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Date of Report: September 2010
Client: Central Homes (Midlands) Ltd
HAS: 857



FRIAR PARK ROAD, WEDNESBURY

Archaeological Evaluation

Simon Mayes
BA(Hons)



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client CENTRAL HOMES (MIDLANDS) LTD
National Grid Reference 401210 295160
Address FRIAR PARK ROAD, WEDNESBURY

Council SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Hereford Archaeology Series 857
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Schedule
Fieldwork SEPTEMBER 2010
Report OCTOBER 2010

Signed off by:

Mike Kimber MA(Hons) AIfA, Project Manager

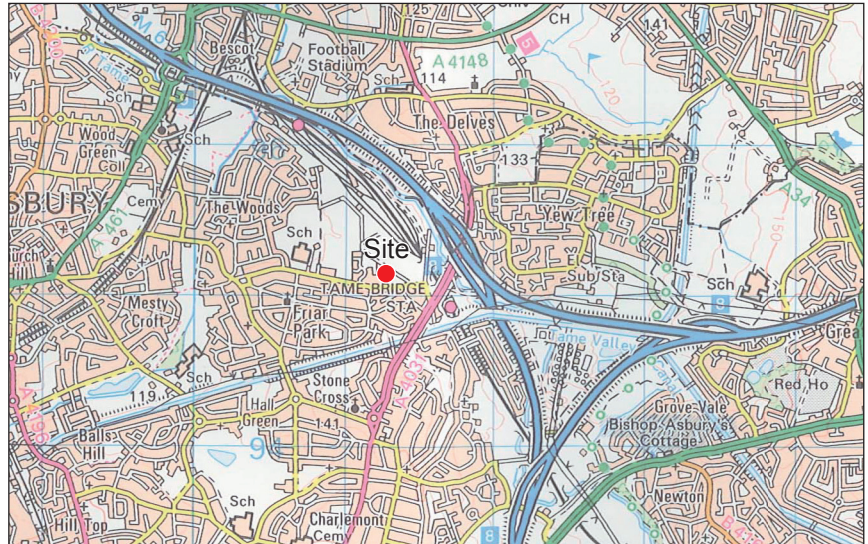
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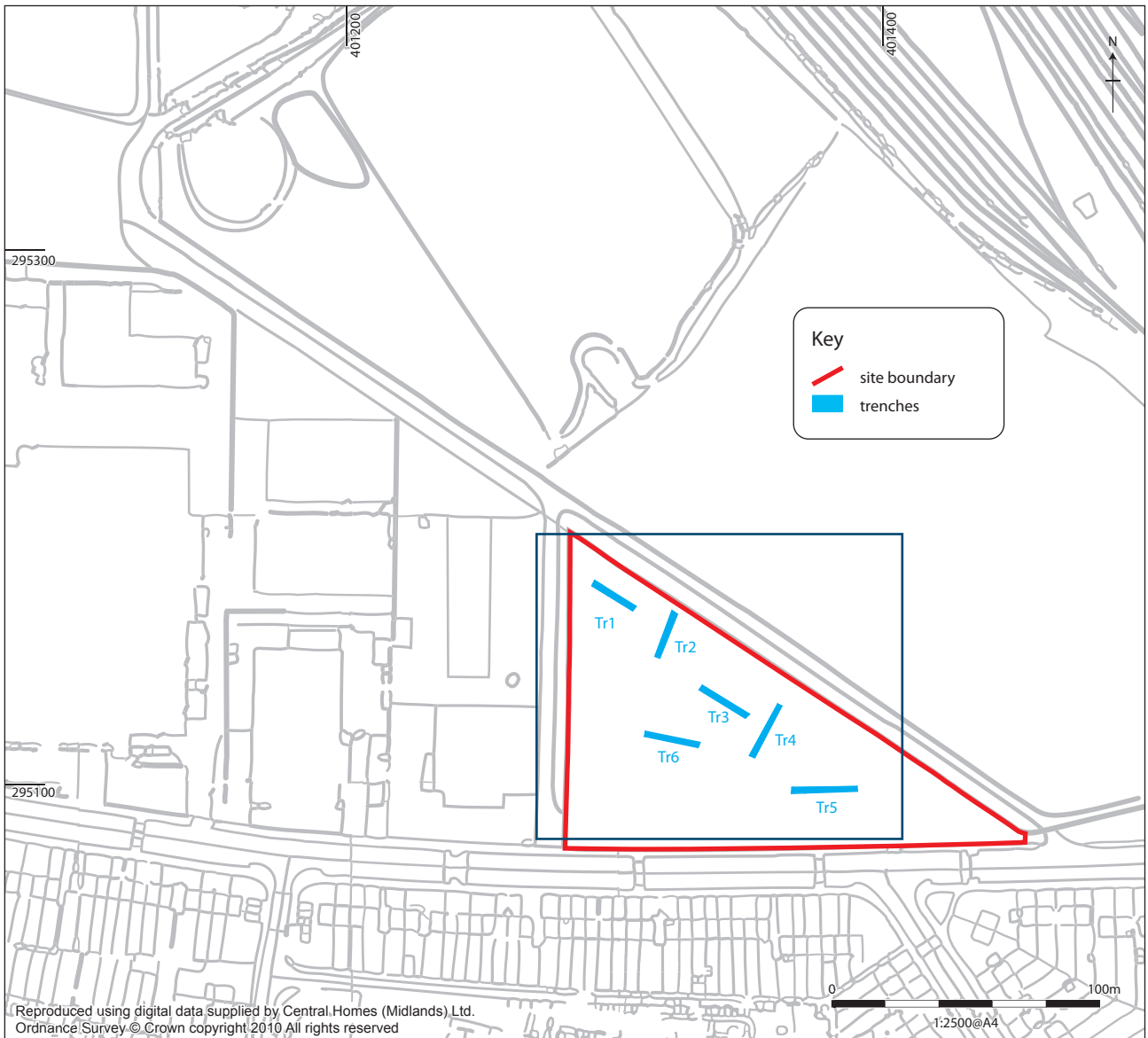
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Friar Park Road
Birmingham



