ACAG12

ASHLEWORTH COURT, ASHLEWORTH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

for Chamberlayne Developments

12/00974/FUL

March 2013

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

ASHLEWORTH COURT, ASHLEWORTH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

for Chamberlayne Developments

12/00974/FUL

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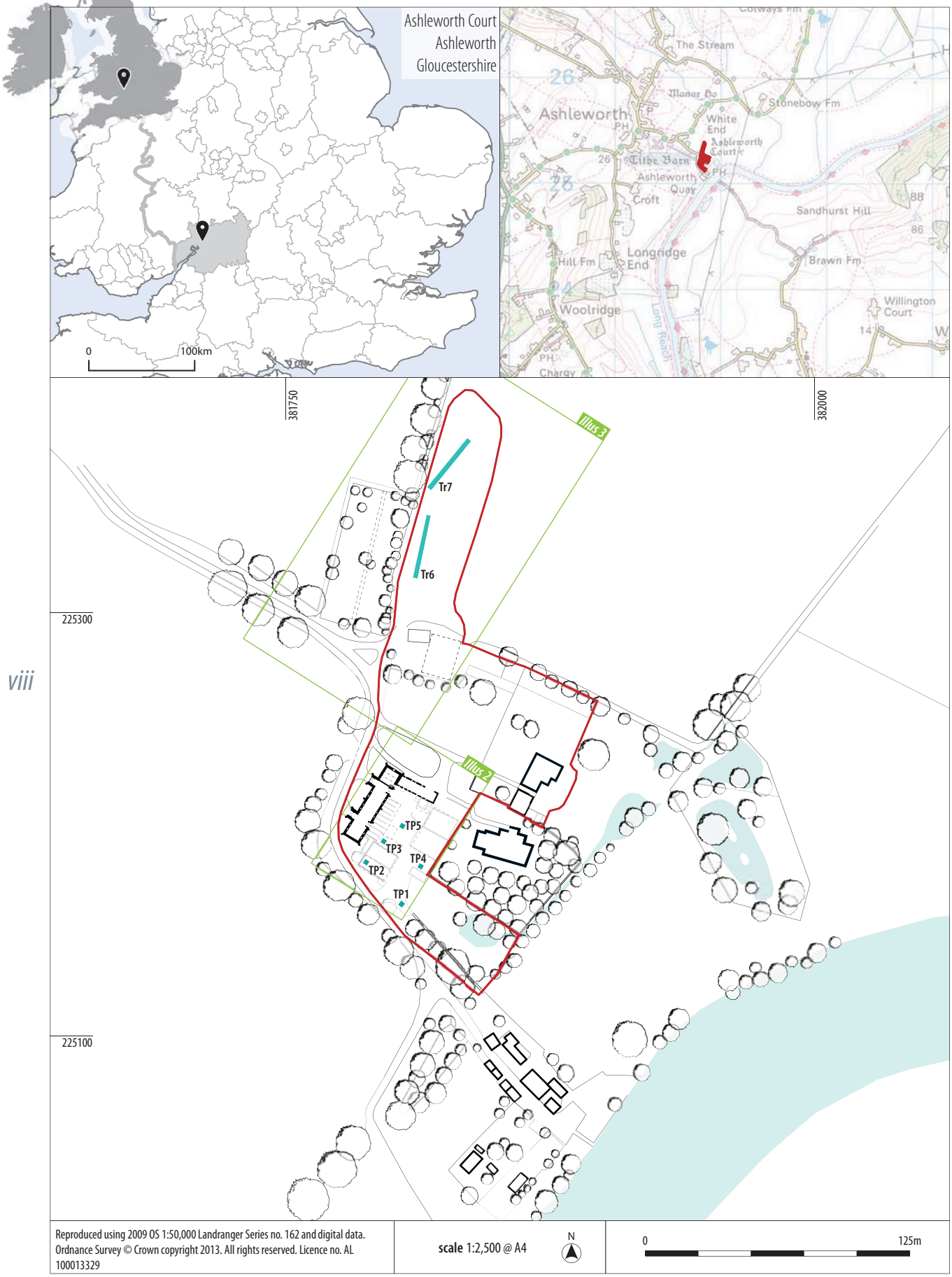


Illus 1

Site location

ASHLEWORTH COURT, ASHLEWORTH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. excavated five test pits and two evaluation trenches on land adjacent to Ashleworth Court in Ashleworth, Gloucestershire. The work was undertaken to provide further information about the archaeological resource to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding a planning application to develop the site. Within the farmyard, a former topsoil horizon was identified in three of the five test pits, and a masonry feature was identified in Test Pit 1. In the proposed car parking area in the north of the site, a feature containing pottery dated to the second half of the 1st century AD was identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by CgMs acting on behalf of Chamberlayne Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Ashleworth Court in Gloucestershire (*Illus 1*). Five test pits were excavated within the farmyard to the west of Ashleworth Court. The farmyard is located immediately to the south-east of a scheduled medieval tithe barn owned by the National Trust. Two evaluation trenches were excavated on arable land approximately 100m north of Ashleworth Court.

