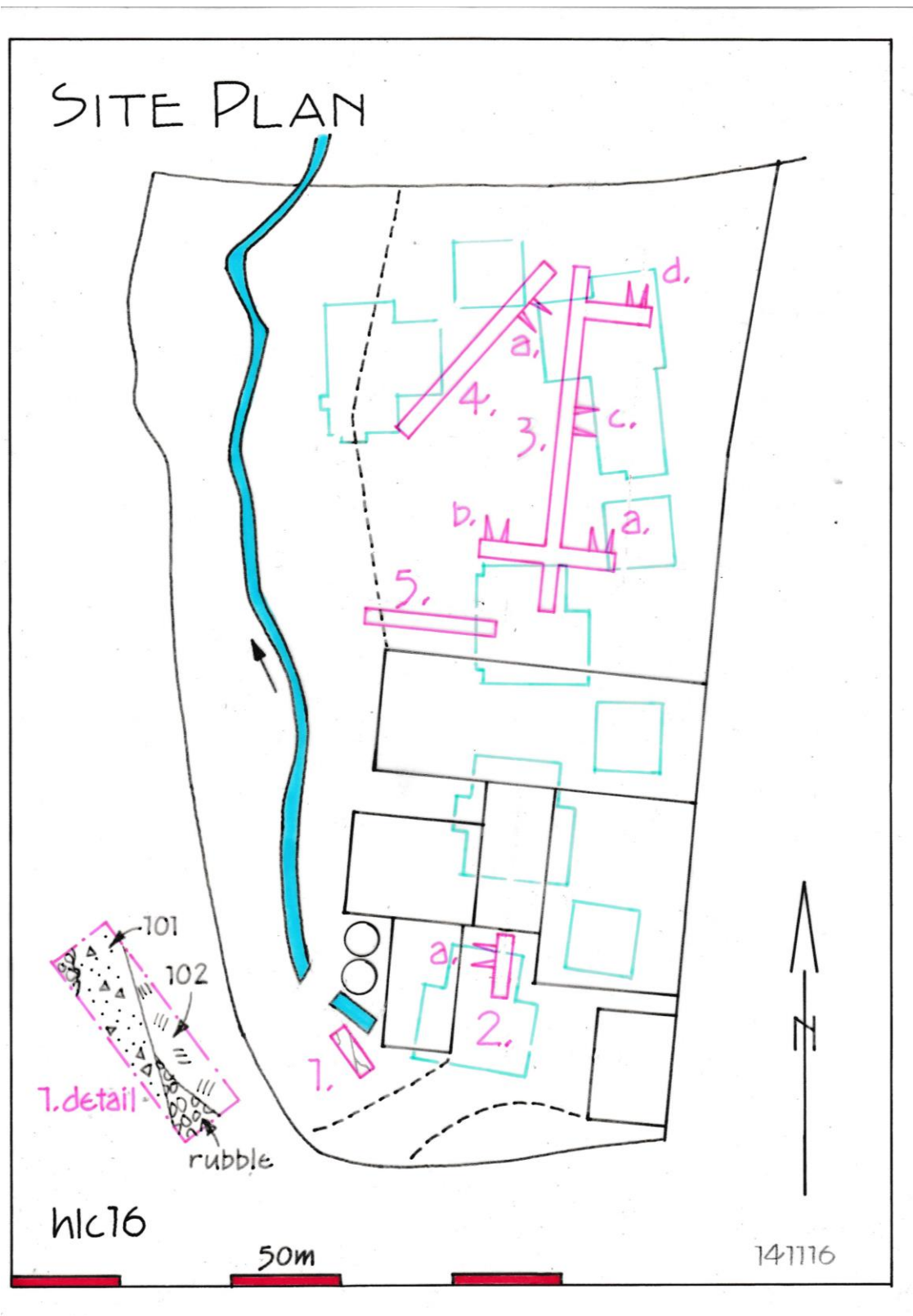


Fig. 3; Trench plan with detail of trench 1 and section locations

### *Soil and ground conditions*

Excavation was relatively smooth being made through alternate layers of topsoil and underlying subsoil leaving a clean and visible surface when reaching the natural substrate. Conditions varied between dry and wet depending on the area of the study site being excavated, the deposits showing some moisture retention. The ground naturally slopes down from the east towards the stream that bounds the west edge of the study site and the west half (lower end) of trench 4 became partially inundated with ground water. This was repeated at the north end of trench 3.