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Illus 1
Site Location

FRIAR PARK ROAD, WEDNESBURY

Archaeological Evaluation

by Simon Mayes

Six evaluation trenches were excavated in a field adjacent to Central Scaffolding Services, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. The site evaluation indicated that the area contains only post medieval activity in the form of modern service runs. The depth of topsoil/overburden varied from approximately 0.5m in the western quarter to approximately 0.1m in the eastern vicinity of the site. The depth of overburden variation across the site was probably caused by levelling and stripping by the Severn Trent Water Authority in the 1980s, prior to dumping of landfill which was subsequently never undertaken. The removed topsoil may have been used to form the currently overgrown bund which runs along the southern boundary of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the land to the north of Friars Park Road, Wednesbury, Birmingham, on the 31st of August 2010 (Illus 1). The proposed development has the potential to affect remains of unknown archaeological significance as indicated by the Brief (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council document, 'Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Friar Park Road, Wednesbury'). In line with planning recommendations the Planning Authority advised that a programme of archaeological works would be required taking the form of an archaeological evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation was drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the brief.

1.1 Site description

The site is located on the northern side of Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. The site is currently used for the grazing of livestock and consists of a grassed triangular area of land bounded by an overgrown earthen mound on the southern side and a collection of small industrial units towards the western edge.

Site geology suggests that the underlying geology comprises of glacial boulder clay, comprising of heterogeneous pebbly clay, with lenses of sand and gravel in thicknesses of between 5 and 10m.

1.2 Archaeological background

There are a number of references to archaeological sites in vicinity of the development area, such as an alleged Friary attached to Sandwell Priory (SP09SW9) that once stood in what was called 'Moat Meadow' within a quarter of a mile of the present Friars Park Farm. Part of the moat was

apparently still visible in the 19th century and according to Reeves (1836) the foundations of a chapel nearby are said to have been dug up in 1764.

The latter history of the site revealed by the Ordnance Survey Series of maps indicates that in 1890 the site was open fields. The presence of an old shaft to the west of the site indicating that mining had previously taken place within the local vicinity. The major development of the water/filtration beds is first recorded on the 1903–1904 1:2500 OS map, located towards the north of the evaluation site.