The client has submitted an application to construct a wedding venue and associated parking on the site to Tewkesbury District Council (12/00974/FUL). The client has commissioned the archaeological evaluation to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission.

A project design for undertaking the archaeological evaluation was submitted to the local planning authority by Headland Archaeology Ltd (Kimber 2013) and agreed by the archaeological advisor to Gloucestershire County Council, Mr. Charles Parry.

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) comprises Ashleworth Court, its associated medieval tithe barn, a farmyard and an area of arable land to the north (site centre NGR 381812, 225206).

The site is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Saltford Shale member, overlain by sands and gravels of the Worcester member (British Geological Survey). The site lies at approximately 10m OD.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A comprehensive desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Ltd (2012) had identified the potential for the presence of former structures relating to the monastic grange; remains relating to medieval agricultural practice; and settlement remains relating to the Saxon and Romano-British periods.

The site lies within a former monastic grange containing a Grade I listed medieval hall, and a grade II* listed and scheduled tithe barn. The adjacent church is potentially of Saxon origin. Roman artefacts have been recovered from nearby; there is no firm evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

A number of Roman pottery sherds dating to the mid 1st century AD are recorded to have been recovered during works associated with river dredging near Ashleworth Quay, to the south-east of the site. A scatter of Roman pottery, including Samian ware, is also noted to have been observed within a field situated approximately 400m to the south-west of the site. Unpublished evidence from field walking and metal detecting undertaken in c.1994 in fields to the north of Ashleworth Court, and into which the northern area of the site extends, has further suggested the potential presence of a more extensive settlement of this period (Chandler 2012).

The site occupies the former site of a Medieval monastic grange that was established following the grant of the manor of Ashleworth to St Augustine's Abbey, Bristol in c. AD 1140 by Robert Fitzharding, the later Lord of Berkeley. The manor remained in the abbeys possession until the dissolution in 1539. Today it retains the former Medieval hall (The Court) and the adjacent Tithe Barn. Recent scientific dating has confirmed this structure to date from the late 15th century.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.

5. METHOD

Five test pits, each measuring 2m by 2m were excavated within the farmyard immediately to the south-east of the medieval tithe barn. Two evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated on arable land in the north of the proposed development area.

5.1 Test pits (Illus 2)

The concrete farmyard surface in each test pit location was cut using a floor saw and broken using a mini-digger mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker attachment. Test pits were then excavated under archaeological supervision, with modern deposits being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. High groundwater levels – causing flooding of Test Pits 3, 4 & 5 – required the excavation of a small 0.6 x 0.6m sump into an archaeologically sterile area of the geological substrate in each pit in order to allow water to be pumped out and the test pit to be recorded and inspected.

5.2 Evaluation trenches (Illus 3)

Trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

All test pits and trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system. A record sheet was completed for each trench, even where no deposits of archaeological significance were present. Identified archaeological features were subject to sample hand excavation, carried out to a sufficient degree to meet the objectives of the evaluation.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts and samples were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Colour transparencies and black and white photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the progress of the trial trenching. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

6. RESULTS

6.1 Test Pit 1 (Illus 4)

The concrete yard surface was located at 10.25m OD. Modern rubble and the yard surface accounted for the upper 0.4m of deposits. In the eastern half of the trench was a line of four flat stones on a north-south alignment (105). The Blue Lias stones appeared to be faced on their western side. The eastern side of the stone alignment was obscured by the presence of a 20th century stoneware drainage pipe. Due to the presence of the modern drainage pipe in close proximity to, and on the same alignment as the stones, the stone feature was assumed to be a stone capped culvert. In an attempt to retrieve dating evidence two of the stones (which measured 0.15m in thickness) were subsequently lifted and shown to lie directly on natural gravel deposits.