### *Reliability of field investigation*

Truncation of the underlying deposits clearly resulted from construction of the buildings and drainage associated with the former piggery that currently occupies the southern half of the study site, some of this truncation was visible in trenches 1 and 2. In the north half of the site the only evidence of truncation is that associated with the insertion of land drains and deposits, on the whole, have remained unaffected.

### *Distribution of archaeological deposits*

No significant archaeological deposits were recorded during the evaluation. Instead the stratigraphic sequence consisted of natural clay overlain by a relict subsoil which was in turn sealed by the modern topsoil. Post war development comprised the construction of a piggery (now disused) across the majority of the southern half of the study site.

### *Presentation of results*

The results of the excavation (below) are described from the earliest to the latest deposits. The trench was attributed context numbers with a numerical value equivalent to the number of the trench.

## RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS (Figs. 3 & 4)

### TRENCH 1

The surface of the natural substrate (102), comprising a light brown Lias clay, situated at approx. 124.80m, was exposed within the east and south-east part of the trench. Truncating this deposit were two partially exposed modern features comprising the brick and stone rubble fill of a pit or trench and a slab of concrete (101). These deposits were sealed to a depth of about 0.35m by the modern topsoil (100).

#### TRENCH 2

The surface of the natural clay (202) was exposed at a level height of about 125.10m AOD throughout the trench. No archaeological deposits were observed cut into or overlying this layer which was sealed throughout the trench to a depth of 0.20m by a relict subsoil (201) comprising a mid. yellowish-brown silty-clay. This produced a single small fragment of red brick. This was in turn also overlain throughout the trench by the modern topsoil, a dark greyish-brown loam, to a depth of about 0.15m. Overlying the topsoil along the west edge of the trench was a concrete slab.

#### TRENCH 3

The surface of the natural clay (302) was exposed at a height varying between a of approx. 124m and 124.50m AOD. No archaeological deposits were observed cut into or overlying this layer which was sealed throughout the trench by the undated relict subsoil deposit (301), equivalent to 201 in trench 2, to a depth varying between 0.20-0.30m. This was in turn also overlain throughout the trench by the modern topsoil (300) to a depth of about 0.15-20m.

#### TRENCH 4

The surface of the natural clay (402) was exposed at a height varying between a of approx. 123.80m at the north-east end of the trench sloping down to 123.50 at the south-west end. No archaeological deposits were observed cut into or overlying this layer which was sealed throughout the trench by the undated relict subsoil deposit (401), equivalent to 201 in trench 2, to a depth varying between 0.20-0.30m. This was in turn also overlain throughout the trench by the modern topsoil (300) to a depth of about 0.15-20m.

TRENCH 5

The sequence and depth of deposits in trench 5 were equivalent to those recorded in trench 4. No archaeological deposits were observed within the trench.