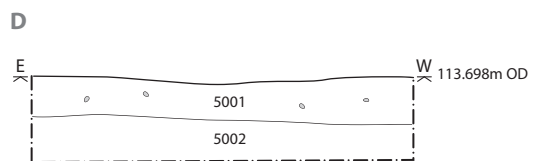
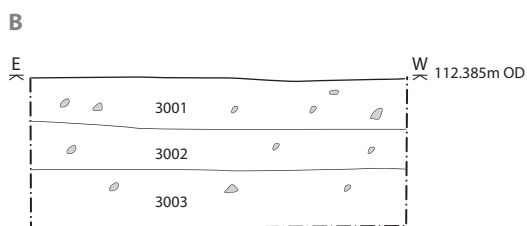
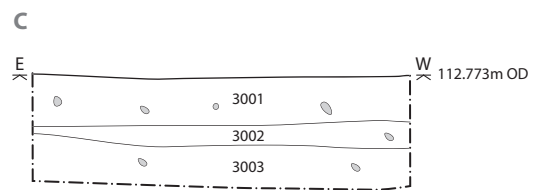
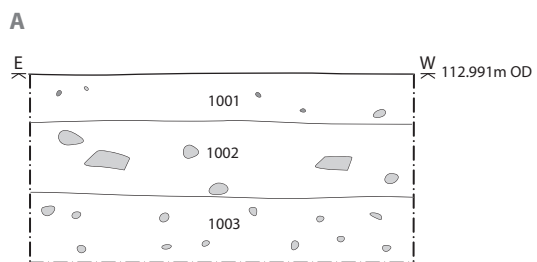
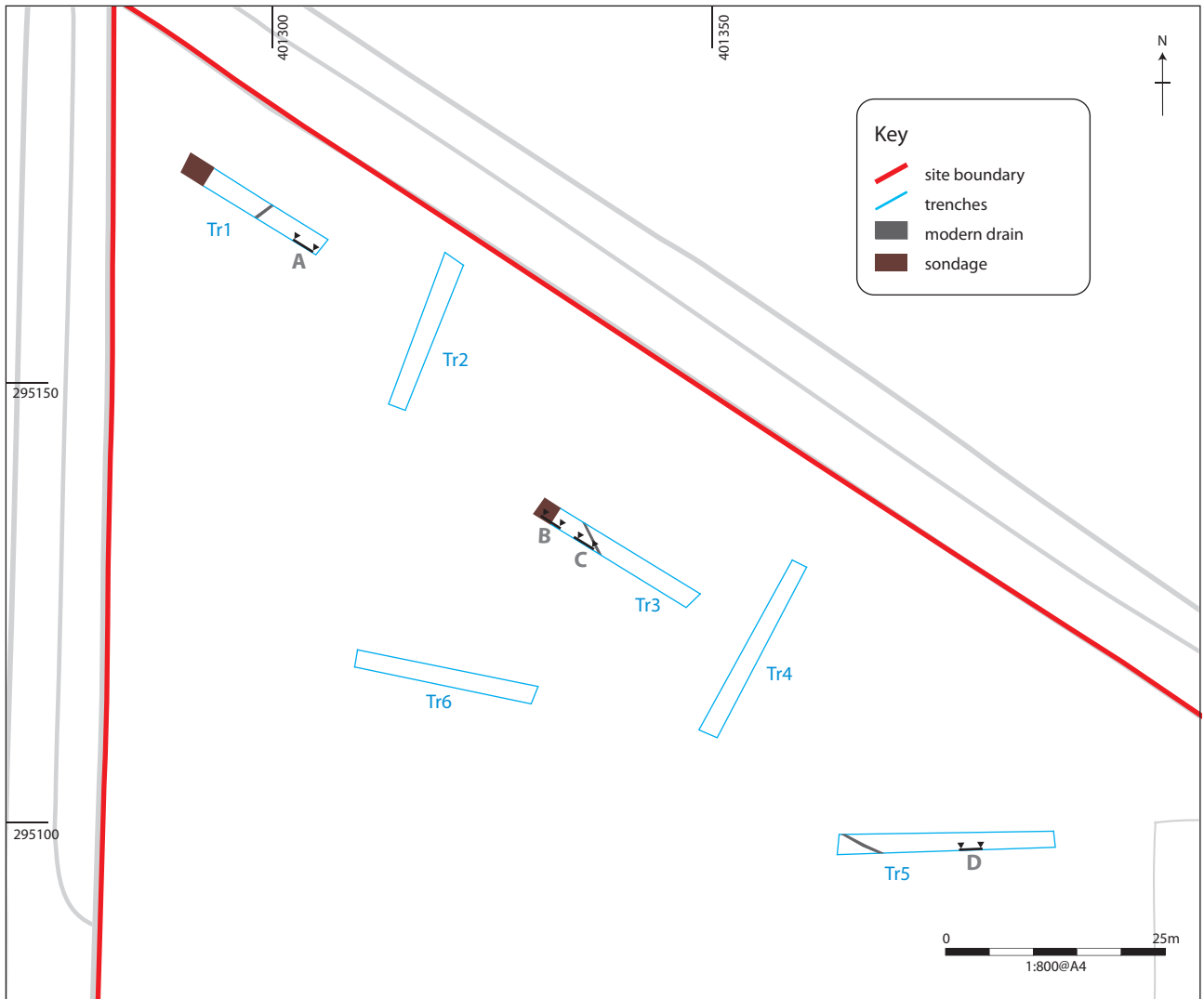
The 1938 map, shows that even though the site was still vacant, there had been considerable development towards the north, with the expansion of the railway yards and the land to the south had succumb to the expansion of residential development.

By 1963, further development through the expansion of the railway-shunting yard and the water works had taken place towards the northern boundary of the site. The 1987 OS map reveals little changed since 1963, apart from a further industrial unit being added to the already developed estate to the west side of the site. Around this time Severn Trent Water Authority were issued a licence to deposit solid materials on the site, although this dumping was apparently never carried out. The development area remained open to the present day, within a rapidly developing urban conurbation.

2. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The objective of the trial trench evaluation was to ascertain whether there were any archaeological constraints that may affect the proposed development; in particular, to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area and to ascertain their quality, nature, extent and character.

At a site meeting with the Borough Archaeologist it was agreed to excavate 120 linear metres of trenching in the



Illus 2
Details of trenches and example sections

available area within the field. The location of the trenching scheme is illustrated in Illus 1. The evaluation was carried out on 31st August to 1st September 2010.

