

FRLG13/01



## LAND OFF FARINGDON ROAD, LECHLADE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP)  
on behalf of Barwood Development Securities Ltd*

*September 2013*

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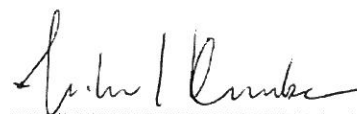
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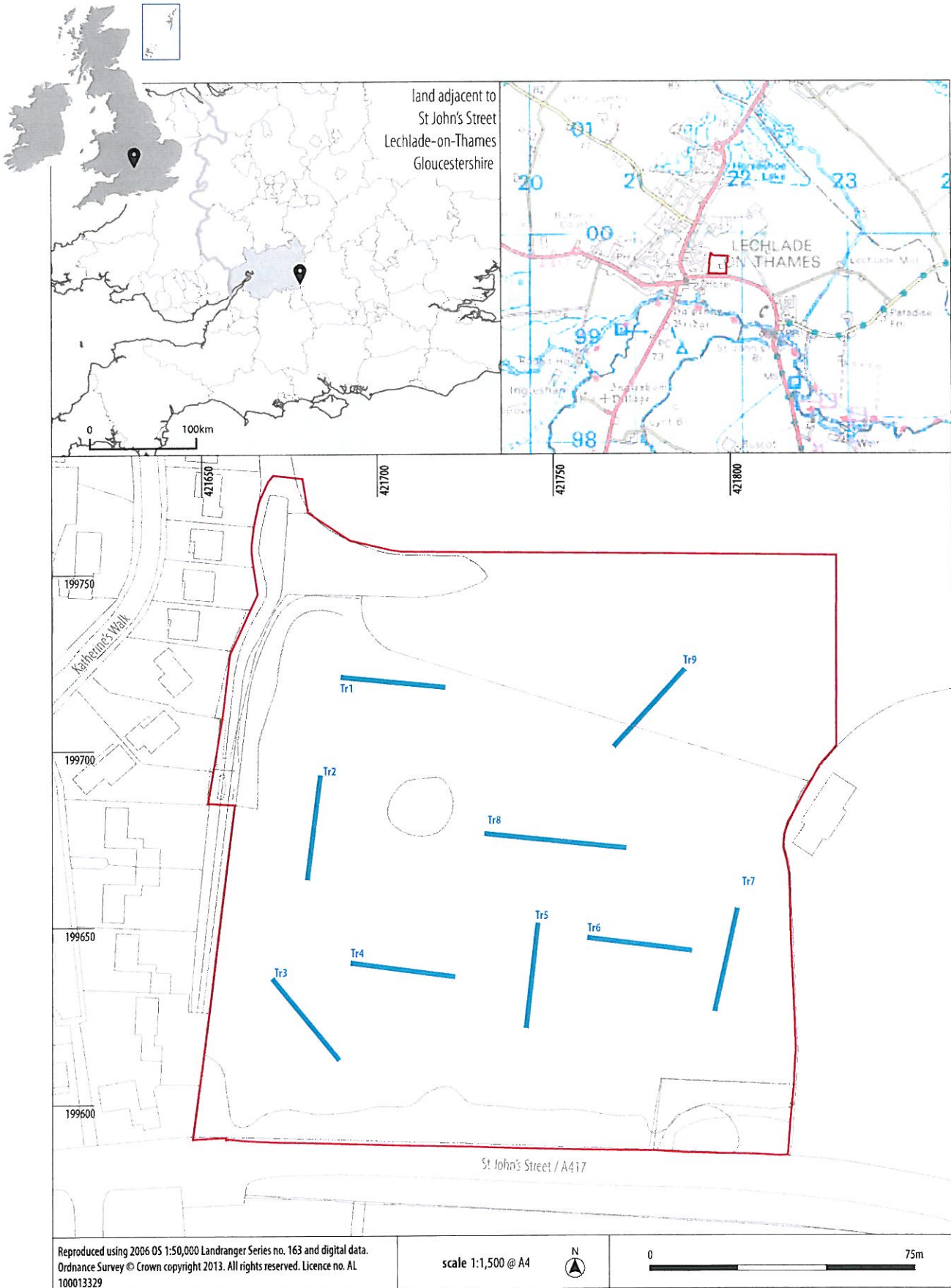
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**Illus 1**