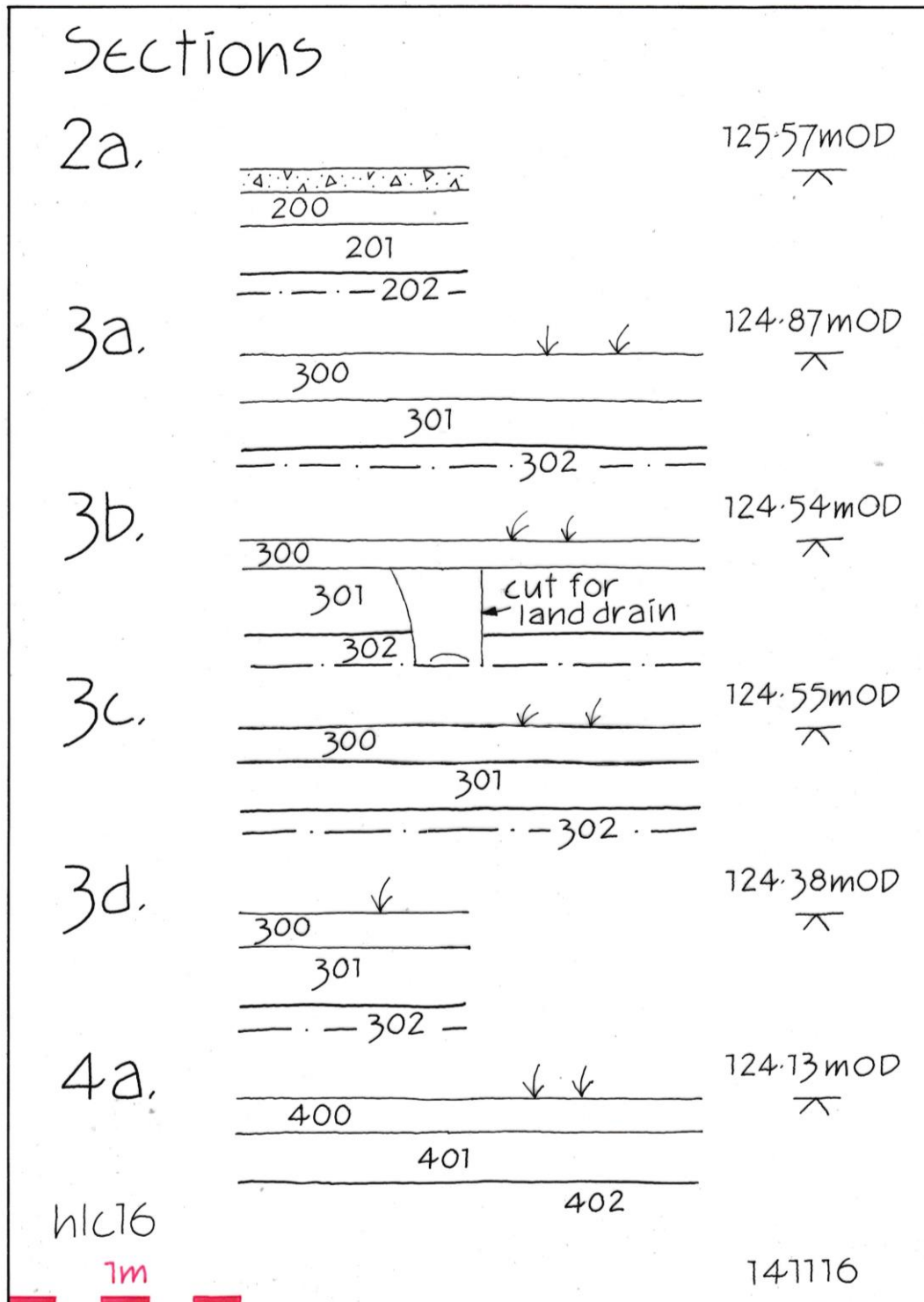


Fig. 4; trench sections



Plate 1; trench 1, from the south-east



Plate 2; trench 2, view from the south





Plate 3; section 2a



Plate 4; trench 3, south end, east -west arm, from the west



Plate 5; section 3a



Plate 6; section 3c



Plate 7; section 3d



Plate 8; trench 4, view from the north-east

## FINDS

### *Clay pipe*

A single broken clay pipe bowl and stem was recovered from context (layer) 401. The large bowl and stem would suggest a later rather than an earlier date, probably 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. This was not retained.