3. METHOD

3.1 Fieldwork

Six evaluation trenches were excavated. All trenches were set-out using the indicative site plan and positioned on site to avoid gas-monitoring boreholes, vents and tethered horses present on the site. The trenches were then located using a Trimble RTK GPS with sub centimetre accuracy. Survey recording of all trench locations was related to the Ordnance Survey grid and sections were accurately related to Ordnance Datum.

The ground works were conducted using a 13.5 tonne, 360 degree tracked excavator, suitably equipped with a 2m toothless ditching bucket. All the trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision removing topsoil and deposits of modern make-up through a series of controlled spits. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The identified natural deposits were further excavated in series of small machine excavated sondages to confirm their nature.

3.2 Recording

All aspects of the recording and storage procedures was undertaken in accordance with the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Brief and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. 35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only.

4. RESULTS

Full trench descriptions are given in Appendix 1. No significant archaeological remains were encountered. Overall, the site evaluation indicated that the area contains only post medieval activity in the form of modern field drains. The depth of topsoil/overburden varies from approximately 0.5m in the western quarter, where a buildup of modern overburden was evident, to approximately 0.1m in the eastern vicinity of the site, where it appeared to have been truncated by human action. Natural deposits comprised sands and gravels as expected.



Illus 3
Trench 1 facing south-east



Illus 4
Trench 2 facing north



Illus 5
Trench 5 facing east

5. DISCUSSION

The area encompassed by the evaluation trenches revealed that the site appears to have been stripped and levelled in the very recent past. No archaeological remains associated with a friary were observed within the evaluation trenches. An explanation for the change in topsoil depth and modern deposits across the site may be due to the licence granted in the 1980s for the dumping of waste material by Severn Trent Water on the site. The area may have been stripped at this time and the spoil used to construct the earthen bund on the southern boundary of the site. The extent of the made up ground observed within trenches 1, 2 & 3 could be related to the demolition and levelling of previous industrial units adjacent to the development area seen on the historic map regression.

Given the results of the evaluation, there do not appear to be any heritage assets within the evaluated area. Development in this area would therefore not have an impact upon any archaeological remains.

6. REFERENCES

Reeves, J., 1836, *The History and Topography of West Bromwich and its vicinity*.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site Registers

Trench Register

No.	Context	Level top	Level bottom	Total depth	Description
T1	1001	112.96m	–	0.2m	Topsoil. A thin layer of turf and topsoil.
T1	1002	–	–	0.2 – 0.5m	Redeposited/made up ground. Dark grey brown silty clay firm and stiff with frequent inclusions of rubble and red brick.
T1	1003	–	–	Depth unknown	Field drain. Machine cut drain-cutting 1004, running diagonal across eastern end of trench.
T1	1004	–	111.86m	> 1.1m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 1.1m.
T2	2001	113.05m	–	0.20 – 0.3m	Topsoil. A thin layer of turf and topsoil.
T2	2002	–	–	0.40 – 0.5m	Redeposited/made up ground. Dark grey brown silty clay firm and stiff with frequent inclusions of rubble and red brick.
T2	2003	–	–	Depth unknown	Field drain. Machine cut drain-cutting 2004, running diagonal across centre of trench. (same as 1004).
T2	2004	–	111.87m	> 1.2m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 1.2m.
T3	3001	113.11m	–	0.20 – 0.3m	Topsoil. A thin layer of turf and topsoil.
T3	3002	–	–	0.20 – 0m	Redeposited/made up ground. Dark grey brown silty clay firm and stiff with frequent inclusions of rubble and red brick. The made ground can be seen to peater out in this along the length of this trench.
T3	3003	–	–	Depth-unknown	Large modern drain cut with brown ceramic pipe and engine clinker back fill.
T3	3004	–	112.08m	0.6 – 0.8m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 1m.
T4	4001	113.79m	–	0.10m	Topsoil. A very thin layer of turf and topsoil.
T4	4002	–	–	0.2 – 0m	Redeposited/made up ground. Very thin layer of dark grey brown silty clay firm and stiff with frequent inclusions of rubble and red brick. This deposit is only visible in the southern end of the trench for approximately 2m only.
T4	4003	–	112.08m	> 0.5m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands, grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 0.7m
T5	5001	113.83m	–	0.2m	Topsoil. A very thin layer of turf and topsoil overlaying natural.
T5	5002	–	–	0.3m	Modern drain channel cut through 5001, containing black earth fill with post med pot and metal screw bottle cap.
T5	5003	–	113.58m	>0.3m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 0.3m.
T6	6001	113.76m	–	0.1m –0.15m	Topsoil. A very thin layer of turf and topsoil.
T6	6002	–	113.19m	> 0.6m	Natural. Containing gravel and sands grey and orange. Excavated to a depth of 0.6m.