Site location



# LAND OFF FARINGDON ROAD, LECHLADE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

*Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd excavated nine evaluation trenches on a plot of land off Faringdon Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire. Undated linear features were located in two evaluation trenches at the northern edge of the proposed development area; a further linear feature in this area contained several sherds of Roman pottery. These features may be evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British settlement located in the north of the development area; in themselves they contained little artefactual or ecofactual data and are of comparatively low significance.*

*The central and southern part of the site was devoid of archaeological features, other than medieval ridge and furrow. The absence of features in this area may be related to the presence of alluvium, suggesting previous susceptibility to flooding.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (acting on behalf of Barwood Development Securities Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a plot of land off Faringdon Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned to provide information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding planning permission for a proposed housing development.

A Project Design was prepared by Headland Archaeology and submitted to the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority for approval.

## 2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The proposed Development Area (DA) is approximately 2.8 hectares in size and is located within a field to the south of Faringdon Road (A417), on the east side of the town of Lechlade (NGR - site centre: SU 21718 99684). The field is currently used as pasture land. To the west of the DA there are residential dwellings, to the east there is a cricket ground with a pavilion adjacent to the site boundary. Further open pasture (towards Lechlade Manor) is present to the north of the site (*Illus 1, 2*). The River Thames flows c. 300m south of the DA.