### *Environmental data*

### *Palaeo-environmental evidence*

none of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

## DISCUSSION (Fig. 5)

The historic environment record (HER) search, which was carried out over a 1km area centred on the study site clearly shows numerous instances of human activity including prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation. Evidence of prehistoric activity is reflected in a group of monuments to the south-east of the study site comprising Neolithic or Bronze Age barrows, cropmarks indicating ring ditches and enclosures, and an Iron Age settlement with associated trackway. A Roman settlement is also recorded in the same area and a Roman villa is known to exist east of the main road and the study site. These prehistoric and Roman monuments, which are situated to the east and south-east of the existing village, suggest that the focus of settlement activity later shifted to the north.

The 1885 map which forms the basis of the medieval settlement, shows a village characterised by a long ribbon of housing extending all the along the east side of the main north-south arterial road. Evidence for 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century occupation has been recorded towards the north end of the village at Barncroft, Clarks Lane (Gethin, 2013) and 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century deposits at Maryvale, on the East Street frontage (Gethin, 2015).

The study site lies at the southern end of the main axis road where aerial photographic evidence shows that a probable deserted medieval village (DMV) is situated to the north-east of the study site (MWA2371). Recent excavation (EWA10515) also recorded medieval deposits immediately to the north at Wheelwright House (Gethin, 2012). The lack of similarly dated deposits within the study site suggests that the medieval settlement did not extend this far to the south.

The results of the excavation have shown that there is unlikely to be significant archaeological deposits surviving within the study site and that the proposed development will have no impact. Instead, a sequence of three stratified homogenous deposits were recorded comprising a natural Lias clay overlain by a relict subsoil which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil. The evidence appears to indicate an historic environment comprising of an undisturbed open agricultural landscape with little human activity until the post war construction of the piggery. This is supported by the lack of residual finds recovered from the excavation.

### *Summary of results*

The results of the evaluation have shown that there is unlikely to be significant archaeological deposits surviving within the study site. Throughout the north half of the site sequence of three stratified homogenous layers were recorded throughout the site comprising a natural Lias clay overlain by a relict subsoil which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil. This stratigraphy was repeated in the southern half of the study site, although the majority of the area had been subjected to substantial truncation resulting from the post-war construction of the former piggery. An absence of archaeological deposits and artefacts from the excavation suggests little human activity.

### *Significance*

The results of the evaluation suggest that archaeological deposits are unlikely to exist within the study site and that the stratigraphic sequence is consistent with an historic environment comprised of an open agricultural landscape until its partial development as a piggery in the post war period. Instead the evidence suggests that the underlying stratigraphy comprises a sequence of three homogenous deposits consistent with a former open agricultural landscape. An absence of medieval finds or deposits comparable to those recorded at Wheelwright House which lies to the north of the study site suggests that the medieval settlement of Long Compton does not extend this far to the south of the village.

### *Impact of development*

The results of the trial trenching suggest significant archaeological deposits are unlikely to be present within the study site. It confirmed that the southern half of the study has already been subjected to substantial truncation associated with the construction of the former piggery. Further excavation resulting from the proposed development is therefore unlikely to have any impact.

### *Recommendation*

The results of the evaluation indicate an undisturbed open agricultural landscape prior to the post-war construction of a piggery within the southern half of the study site. It has shown that archaeological deposits are unlikely to be present

within the area of the proposed development and no further work is recommended.

#### *Archive Location*

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

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## APPENDIX 1; OASIS

Project name	Former Piggery, The Hollows, Long Compton, Warwickshire; archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2016 End: 05-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HLC16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON LONG COMPTON Former Piggery, The Hollows
Postcode	CV35 0AU
Study area	3700 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 29002 31742 51.982952110059 -1.577660480198 51 58 58 N 001 34 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 123.5m Max: 125.1m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Contents	"none"
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The former piggery, The Hollows, Long Compton; archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S



Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
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