The purpose and date of the alignment of stones is unclear. There was no evidence of a construction cut to suggest that the stones formed part of a foundation. Adjacent to the stones and existing to a depth of c.0.2m beneath the modern deposits was a mid brown sandy clay deposit (102), believed to represent a former topsoil horizon. It is possible that the stone alignment is the remains of a former path or other surface feature. Natural gravels were present beneath this at a level of 9.65mOD.

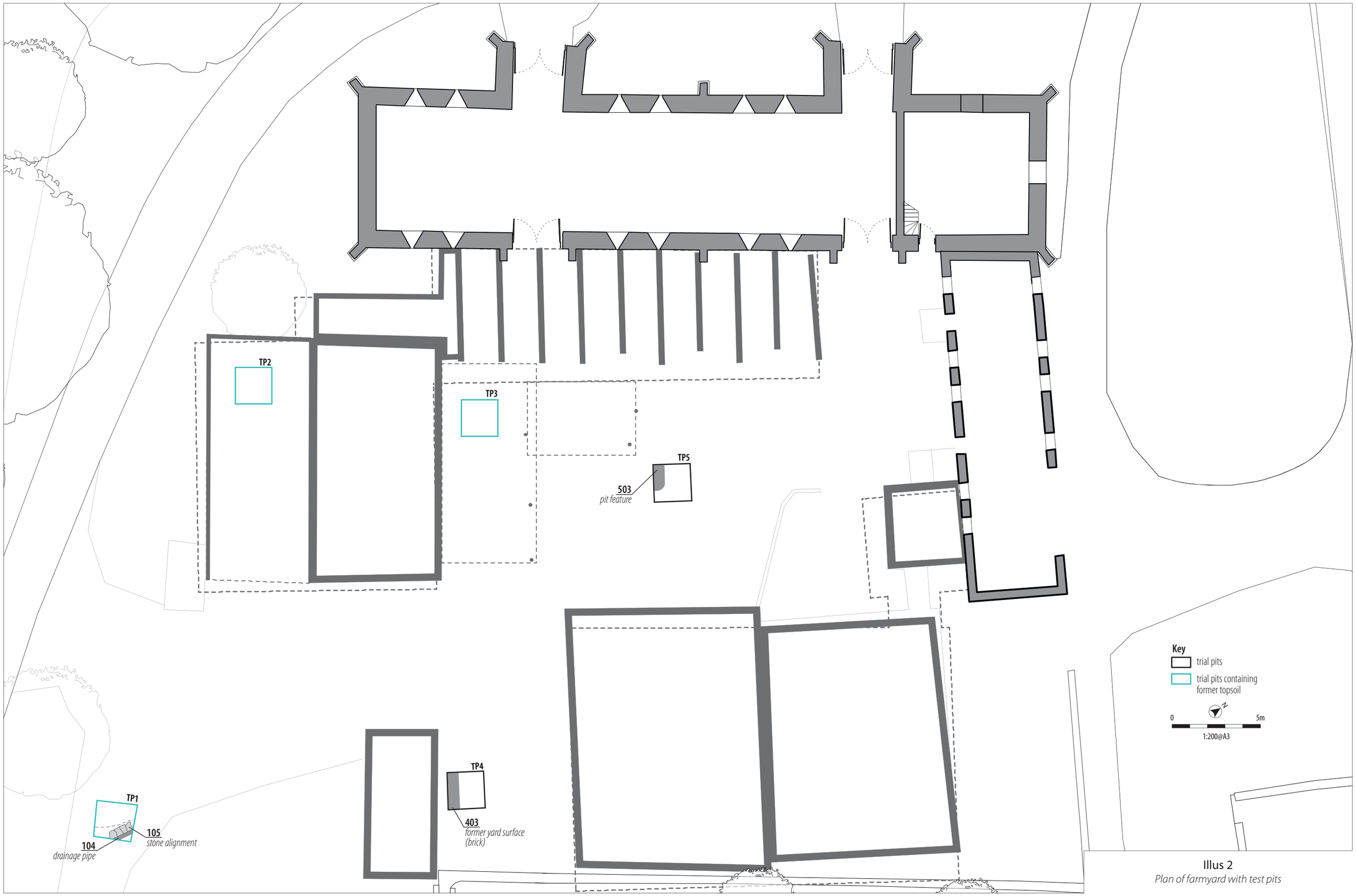
6.2 Test Pit 2 (Illus 5)

Located within a Dutch barn to the north of Test Pit 1, the concrete floor surface was present at 11.04mOD. Beneath the concrete floor and existing to a depth of 0.52m was a black deposit (201) of cinder and industrial metal-working debris including substantial concretions of iron slag. Modern window glass was found within the deposit. The current landowner believes that the material was brought to the site within living memory to increase the height of the farmyard prior to the laying of the concrete yard surface.