Context register

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
1001	1	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
1002	1	Made Ground – Dark grey brown clay silt
1003	1	Orange grey sandy gravel - natural
2001	2	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
2002	2	Made Ground – Dark grey brown clay silt
2003	2	Orange grey sandy gravel - natural
3001	3	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
3002	3	Made Ground – Dark grey brown clay silt
3003	3	Orange grey sandy gravel - natural
4001	4	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
4002	4	Made Ground – Dark grey brown clay silt
4003	4	Orange grey sandy gravel - natural
5001	5	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
5002	5	Orange grey sandy gravel - natural
5003	5	Cut of linear in Tr5 - modern
5004	5	Fill of linear in Tr5 - modern
6001	6	Top soil – Mid grey brown silt
6002	6	Made Ground – Dark grey brown clay silt

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Plan or Section	Description
1	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 1
2	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 1
3	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 2
4	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 2
5	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 3
6	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 3
7	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 3
8	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 4
9	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 4
10	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 5
11	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 5
12	1:50	Plan	Plan of Trench 6
13	1:50	Section	Sample section Trench 6

Photographic Register

Photo No.	BW	Colour slide	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1	Y	Y	Y	S	Trench 1, section
2	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 1, view of Tr1
3	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 1, view of Tr1
4	Y	Y	Y	N	Trench 2, section
5	Y	Y	Y	N	Trench 2, view of Tr2
6	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 2, view of Tr2
7	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 3, section
8	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 3, view of Tr3
9	Y	Y	Y	S	Trench 3, view of Tr3
10	Y	Y	Y	S	Trench 4, section
11	Y	Y	Y	S	Trench 4, view of Tr4
12	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 4, view of Tr4
13	Y	Y	Y	S	Trench 5, section
14	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 5, view of Tr5
15	Y	Y	Y	E	Trench 5, view of Tr5
16	Y	Y	Y	N	Trench 6, section
17	Y	Y	Y	N	Trench 6, section
18	Y	Y	Y	W	Trench 6, view of Tr6
19	Y	Y	Y	W	Trench 6, view of Tr6

Appendix 2 – Sandwell MBC/SMR summary sheet

Summary sheet

Site name/address:	Friar Park Road, Wednesbury
Borough:	Sandwell
NGR:	401210 295160
Type of work:	Evaluation
Date of work:	31st August 2010
Site director/group:	Simon Mayes/Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Site code:	FPRS10
Location of finds/curating museum:	To be deposited with the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library
Further seasons anticipated?:	No
Full title of report:	Friar Park Road, Wednesbury: Archaeological Evaluation
Periods represented:	Post-medieval/modern
Summary of fieldwork results:	Six evaluation trenches were excavated in a field adjacent to Central Scaffolding Services, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. The site evaluation indicated that the area contains only post medieval activity in the form of modern service runs. The depth of topsoil/overburden varied from approximately 0.5m in the western quarter to approximately 0.1m in the eastern vicinity of the site. The depth of overburden variation across the site was probably caused by levelling and stripping by the Severn Trent Water Authority in the 1980s, prior to dumping of landfill which was subsequently never undertaken. The removed topsoil may have been used to form the currently overgrown bund which runs along the southern boundary of the site.
Previous summaries/reports:	None
Author of summary:	Simon Mayes
Date of summary:	October 2010

Appendix 3 – Sandwell MBC Brief

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND OFF FRIAR PARK ROAD, WEDNESBURY**

August 2010



Site: Land off Friar Park Road

Agent

Archaeological Contractor: Headland Archaeology Mike Kimber (1432 364 901)

Borough Archaeologist: Graham Eyre-Morgan (0121 569 4025)

Planning Officer: John Dadd (0121 569 4269)

Museum: Wednesbury (0121 556 0683)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Borough Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation of land off Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. It is understood that this brief has been compiled as a request of a potential developer at a pre-planning consent stage, **this site has not been recommended for a pre-planning application archaeological evaluation by the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Archaeologist.**

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site is situated immediately to the north Friar Park Road and within 200m directly to the north of the former Friar Park Farm near the to location of the former Carisbrooke Close. The site is presently occupied by former industrial buildings.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies adjacent to an identified Area of Archaeological Potential within the sphere of location for the lost moated site of a medieval friary. In addition burials have been revealed in the adjoining field to the east. Given the archaeological potential of the site the Borough Archaeologist would normally advise the Council at the planning consent stage to attach a condition for an archaeological evaluation on any potential development at this site.

3.2 Based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Statement 5*:

The evaluation is designed to provide sufficient information on the presence/absence, nature, quality and extent of any below ground remains. If intact, these deposits are likely to be of both local and regional importance and a programme of archaeological evaluation is therefore needed in order to assess their state of preservation; this being in accordance with Policies HE6, HE9, HE10, HE11, HE12 of *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010):

3.3 If present, the investigation will identify any archaeological remains thereby enabling the formulation, if appropriate, of an additional programme of excavation; should the deposits be of 'national importance' there would be a presumption in favour of their in-situ preservation.