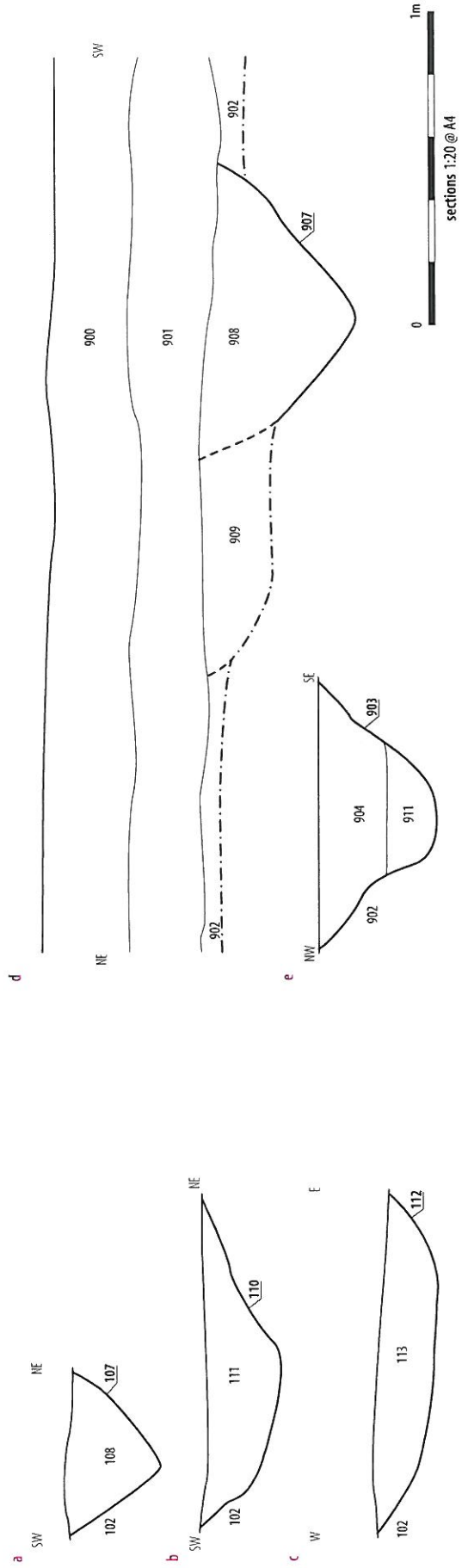
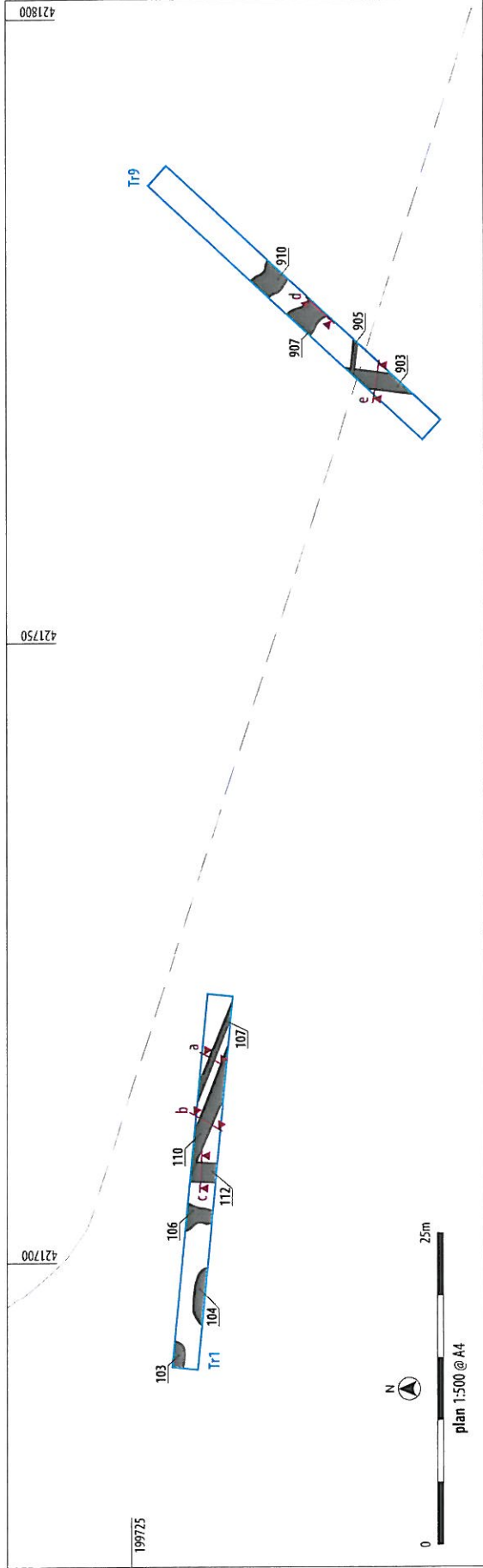
The underlying solid geology of the area comprises mid to late Jurassic mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, which is overlain by Pleistocene sand and gravel deposits of the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member deposited 2 million years ago by the action of rivers (British

Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>). The site is basically flat, approximately 75 meters above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

### 2.1 Archaeological background

The study of archaeology and cultural heritage of wider area around the DA was prepared by Jo Vallender (2013) of EDP – this section summarises information provided by the study. The assessment reported the presence of upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks, running from west to east. The proposed development site does not contain any other previously recorded heritage assets; however there is a general background of prehistoric, Roman, Dark Age and medieval activity in its near vicinity. This includes the medieval St John's Hospital to the south-east, prehistoric settlement to the west of Lechlade, medieval Lechlade itself and a broad scatter of artefacts of various periods found in the surrounding area.

A magnetometer survey was carried out by Archaeological Services (Durham University) in June 2013. The results suggested that no significant archaeological features are present within the site. A broadly north-west/south-east aligned, weak positive magnetic anomaly was detected in the north-east corner of the survey area. This probably reflects a soil filled feature. This anomaly broadly corresponds to a dashed line recorded by the OS, and is likely to reflect a former ditched field boundary or grubbed-out hedge. Former ridge and furrow cultivation, which survives as upstanding earthworks, was detected. However, a large amount of magnetic debris was identified which could potentially be masking the presence of archaeological features. Those features identified as having the potential for being archaeological in origin were targeted by the trial trenching.