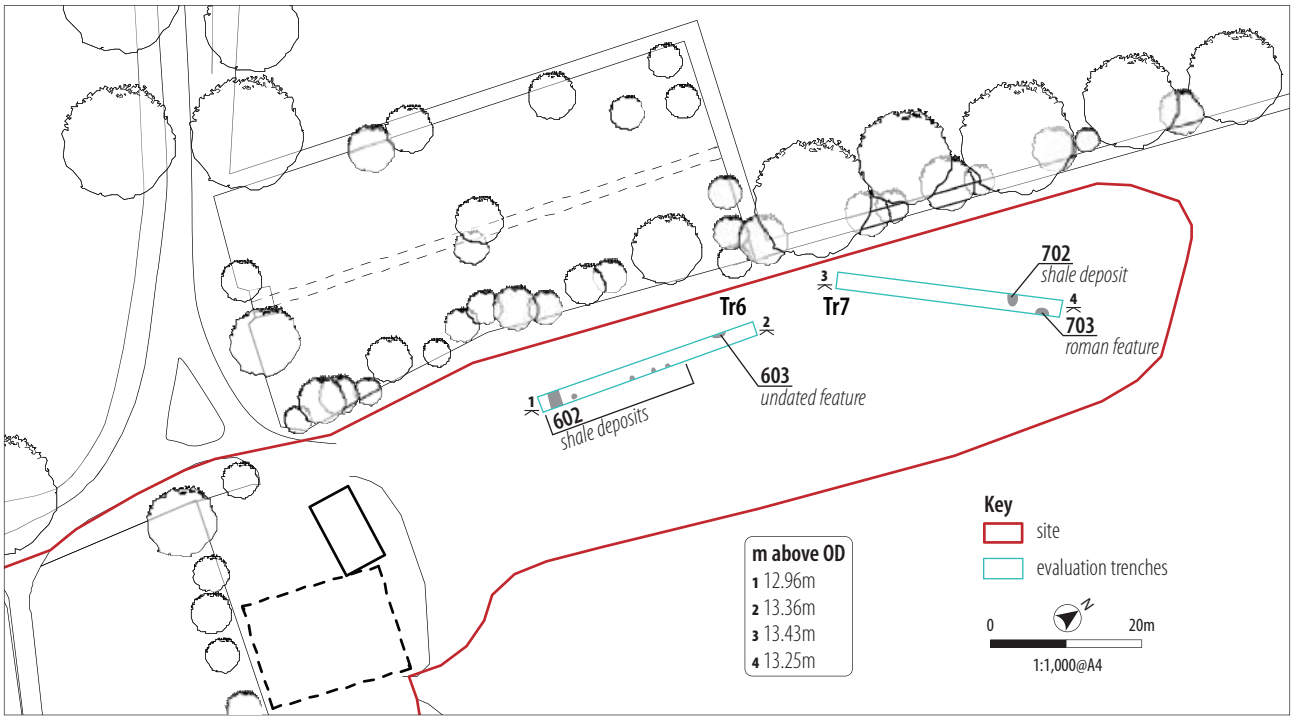
Beneath the cinder deposit the remains of a former topsoil horizon (202) were observed, surviving to a depth of 0.06m. Natural sands and gravels were present immediately below this at 10.34mOD.

6.3 Test Pit 3

The top of Test Pit 3 was located at a level of 10.50mOD. A c.0.33m deep cinder deposit (301) was present beneath the concrete floor



Illus 2
Plan of farmyard with test pits



Illus 3

Trial trench locations

surface. Beneath this, and overlying natural sands and gravels, was a buried topsoil horizon (302) existing to a depth of c.0.2m. Natural sands and gravels were encountered at 9.84mOD.

6.4 Test Pit 4

The top of the test pit was located at 10.56mOD. Immediately beneath the concrete yard surface, a brick surface (403) edged with stone kerbs was revealed in the south of the test pit. The cinder deposit, encountered elsewhere, existed to a depth of 0.4m. Modern crushed brick and roof tile formed a layer overlying the natural sands and gravels which were present at 9.96mOD.