3.4 This brief together with the resulting contractor's written scheme of investigation will ensure that the requirements of the planning condition can be adequately discharged.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 It was alleged by Joseph Reeves in his History of West Bromwich (1836) that the site of a medieval Friary associated with Sandwell Priory was to be seen within a quarter of a mile of Friar Park Farm and that the main building of the friary stood in a field then known as moat meadow. According to Reeves part of the moat was still visible and the foundations of a chapel were revealed in 1764, it was said that the chapel had to be approached via a drawbridge. In addition, human bones have been ploughed up in what was known as burial field at the junction of Sandy Lane and Friar Park Road to the east of the proposed development area. The name of 'Dead Woman's Buryall' is also connected with this field, which according to Hackwood 1895 was thought to have been the cemetery of the monks. It is also mentioned in Hackwood 1895 that the Friary was close to the site of the former Crankhall Farm

4.2 According to the Victoria County History of Staffordshire 1976, “The estate in the north of the parish which became known as Friar Park belonged to Halesowen Abbey in the Middle Ages”. Associated with the medieval Friary was one of the older mills in the area, which was later to become the Friar Park Forge, this would have been situated alongside the River Tame probably close to the location of Friar Park Farm. Following the suppression of Halesowen Abbey in 1538, it is assumed that the friary along with the mill, associated land and possessions were granted to Sir John Dudley, later Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland. The property later passed to his son Ambrose who died without issue in 1590. The property and land passed back to the Crown and is known as at this time as Friar Park. The property is then acquired by Sir William Whorwood, who held the estate until his death in 1614. Friar Park was now an acknowledged part of the Sandwell estate and remained so until the mid-19th century. It is known that Friar Park House existed from at least 1634 (possibly earlier as the home of the Middlemores 1602-1627) until the 19th century.

4.3 Following recent ground investigations (Dec 05) it was proven that there is good potential for archaeological survival (an evaluation was undertaken on the adjacent land platform to the south of the site off Carisbrooke Road) displaying little in the way of recent ground disturbance. Post-medieval pottery along with ephemeral archaeological features was discovered in a test trench excavated close to the entrance to the site.

4.4 It is important for the potential development area to be examined and an archaeological evaluation will assist us to prove or disprove theories on previous activities within the area. Isolated pottery fragments are likely to provide important information on the chronology of the settlement, the status of the inhabitants and their general living conditions.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK

The site-specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- To provide further information on the origins and development of the Friar Park site.

6.0 GENERAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The evaluation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation.

6.2 The contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist as part of the written scheme of investigation.

6.4 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the members of the team shall be provided in writing to Borough Archaeologist at least one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.5 A site code shall be obtained from the Borough Archaeologist

6.6 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.

6.7 Should the client wish to curtail the investigation for any reason at any point in advance of its completion the contractor will still be expected to produce a full report including specialist finds assessments within the timetable set out below.

6.8 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

7.1 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

7.2 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor must consult the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record and undertake a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library. It is also recommended that

the contractor obtains the drawing from the developer revealing the location of the test trenches. This information will assist in on-site interpretation.

7.3 It is recommended that the area to be developed is investigated by trial trenching (scheme to be confirmed with the Borough Archaeologist) The trial trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned in all trenches and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned. It is proposed that a minimum of 5% of the proposed development area is evaluated excluding areas that have been subject to previous deep excavation as a result of recent previous development/cellarage or mineral extraction, a trench plan must be appended to the specification.

7.4 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of structural and linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the WSI. For those trenches where substantial nineteenth and twentieth century masonry remains are encountered hand dug test pits will be excavated within the trench in order to examine the presence/absence of earlier remains. NOTE: In some circumstances it may be necessary to use shoring to support the sides of the trench, but advice must be sought from the Borough Archaeologist before employing this methodology.

7.5 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site grid will be tied to the national grid.

7.6 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the WSI. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of photographs in both monochrome and colour mediums with negatives if 35mm or medium format cameras or alternatively with high definition digital cameras. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed

photographs. A photographic register and supporting plan detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.8 The contractor must arrange, through a suitably qualified specialist, the assessment of the environmental and metallurgical potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits. Guidance should be sought from the appropriate English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and details of the methodology included within the WSI.

8.0 FINDS

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed and marked with both the site code and context number.

8.2 The WSI shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.3 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*. Details of the finds retrieval policy must be included within the WSI.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist.

9.0 RESULTS

9.1 It is essential that an interim report is submitted within one week of completing the fieldwork. The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within one month of completing the fieldwork, with six copies plus a copy on CD-ROM supplied to the Borough Archaeologist for general distribution.

9.2 The report must contain:

The aims and methods adopted during the course of the evaluation.

Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. This must be linked to the research objectives cited above and consider the sites in their local, regional and national context.

An assessment of the local, regional national importance of the site. The latter should be based on the criteria for scheduling as set out in PPS 5.