**Illus 2**  
Tr1 and Tr9 plan with sections of [107], [110], [112], [907] and [903]

**Illus 3**

South facing sample section Tr2 (ridge and furrow)



### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence to assess the impact of the proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following the *National Planning Policy Framework*).

Specifically the evaluation aimed to;

- establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development.
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development.
- establish the nature of the anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey.

### 4 METHOD

Nine trenches (eight measuring 30m x 1.8m and one measuring 40m x 1.8m) were proposed on the trench location plan submitted with the Project Design and excavated in between 14th and 16th August 2013 (*Illus 1*). The trenches were positioned to achieve maximum coverage of the site and to target two positive anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey.

Trenches were excavated by a 13 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision, with topsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. Spoil was stored besides the trench, with topsoil and subsoil separated.

All trenches were surveyed using a Trimble differential GPS system. A record sheet was completed for each trench, for stratigraphic sequence, 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 (excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m wide slot through linear features).

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts 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.

Trenches were backfilled by replacing excavated materials in the trench in reverse order of excavation; and by compressing with the excavator.

### 5 RESULTS

#### 5.1 Stratigraphy

Two distinctively different types of soil profiles were observed. Trench 1 and Trench 9, in the northern part of the field, had beneath the topsoil (e.g. context [900], 0.2m–0.25m in depth) a relatively shallow, slightly sandy with limestone gravel subsoil layer (e.g. context [901], 0.2m–0.27m in depth) overlaying sandy clay substrate with frequent pieces of limestone bedrock in which numerous manganese patches were observed. Trench 8 in the central-northern part of the site had natural layer similar to Trenches 1 and 9, but a greater depth of subsoil. Several natural features (e.g. [103], [104] and probably [106], [803]) – either tree-throw pits or animal burrows were present in these trenches.

Another pattern was observed in Trenches 2–7 in the southern part of the site. The stratigraphic sequence in that part of the field comprised the topsoil layer (e.g. context [500], 0.25m–0.35m in depth) sealing a thick subsoil layer (e.g. [501], 0.3–0.4m in depth); which sealed a sandy clay with moderate amounts of small limestone fragments (e.g. [502]). It is possible that this deposit was alluvial in origin; soundings were made to its base and no archaeological remains were observed within or beneath it. Importantly, except for one stone post-medieval land-drain no other features (neither archaeological nor natural) were found within the southern part of the proposed DA.

These two distinctive sequences may explain the reason the land seems to have been used in the recent past for agriculture only, i.e. the central/southern part containing thick, clayey alluvial deposits was probably too unstable and wet for any activity other than agriculture.



**Illus 4**  
Tr9, [905] in plan



**Illus 5**  
Tr9, view with [903, 905 and 907] in plan

## 5.2 Ridge and furrow

Evidence for the upstanding broad type ridge and furrow agriculture was observed in all trench sections in the typical form of wavy bands of topsoil and subsoil - passing through the site on an east to west alignment. The bands representing the furrows are separated by ridges in the distance of 5m. The observed spacing between the furrows is relatively consistent. Vertically the ridge and furrows form an undulating profile - ridge having thickness of 0.85–0.95 and furrows having depth of 0.5–0.55m. The ridges are visible on the surface as an earthwork with a maximum height of 0.45m (*Illus 3*). In the field north of the DA the ridge and furrow structure is also clearly visible on surface, though the bands are orientated north-south. In between the east-west and the north-south ridge and furrow systems there is a linear depression, draining water off the field.

No datable finds other than very occasional modern transfer ware were recovered from the ridge and furrow, but such remains are normally attributed to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

## 5.3 Archaeological remains

### 5.3.1 Post-medieval

The latest date archaeological features revealed by the evaluation trenches were two stone land-drains in Trench 6 and in Trench 9 (*Illus 4*). The first - feature [604] - was orientated north east-south west, it was cut into the subsoil and into the natural substratum below. The land-drain consisted of vertically placed flat limestone pieces with limestone capping. The structure was 0.35m wide with the stones 0.5m below the surface level. The second land-drain (feature [905])

is very similar to [604] and appears to coincide with the dashed line illustrated on the historic mapping.