6.5 Test Pit 5

Located in the centre of the farmyard, the top of Test Pit 5 was present at 10.52mOD. A rubble deposit (501) consisting of large pieces of Blue Lias stone and mixed gravel and sand deposits 0.3m in depth was present beneath the concrete surface.

Cut into the natural gravels in the south-west of the test pit was a 0.2m deep pit feature (503) which continued outside the limits of the trench to the south-west and north-west. The dark grey sandy clay fill of the feature contained infrequent charcoal flecks, but no archaeological finds. Upon excavation the feature emitted a strong petro-chemical odour.

6.6 Evaluation Trench 6

Topsoil, present to a depth of c.0.3m, overlay a mid-brown clay sand subsoil deposit. The subsoil was approximately 0.3m in depth in the north of the trench, increasing to a depth of 0.5min the south of the trench. The subsoil appears to have been deposited through alluvial activity. Natural sands and gravels were present immediately below the subsoil.

In the north of the trench, at a depth of 0.8m, a pit feature (603) measuring 1.5m x 0.3m x 0.22m was cut into the natural sands and gravels, and continued beyond the western limit of the trench. Two pieces of animal bone were present within the mid-brown sandy clay fill.

To the south of feature (603) and continuing along the remaining length of the trench were intermittent deposits of a black coal like material (602). The patches of material were investigated but did not form coherent discreet deposits. The material appeared to be mixed into the surface of the natural sand and gravel deposits. Microscopic examination of the material has confirmed that it is coal/shale and therefore intrusion of bedrock deposits into the drift geology.

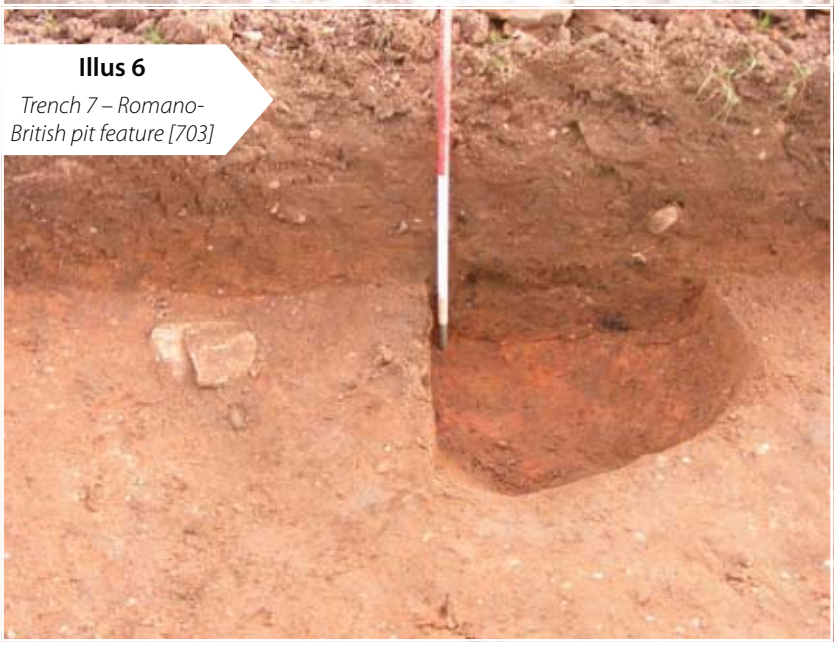
6.7 Evaluation Trench 7

A single pit feature (703) was present at the northern end of Trench 7 at a depth of 0.6m below ground level (*Illus 6*). The pit which extended beyond the south-eastern limits of the trench measured 1.7m x 0.75m x 0.24m and contained a significant amount of Romano-British pottery and 10 well preserved fragments of animal bone.

The assemblage of pottery recovered from the feature was dated to the early Roman period. The remains of at least two vessels formed from handmade, grog-tempered pottery were present. Eight sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware, two sherds of a local grey ware and a small fragment of South Gaulish Samian were also identified.

Illus 4
Test pit 1 – alignment of worked stones [105]

Illus 5
Test pit 2 – Cinder deposit of made ground [201]



Illus 6
Trench 7 – Romano-British pit feature [703]

A sample taken from the pit fill contained a small quantity of wood charcoal, hazelnut shell and several poorly preserved cereal grains suggesting domestic deposition. Magnetic residue recovered from the sample and a fragment of slag recovered from the overlying alluvium suggest that ironworking was taking place in the general area, although not in the immediate vicinity of the feature.