Impact Assessment and recommended mitigation strategy will be used to assess the impact of the proposal on the surviving archaeological resource.

The contractor is also expected to formulate a mitigation strategy and future research programme. The latter should be based on national/regional/local research frameworks and identify the aims/objectives of any future excavation.

Although the emphasis should be on those deposits that are likely to be destroyed, the wider potential the site must also be considered

A concise non-technical summary of the project results

All specialist reports and assessments

Site location plan, copies of any historical maps and a representative sample of the photographs including colour prints

Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. All corners of each trench shall be given a 10 figure grid reference

A section/s within each trench showing the depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale

Sufficient plans by period and area to aid interpretation

Artefact illustrations that would be submitted in any future publication

9.3 The following appendices should also be included:

Location and summary of the archive contents

Completed summary sheet (copy attached to brief)

Photographic register

Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' written scheme of investigation together with the completed pro-forma and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.4 The proposed format of the report will be described within the WSI.

10.0 ARCHIVE

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the Contractor must contact the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands B661AB. Tel. 0121 5582561), to determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive.

10.2 The archive should include the record photographs, negatives, colour slides, film register, digital information together with a copy of the Report.

10.3 Photographic prints should be re-produced at a minimum of five by four inches and labelled on the back using indelible ink with the film and frame number, date, photographers name together with the site code, name and grid reference; the photographs being mounted in archival quality sleeves.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to meet the Community History and Archives Service requirements with regard to the preparation of material for deposition.

10.5 Written notification of the commencement of fieldwork shall be given to Community History and Archives Service at the same time as the Borough Archaeologist.

10.6 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to Borough Archaeologist at the time of deposition.

11.0 MONITORING

11.1 The Borough Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and should be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, interpretation and reporting stages.

11.2 Written Notification of the start date will be given to the Borough Archaeologist at least one week before the commencement of work and once the fieldwork stage of the investigation has been completed.

12.0 CONTRACTORS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

12.1 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist before being implemented.

12.2 This Brief has been written following a cursory examination of the site by the Borough Archaeologist, potential contractors are therefore strongly advised to carry out their own inspection before submitting a written quotation.

12.3 If on first visiting the site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears that:

- i) part or the whole of the site is not amenable to the recording programme outlined above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features that should be recorded as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site have been omitted,

then it is expected that the Contractor will contact the Borough Archaeologist as a matter of urgency.

13.0 TIMETABLE

Brief issued 19th August 2010

Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation and costings to be submitted to Borough Archaeologist

Contractor appointed

Site work commences

Draft report to be submitted to Borough Archaeologist

Submission of six (6) copies of the Report plus a copy on CD Rom to be discussed following approval of draft.

Archive to be deposited in consultation with the Borough Archaeologist and receiving body following approval of draft.

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation for this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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Appendix 4 – Project Design

FRIAR PARK ROAD, SANDWELL

Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Central Homes (Midlands) Ltd
August 2010

Mike Kimber AIfA
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1. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is submitted by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd as the Project Design for a pre-determination evaluation on land at Friar Park Road, Sandwell. The land comprises an undeveloped triangular field (the East Field) and a small industrial estate to the west and has been the subject of a Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Development Brief (April 2008).
2. The Borough Archaeologist has advised in line with *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment* that any planning application should be accompanied by a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected by the proposed development, and an assessment of the impact of the proposal upon them. The Borough Archaeologist has issued a Brief for the required information, specifying an evaluation by trial trench of the development area. This Project Design is submitted for his approval on the basis that the proposed work will provide the required information.
3. The site is located on the northern side of Friar Park Road (NGR 401280 295130) and comprises an eastern field (9,450 sq m) plus an industrial estate (16,850 sq m) on the western side of the site.
4. Historical background from brief
5. Additional background from geotech investigations

2. SCHEDULE

6. It is intended to carry out the evaluation over 1 to 3 days (depending on discoveries), beginning on the 31st of August. The full report will be produced within four weeks of completion of fieldwork, an interim summary of findings will be sent to the Borough Archaeologist within one week of completion of fieldwork.

3. PROJECT TEAM

7. The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Mike Kimber; the evaluation will be undertaken by Simon Mayes plus an assistant. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies.
8. Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin who is Headland's Finds Manager. Julie will undertake finds assessment within her areas of competence (medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glassware, clay pipes, ceramic building material and other small finds) and assisted by Julie Lochrie (lithics).

Medieval pottery assessment will be undertaken by Kath Crooks, Roman pottery assessment will be undertaken by Jane Timby. Further consultation will be sub-contracted to recognised period & regional specialists where appropriate.

9. Environmental analysis will be managed by Dr Scott Timpany. Headland has in-house specialists who can undertake analysis of pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and thin sections.
10. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the evaluation.

4. INSURANCE

11. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is insured for Public/Product Liability (£10M); Employers Liability (£10M) and Professional Indemnity (£5M). All necessary insurances can be presented on request.