There was no datable material in either structure, but a post-medieval date of origin is most likely. Moreover, the land-drain in Trench 9 cuts an earlier ditch [903] (*Illus 5*), thus providing a relative chronology sequence.

### 5.3.2 Roman

Only one feature in Trench 9, in the north-eastern part of the site, contained datable finds. This was an approximately north-south running ditch - feature [903], 4.5m of which was exposed. The feature was 0.8m wide and 0.45m deep, cutting into the substrate. The excavated section of the ditch had steep and asymmetrical sides (the western edge was steeper) and a slightly concave base. Its fill consisted of two deposits. The main fill [904] was a greyish brown, slightly sandy clay, firm, with very occasional limestone pieces and a few pottery sherds. Basal fill [911] consisted of medium greyish brown, sandy clay, firm with occasional manganese patches. The upper fill of the ditch was cut by NE-SW running post-medieval land-drain and sealed by the subsoil layer.

### 5.3.3 Undated archaeological features

Four undated linear features were uncovered in the trenches located in the north-western and north-eastern part of the site. Trench 1 contained one gully and two ditches.

The gully [107] was orientated north west-south east. It was cut into the substrate layer. The exposed fragment of the gully was 0.42m wide, 0.24m deep, c. 0.55m below the surface, extending NW and SE

## Headland Archaeology

beyond Trench 1. Its fill (108) was made of homogenous, brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone.

Also in Trench 1, 1.2m westward and parallel to the gully, was shallow ditch [110]. The feature was 0.18m deep x 0.76m wide, extending in both directions beyond Trench 1. The excavated section of the ditch had symmetrical, gently sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was cut into the substrate and also cut another ditch [112] (*Illus 6*). Its fill [111], consisted of single and homogenous, brown, firm sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone. The fill was sealed by the subsoil.

The third ditch [112] in Trench 1 was orientated north-south. This was 0.42m wide x 0.15m deep and extended north and southwards beyond Trench 1. Its fill [113] consisted of single and homogenous brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone. It was cut by ditch [110].

Apart from the ditch [903] described above, Trench 9 also revealed one north west – south east aligned, undated linear feature [907]. Its section had moderately steep, uneven and slightly asymmetrical sides with an unevenly concave base. The feature was cut into the 'natural' substrate layer and into geological deposit [909]. However, the stratigraphy was not very clear as the interface with [909] was very diffuse. Its fill [908] consisted of medium brown clayey sand, firm, with occasional small-small/medium sized limestone fragments. The provenance of this feature is not entirely clear, as it did not have straight edges and its ditch-like appearance may be limited to the length uncovered in Trench 9. Importantly, the feature location is in accordance with a linear anomaly discovered by geophysical survey.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has demonstrated that across much of the development area (in the parts sampled by Trenches 2–8) there is a low density of archaeological features, if indeed any are present at all. This zone appears to coincide with those parts of the site where deposits of alluvium are present, and may be explained by the unfavourable settlement conditions that such an area would have had.

Along the northern edge of the site (sampled by Trenches 1 and 9) there were five previously unknown archaeological features, at least one of which is of early Roman date (see Appendix 3). These features therefore have significance by virtue of their archaeological interest.

This area of the site appears to coincide with slightly higher and drier ground, potentially making it more attractive for settlement. It is possible that this part of the site includes the southern fringe of an area of Roman or earlier settlement located to its north. However, the absence of any significant ecofacts (Appendix 2) and the low number of artefacts recovered from these features (Appendix 3) suggests that they have limited potential to contribute to regional or period research goals and therefore that their significance is low.

The medieval ridge and furrow cultivation is archaeologically visible, but because of the relatively thick subsoil does not appear to have penetrated to depths where it would seriously degrade earlier archaeological remains.