Approximately 2m to the south-west of this feature a deposit of shale consistent with the material observed in Trench 6 was present.

7. CONCLUSION

The evaluation revealed evidence for early Romano-British activity in the northern extent of the proposed development area in the form of a single domestic pit present at a depth of 0.6m below ground level.

A further pit feature (603) is of unknown date, but could potentially be associated with the Romano-British activity identified in Trench 7.

The lack of confirmed Romano-British activity to the south and west of pit (703) may suggest that the focus of settlement lies further to the north and east of the proposed development area. The results of field walking and metal detecting undertaken in c.1994 (Chandler 2012) would appear to support this suggestion.

An alignment of worked stones in Test Pit 1 is of unknown date, but has the potential to be of archaeological significance.

Preserved topsoil deposits were present in Test Pits 1, 2 and 3 although no archaeological finds or features were observed. Survival of at least part of the topsoil horizon suggests that there is the potential for the survival of archaeological features within the area of the proposed development. A reduction in the ground level at some point in the past does however seem likely. In Test Pits 1, 2 and 3 the former topsoil only exists to a depth of between 0.06m and 0.2m and in the remaining test pits deposits of made ground directly overlie natural geological deposits suggesting the truncation of the former topsoil within these areas. The floor level of the medieval tithe barn would appear to support the suggestion that the ground level within parts of the farm yard has been reduced since the barn was built – the floor is present at a noticeably higher level than the farmyard and foundation material is visible in places.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs 2012 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Ashleworth Court, Ashleworth, Gloucestershire.*

Chandler, J 2012 *Ashleworth 1, Introduction and Settlement, revised draft 25.04.12.* Victoria County History of Gloucestershire. John Chandler and Gloucestershire County History Trust.

Kimber, M 2013 *Ashleworth Court, Ashleworth, Gloucestershire. Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation.* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench / TP	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)
1	2	2	0.70	0.88
2	2	2	0.70	0.70
3	2	2	0.68	0.70
4	2	2	0.60	0.60
5	2	2	0.58	0.66
6	30	1.8	0.80	1.10
7	30	1.8	0.80	1.04

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Trench/ TP	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
1	100	Concrete yard surface.	0.00 – 0.15
1	101	Rubble make-up for surface.	0.15 – 0.42
1	102	Mid brown sandy clay. Former topsoil deposit.	0.42 – 0.60
1	103	Red/orange gravel within a clay matrix. Natural.	0.60 – 0.88+
1	104	Red stoneware land drain. 20th century.	0.40 – 0.50
1	105	Alignment of flat stones. Faced on western side.	0.50 – 0.65
2	200	Concrete floor slab within barn.	0.00 – 0.15
2	201	Black cinder deposit containing concretions of metal slag and modern window glass fragments.	0.00 – 0.66
2	202	Mid brown sandy clay. Buried topsoil horizon.	0.64 – 0.70+
3	300	Concrete floor slab within barn.	0.00 – 0.16
3	301	Black cinder deposit.	0.16 – 0.52
3	302	Mid brown sandy clay. Buried topsoil horizon.	0.48 – 0.70
3	303	Red/orange sandy gravel. Natural.	0.70+
4	400	Concrete yard surface.	0.00 – 0.15
4	401	Rubble make-up for surface.	0.15 – 0.20
4	402	Black cinder deposit.	0.20 – 0.60
4	403	Brick surface with stone kerbs. Former yard surface.	0.22 – 0.40
4	404	Red/orange sandy gravel. Natural.	0.60+
5	500	Concrete yard surface.	0.00 – 0.15
5	501	Rubble make-up deposit containing large blocks of Lias stone.	0.15 – 0.46
5	502	Red/orange sandy gravel. Natural.	0.46 – 0.58+
5	503	Cut for sub-rectangular pit feature continuing beyond limits of excavation to N-W and S-W. Measured 1.28m x 0.70m x 0.20m (within limits of test pit).	0.46 – 0.66
5	504	Fill of [503]. Grey sandy clay. Strong odour of petro-chemical contamination.	0.46 – 0.66
6	600	Mid brown sandy clay. Topsoil.	0.00 – 0.30
6	601	Mid brown clayey sand. Subsoil. Potentially the result of alluvial deposition.	0.30 – 0.80
6	602	Degraded shale deposits appearing sporadically. Up-cast of bedrock into drift deposits.	0.80 – 1.10+
6	603	Cut for sub-circular feature continuing beyond western extent of excavation. Measured 1.5m x 0.30m x 0.22m (within limits of trench).	0.80 – 1.02
6	604	Fill of [603]. Mid brown clayey sand containing infrequent pieces of animal bone).	0.80 – 1.02
6	605	Orange/light brown clayey sand with gravel inclusions. Natural.	0.80+
7	700	Mid brown sandy clay. Topsoil.	0.00 – 0.30
7	701	Mid brown clayey sand. Subsoil. Potentially the result of alluvial deposition.	0.00 – 0.80
7	702	Degraded shale deposits appearing sporadically. Up-cast of bedrock into drift deposits.	0.80 – 0.92+
7	703	Cut for semi-circular pit (as observed) continuing beyond limits of excavation to SE. Gently sloping sides to curved base. Measured 1.7m x 0.75m+ x 0.24m (within limits of trench).	0.80 – 1.04
7	704	Fill of [703]. Mid brown clayey sand. Frequent pieces of flay angular stone. Frequent sherds of Roman pottery and occasional pieces of animal bone.	0.80 – 1.04
7	705	Orange/light brown clayey sand. Natural.	0.80+