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

12. All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. All of Headland's H&S documentation is prepared by HSE Solutions Ltd. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to attending site. A site-specific risk assessment will be completed on attendance on site. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Site welfare facilities will be provided.

6. ACCESS & SERVICES

13. A site visit was undertaken in August by Mike Kimber to position trenches around constraints on the ground in discussion with the client and the Borough Archaeologist.

7. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

14. The objective of the evaluation is generally to determine whether any archaeological remains are present within the area of the proposed development, characterize them by date, extent, preservation and significance, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.
15. More specifically the evaluation will attempt to locate any evidence for the Friary and try and establish the

presence and nature of any burials that are reported to have been observed within the site previously.

8. METHOD

16. The evaluation will comprise a total of 120m of trenches 1.8m wide (6 x 20m trenches). The southern boundary and south part of the western boundary are inaccessible due to the presence of heavy vegetation in these locations and therefore it has been agreed following a site visit with the Archaeological Advisor to the planning authority that these areas will not need to be trenched. The location of the trenches will also have to avoid five bore holes – which will be identified by the client for the project officer prior to the commencement of trenching. An indicative trench layout plan has been produced and is attached to this proposal.
17. Excavation will be undertaken by mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket where possible, although hard surfaces and highly compacted deposits are likely to require the use of a concrete breaker and toothed bucket in order to remove them.
18. All mechanical excavation will take place under direct archaeological supervision with a ratio of 1 archaeologist per machine working. Mechanical excavation will cease at the first significant archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits, whichever is reached first. Excavation and recording will then proceed by hand. Excavation will be sufficient to characterize deposits and features and will typically comprise 50% excavation of discrete features and 25% excavation of linear features. Complex features that are not suited to investigation in narrow trenches will be recorded in plan only. Stratified deposits will be investigated by means of hand-dug slots.
19. Due to Health and Safety considerations, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd staff will not enter unsupported excavations deeper than 1.2m below existing ground level (or excavations shallower than this should they be deemed unsafe). Should archaeological deposits extend to a depth in excess of 1.2m below the existing ground surface and access be required to investigate and record archaeological remains; shoring or battering the trench edges will be considered.

9. RECORDING

20. All recording will follow IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. 35mm colour transparencies and

black-and-white prints will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera will be taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

21. Plans of the evaluation trenches will be drawn on *pro-forma* record sheets at 1:50, with individual features planned at 1:20, sections drawn at 1:10. At least one long section of each trench will be recorded.
22. An overall site plan will be provided by the client and trench locations will be illustrated on this plan. The site plan will be accurately linked to the National Grid.

10. SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

23. Finds will be hand collected from archaeological contexts; samples will be taken to allow for the recovery of small objects. Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (ie. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the evaluation will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be cleaned, marked and catalogued. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Cardiff University.
24. The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regards to any finds which might fall within its scope. Any finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. The find will also be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (Tom Brindle tom_brindle@birmingham.gov.uk tel 0121 303 4636).
25. Deposits identified as archaeologically significant (e.g. fills from negative features such as pits and postholes) will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from deposits for wet sieving and flotation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample ranges from 40 to 60 litres; however, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. The number of samples (if any) to be processed and assessed following

fieldwork will be agreed with the Curator and instructed by the client.

26. Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (e.g. testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood (including waterlogged wood) and insect analyses.

11. MONITORING

27. Access to the site will be afforded to representatives of Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team for monitoring purposes.

12. REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

28. All aspects of reporting and archive will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The the scope of any specialist assessments agreed with the Curator and instructed by the Client. A draft report will be provided within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork.
29. Final report contents and format will be in line with Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team requirements and the report contents will be in line with those outlined in the IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; copies (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist. All reports will be submitted within two months of the completion of fieldwork.
30. The finds and archive will be deposited with the local Museum in line with its deposition guidelines. Deposition will be undertaken within one year of the completion of fieldwork.
31. A summary publication note will be submitted to CBA West Midlands, Med Arch roundup & Post-medieval archaeology publication notes within one year of the completion of fieldwork. If further publication of the results of the evaluation is required then a specification will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist and costs will be provided for agreement by the client.

13. HUMAN REMAINS

32. All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, the coroner and the Borough Archaeologist.

No human remains will be excavated under this contract. If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work, a license will be gained from the Ministry of Justice in accordance with Section 25 of the 1857 Burial Act. All excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognizance of IfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant English Heritage guidelines (2005).

14. COPYRIGHT

33. Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client, Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant museum. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use by Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team.

15. PUBLICITY

34. Beattie Communications Ltd (01324 602 550) deal with PR and media relations on behalf of Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. No press releases or publicity material will be issued without prior approval of the client. Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team will be offered the opportunity to be acknowledged in any press release etc.

16. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).
- Brickley, M. & McKinley, J., 2004, *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains [IfA Paper No 7]*.
- Watkinson, D. & Neal, V., 1998, *First aid for finds, [Third Edition]*.