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## 8 APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Registers

#### Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)
1	30	2.0	0.55	0.62
2	30	2.0	0.55	0.95
3	30	2.0	0.7	0.9
4	30	2.0	0.75	0.8
5	30	2.0	0.65	0.9
6	30	2.0	0.8	0.9
7	30	2.0	0.6	0.9
8	40	2.0	0.55	0.6
9	30	2.0	0.5	0.6

#### Appendix 1.2 Context register

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
1	100	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.00–0.35
1	101	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Subsoil.	0.35–0.5
1	102	Dark yellowish brown, slightly clayey sand with limestone gravel; frequent manganese patches. Substrate below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.5+
1	103	Natural feature, probably tree-throw. Only partly exposed in NW corner of Tr1. Undulating, gently sloping side, uneven base. Very similar deposit to L101, but with more frequent limestone pieces and manganese patches.	0.5–0.6
1	104	Natural feature, probably tree-throw. Similar to F103, except F104 does not have manganese patches. Gently sloping and undulating sides, uneven base. Only northern part exposed in Tr1.	0.52–0.67
1	105	Natural feature. Very similar morphologically to F104. Only southern part exposed in Tr1.	0.56–0.71
1	106	N-S orientated and extending beyond Tr1 in both directions, natural/geological feature. Morphology similar to F104. Cut by gully F107.	0.55–0.68
1	107	Cut of ENE-WSW running gully – extending in both directions beyond Tr1. 0.42m wide x 0.24m deep. Cutting L102 and F106.	0.55–0.88
1	108	Single and homogenous fill of F107 gully. Brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone.	0.55–0.88
1	109	Void number	

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
1	110	Cut of ENE-WSW running, small ditch – extending in both directions beyond Tr1. Running parallel to gully F107. Gently sloping, symmetrical sides and slightly concave base. Cutting L102 and L113 (fill of F112 ditch). 0.76 m wide x 0.18m deep.	0.57–0.75
1	111	Single and homogenous fill of F110 ditch. Brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone.	0.57–0.75
1	112	Cut of N-S running ditch with symmetrical, gently sloping sides and slightly concave base, extending in both directions beyond Tr1. 0.42m wide x 0.15 m deep. Cutting L102.	0.6–0.75
1	113	Single and homogenous fill of F112 ditch. Brown, firm, sandy clay with occasional small-small/medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded pieces of limestone. Cut by ditch F110.	0.6–0.75
2	200	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil. Forming E-W running ridge and furrow structure – at the ridge the topsoil is 0.35m deep.	0.00–0.4
2	201	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Subsoil. Forming E-W running ridge and furrow structure – at the ridge the topsoil is 0.4m deep, at the furrow it is 0.25m deep.	0.4–0.8
2	202	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substrate below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.8+
3	300	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.4
3	301	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Subsoil.	0.4–0.77
3	302	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.77+
4	400	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.35
4	401	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Subsoil.	0.35–0.69
4	402	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.69+
5	500	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.00–0.28
5	501	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Diffused interface with L502 below. Subsoil.	0.28–0.6
5	502	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.6+
6	600	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.23
6	601	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Diffused interface with L502 below. Subsoil.	0.23–0.48