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	725/1	738/1	1		Film ID shot
2	725/2	738/2	2	SE	Tr7 – Pit feature [703]
3	725/3	738/3	3	E	Tr7 – Pit feature [703]
4	725/4	738/4	4	W	Tr7 – Shale deposit 702
5	725/5	738/5	5	NE	Tr7 – Plan
6	725/6	738/6	6	E	Tr6 – Section
7	725/7	738/7	7	SW	Tr6 – Pit feature [603]
8	725/8	738/8	8	S	Tr6 – Shale deposit 602
9	725/9	738/9	9	S	Tr6 – Plan
10	725/10	738/10	10	NW	TP2 – Plan

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
11	725/11	738/11	11	NE	TP2 – Section
12	725/12	738/12	12	NE	TP3 – Section
13	725/13	738/13	13	NE	TP4 – Plan
14	725/14	738/14	14	N	TP5
15	725/15	738/15	15	NE	TP1 – Plan
16	725/16	738/16	16	NW	TP1 – Section
17	725/17	738/17	17	W	TP 5 – After drainage
18	725/18	738/18	18	W	TP3 – After drainage
19	725/19	738/19	19	NW	TP4 – After drainage

Appendix 2 Finds Assessment

Jane Timby, Julie Franklin

Introduction

The assemblage was most notable for its large sherds of early Roman pottery, albeit a small collection of only 27 sherds. Other finds include fragments of post-Roman ceramic building material and fragments of ironworking waste.

Pottery

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 27 sherds of pottery, weighing 1.363kg, dating to the early Roman period. All the material came from two contexts in Trench 7, the majority from the fill (704) of pit [703].

The pottery is in very good condition with large well-preserved sherds showing moderately fresh edges. There are multiple sherds from single vessels. The overall average sherd weight is exceptionally high at 50.5g, in part a reflection of the large size of the vessels involved and in part reflecting undisturbed archaeological deposits.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data is summarized in the catalogue below. The fabric codes listed include the National Roman reference codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) and where relevant a concordance with the Gloucester City Museums fabric reference system (TF).

Fifteen sherds of handmade, grog-tempered pottery were recovered from context (704). There are at least two vessels present, one a very large storage jar in Gloucester TF 2C; the other a smaller black jar (Glos TF 2A). This ware was made from the early 1st century AD but continues to feature on early Roman rural sites up to the later 1st / early 2nd-century AD.

Accompanying the grog-tempered pottery are eight sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware (SVW OX); one minute chip of South Gaulish samian and two sherds of a local grey micaceous wheel-made ware. The SVW OX includes the rim of a very large storage jar and one sherd decorated with combed chevrons. These sherds push the date of the group into the Roman period rather than the later Iron Age. The presence of samian, albeit very small, somewhat raises the possible status of the group.

The only other sherd recovered is another body sherd of SVW OX from context (701) which is presumably broadly contemporary with that from (704). This is a long-lived industry sometimes difficult to date from unfeatured sherds.

Ceramic building material

Two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered, one from Trench 6 (600) and one from Trench 7 (701). The first appears to be an abraded lump of brick of post-Roman date. The other piece is a tile fragment which is quite thin and thus may also be of post-Roman rather than Roman date.