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Trench	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
6	602	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.48+
6	603	Light bluish grey clay with no inclusions. Glacial deposit within L602.	0.5+
6	604	NE-SW running stone land-drain structure, extending in both directions beyond Tr 6. 0.35m wide. Not excavated, only exposed in plan. Cut through L601 and L602. Filled with vertically set flat limestone pieces and horizontally set limestone pieces on the vertical stones with L602 deposit on top of the stones.	0.5+
7	700	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.29
7	701	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.29–0.56
7	702	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.56+
7	703	Yellowish brown clayey sand with relatively frequent limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer. L702 and L703 are on the same depth – lenses of two types 'natural'.	0.56+
8	800	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.32
8	801	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Diffused interface with L802 below. Subsoil.	0.32–0.62
8	802	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with average amount of limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer.	0.62+
8	803	Cut of natural feature. Moderately steep sides, no break of slope, uneven base. Clear marks of floral and faunal activity. Only southern part exposed in T8. Cut into L802. 3.3m x 1.0m x 0.29m.	0.62–0.91
8	804	Fill of F803. Not homogenous – patches of more sandy material within light yellowish brown sandy clay, with occasional mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Sealed by L801.	0.62–0.91
9	900	Very dark brown sandy loam with rare inclusions. Topsoil.	0.0–0.23
9	901	Dark brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized, mostly sub-angular pieces of limestone. Subsoil	0.23–0.5
9	902	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent limestone gravel (angular and sub-angular pieces). Substratum below subsoil - 'natural' layer	0.5+
9	903	N-S running ditch cut, extending in both directions beyond T9, with seep slightly asymmetrical sides (eastern steeper), not perceptible breaks of slope and a concave base. Cutting L902 and L905 (fill of stone land-drain).	0.45–0.9
9	904	Main fill of F903 ditch. Greyish brown, slightly sandy clay, firm, with very occasional limestone pieces. A pottery sherd present. Sealed by L902, cut by land drain F905	0.45–0.9

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
9	905	NW-SE orientated and extending in both directions beyond T9, cut of stone land-drain. Cutting L901, L902 and L904. Not excavated, only exposed in plan.	0.45+
9	906	Fill of F905 land-drain. Vertically placed flat limestone pieces with horizontally laid stones on the top and with deposit above similar to L901.	0.45+
9	907	Cut of linear, NW-SE orientated (extending in both directions beyond T9) feature with moderately steep and slightly asymmetrical sides, an uneven concave base. Cutting L902 and probably also L909 (slightly diffused relationship). Dimensions: 1.0+ x 0.76 x 0.44m Probably natural provenance.	0.47–0.91
9	908	Single and homogenous fill of F907. Medium brown clayey sand, firm, with occasional small-small/medium sized limestone fragments. Sealed by L901.	0.47–0.91
9	909	Natural feature made of light grey clay, irregularly linear orientated WNW-ESE. Probably cut by F907. Dimensions: 1.0+ x 0.8 x 0.4+	0.45–0.85
9	910	Deposit similar to L909 (2m south-eastward).	0.44+
9	911	Basal fill of F904 ditch. Medium greyish brown, sandy clay, firm with occasional manganese patches.	0.72–0.9

### Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	776/1	809/1	1	-	ID shot
2	776/2	809/2	2	N	Trench 7 – General shot, view
3	776/3	809/3	3	W	Trench 7 – East facing section
4	776/4	809/4	4	W	Trench 6 – General shot, view
5	776/5	809/5	5	N	Trench 6 – South facing section
6	776/6	809/6	6	ENE	Trench 6 – [604], stone land-drain, in plan
7	776/7	809/7	7	E	Trench 5 – General shot, view
8	776/8	809/8	8	E	Trench 5 – West facing section
9	776/9	809/9	9	W	Trench 4 – General shot, view
10	776/10	809/10	10	N	Trench 4 – South facing section
11	776/11	809/11	11	SE	Trench 3 – General shot, view
12	776/12	809/12	12	NE	Trench 3 – South-west facing section
13	776/13	809/13	13	N	Trench 2 – General shot, view
14	776/14	809/14	14	NE	Trench 2 – Ridge and furrow structure in west facing section
15	776/15	809/15	15	NE	Trench 2 – Ridge and furrow structure in west facing section
16	776/16	809/16	16	E	Trench 2 – Ridge and furrow structure in west facing section
17	776/17	809/17	17	E	Trench 8 – General shot, view



Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction	Description
18	776/18	809/18	18	W	Trench 1 – General shot, view
19	776/19	809/19	19	E	Trench 1 – General shot, view
20	776/20	809/20	20	S	Trench 1 – North facing section
21	776/21	809/21	21	N	Trench 8 – South facing section
22	776/22	809/22	22	W	Trench 8 – [803], view
23	776/23	809/23	23	W	Trench 8 – [805] and [807]
24	–	–	24	S	Trench 6 – backfilled
25	–	–	25	N	Trench 5 – backfilled
26	–	–	26	E	Trench 7 – backfilled
27	776/24	809/24	27	E	Trench 1 – [107]
28	776/25	809/25	28	W	Trench 1 – [110]
29	776/26	809/26	29	N	Trench 1 – [112]
30	776/27	809/27	30	N	Trench 9 – General shot, view
31	776/28	809/28	31	S	Trench 9 – General shot, view
32	776/29	809/29	32	W	Trench 9 – [905] and [906] in plan
33	776/30	809/30	33	W	Trench 9 – [905] stone land-drain
34	776/31	809/31	34	NE	Trench 9 – [903]
35	776/32	809/32	35	NW	Trench 9 – [903] south-west facing section
36	–	–	36	SW	Trench 9 – [903] with [905] in plan
37	–	–	37	SE	Trench 9 – [903] section
38	776/33	809/33	38	NE	Trench 9 – South-west facing section [903]
39	776/34	809/34	39	SW	Trench 9 – North-east facing section of [903] with [911] and [904]
40	776/35	809/35	40	W	Trench 9 – East facing section [907] and [909]
41	–	–	41	–	Trench 8 – Backfilled
	–	–	42	–	Trench 4 – Backfilled
	–	–	43	–	Trench 3 – Backfilled
	–	–	44	–	Trench 2 – Backfilled
	–	–	45	–	Trench 1 – Backfilled



# Headland Archaeology

## Appendix 2 Environmental assessment

by Laura Bailey

### Method

Three samples (001, 002 and 003) taken from the fills (108, 111 and 904) of gully (107) and ditches 110 and 903 respectively, were received for environmental analysis.

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

The results are displayed below in *Tables 1* and *2*.

Modern roots and uncharred seeds were recovered from the flots (*Table 2*) of all samples. Terrestrial snail shell was recovered from the retents of Samples 1 and 2 (Contexts 108 and 111 respectively) and flots of Sample 1 and it seem likely that these are also modern in origin.

A fragment of potentially worked stone from the retents of Sample 3 (context 904) will be the subject of a separate report (Lochrie 2013).

**Table 1**

*Environmental retents*

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	Lithics	Snail Shell
				Terrestrial
108	1	9	-	+
111	2	9	-	+
904	3	10	+	-

Key: + = rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (16-50) and +++++ = abundant (>50)

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

**Table 2**

*Flotation sample results*

Context	Sample	Total flot Vol. (ml)	Other plant remains	Charcoal	Material available for AMS	Comments
				Qty	Max size (cm)	
108	1	25	Modern roots +++++, uncharred seeds ++	-	-	Contains terrestrial snail shell +
111	2	25	Modern roots +++++, uncharred seeds ++	+	-	-
904	3	25	Modern roots +++++, uncharred seeds ++	+	<0.1	-

Key: + = rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (16-50) and +++++ = abundant (>50)

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

### Discussion

No environmental finds of archaeological significance were present in the samples.



## Appendix 3 Finds assessment

by Jane Timby & Julie Lochrie

### Summary

The finds assemblage is small, comprising a flint flake and eleven sherds of pottery. All the finds were retrieved from the upper fill of ditch [904]; the pottery was hand collected whilst the lithic was retrieved during sample processing.

The lithic is a small, patinated flint flake which can only be very broadly dated as prehistoric. The eleven sherds of pottery are all from the same everted rim jar which may be a Wiltshire ware and is likely to date to the early Roman period. The lithic must be residual but the pottery may be contemporary with the backfilling of the ditch.

### Finds catalogues

Context	Sample	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Period	R/I (Residual/Intrusive)
904	-	11	23	Pottery (Rom)	Everted Rim Jar	Ten body sherds and one rim sherd from a simple everted rim jar with fresh breaks. Sherds have a grey surface and oxidised core, with a sand and grog temper	Early Roman	-
904	3	1		Lithic	Debitage	Flint flake. Small, patinated, hard hammer flake	PH	R





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