Industrial waste

A small assemblage of 18g of ironworking waste was recovered from context (602, 701, 704) in trenches 6 and 7. There is nothing immediately diagnostic about any of these pieces and they cannot be tightly dated. They may be contemporary with the Roman finds, or may be considerably later. The quantities found are not sufficient to point towards ironworking in the immediate vicinity, but imply it in the general area.

Discussion

Despite its small size the evaluation assemblage would suggest activity in the immediate vicinity of pit [703] in the second half of the 1st century AD. Apart from the small piece of samian the wares are largely local types typical of this area. The good state of preservation is noteworthy.

The pottery assemblage is too small to warrant further work unless additional material is recovered from the same locality in which case it should be added into any overview. The CBM and industrial waste are of little further archaeological value.

References

Tomber, R & Dore, J 1998 *The National Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook,* Museum of London / English Heritage/ British Museum.

Finds Catalogues

Pottery & CBM

Trench	Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Material	Fabric	Form	Spot Date	Period
6	600	1	56	CBM	CBM	?brick/ abraded lump	pmed?	PM?
7	701	1	10	CBM	CBM	tile	med/pmed?	Med/PM?
7	701	1	24	Pottery (Rom)	Severn Valley ware (SVW OX)	body	C1/C2	Rom
7	704	1	>0.5	Pottery (Rom)	South Gaulish samian	small chip	C1	Rom
7	704	6	485	Pottery (Rom)	Grog-tempered ware (Glos TF 2C)	storage jar	C1	Rom
7	704	9	106	Pottery (Rom)	Black grog-tempered ware (Glos TF2A)	body and base sherd	C1	Rom
7	704	8	712	Pottery (Rom)	Severn Valley ware (SVW OX)	storage jar	C1	Rom
7	704	2	36	Pottery (Rom)	Local grey micaceous wm ware	body/base	C1	Rom

Other Finds

Trench	Context	Sample	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Period
6	602	1	2	1	Industrial Waste	Slag fragments	IA-Mod
7	701		1	17	Industrial Waste	Slag fragment	IA-Mod
7	704	2		<0.5	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	IA-Mod

Appendix 3 Environmental sample assessment

Dr Tim Holden

Method

Two bulk samples were received (*Table A3.1*) together with hand collected bones from two contexts.

The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

Results

Flots

The flots comprised modern root and stem fragments with a small charred component.

602 extremely fine charcoal of little archaeological significance.

704 a small quantity of wood charcoal with several poorly preserved cereal grains one of which was identifiable as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). There is little scope for further work on the charcoal but the cereal grain could potentially be used to provide a radiocarbon date if needed.

Retents

The results from the retents are itemised in *Table A3.1*.

602 Little of archaeological significance was recovered but it was possible to confirm that black material was in fact coal/shale and therefore undoubtedly fragments of the natural bedrock.

704 Produced some charred remains – wood charcoal and hazel shell.

Hand collected Bone

Bone was recovered from two contexts. This was in a good state of preservation but somewhat fragmentary and with few complete bones.

602 two fragments of medium-sized rib bones (27g).

704 *c.* 10 well-preserved fragments of bone (487g). The bones include two pig mandibles complete with teeth, fragments of long bone, pelvis, rib and a vertebra from a large mammal (cow or horse). A single indeterminate bone from a smaller animal (possibly large bird) shows evidence of gnawing.

Discussion

The sample from [602] is largely devoid of any significant ecofacts but it was possible to confirm that the black material was coal/shale.

[704] contains animal bone, charcoal, cereal grain and hazel shell so has much more 'domestic' character. The charred remains do not warrant any further attention to that provided here. It is, however, probable that much of the animal bone could be identified to species and may therefore add a little to the understanding of the site. It is unlikely to be usable to address any more ambitious questions regarding animal husbandry or the local economy.

Table A3.1

Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	Ceramic	Stone	Industrial Waste		Burnt bone	Unburnt bone	Charred plant	Charcoal		Material available for AMS Dating	Coal/ shale	Comments
			Pottery											
			Roman	Lithics	Fe slag	Mag res	Mammal	Mammal		Qty	Max Size (cm)			
602	1	10	–	+	+	–	+	–	–	–	–	–	++++	Burnt Bone not retained
704	2	10	+	–	–	+	+	++	+	++	1.3	Burnt Bone +, Nutshell +, Charred Cereal Grain +, Charcoal +	–	Charred nutshell and cereal grain present

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

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