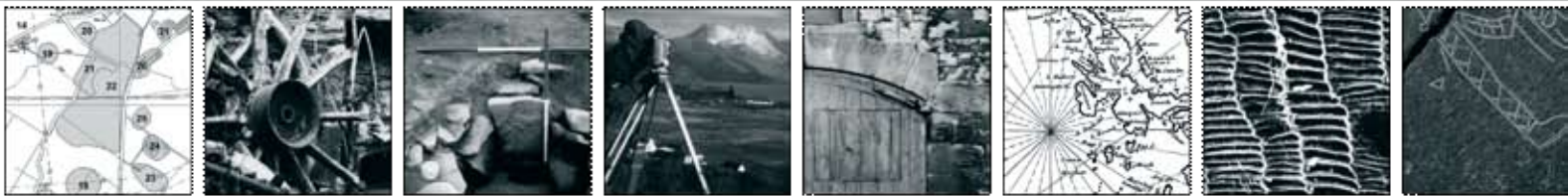


ABSG/01



LAND ADJACENT TO ASHVILLE BUSINESS PARK, STAVERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

*commissioned by CgMs
on behalf of Ashville Staverton Ltd*

January 2014

LAND ADJACENT TO ASHVILLE BUSINESS PARK, STAVERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

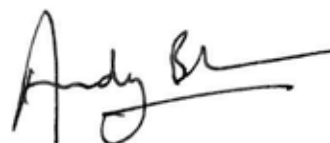
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scale 1:2,000 @ A4

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Illus 1
Site location

LAND ADJACENT TO ASHVILLE BUSINESS PARK, STAVERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to excavate thirteen trenches on land adjacent to Ashville Business Park, Staverton, 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. The north of the site consisted of made up ground relocated during the construction of the Ashville Business Park. In Trenches 06 and 11 ridge and furrow was observed in the soil profile. No other archaeological features were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs acting on behalf of Ashville Staverton Ltd to undertake an evaluation on land adjacent to Ashville Business Park, Staverton, Gloucestershire. The site is located to the east of Ashville Business Park, and comprises a single agricultural field, measuring approximately 3.7ha in extent. It is currently under scrub.

An outline planning application for development of the site has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council, and the results of the evaluation are required to inform decision-making on the application.

1.1 Background

The site itself is slopes gently towards Normans Brook in the north and contains natural hollows and depressions within. Its northern part is characterised by a steep slope down to the river, which is a modification made during the construction of the Ashville Business Park in the late 1990s.

There are no designated heritage assets on or within close proximity to the development site. However, the landscape was widely exploited in the Roman (and possibly preceding Iron Age) period. The majority of assets identified in the wider study area are post-medieval; however Roman pottery (HER5409) is recorded approximately 1km to the south and place-name evidence of a field called 'Knap' may suggest prehistoric activity 500m to the east (HER7563) (Smalley, 2013).

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan (forthcoming) which identified a number of areas of magnetic disturbance but nothing of archaeological significance. Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow can be seen in the southern part of the field but these are very fragmentary and do not survive as upstanding earthworks.

The underlying geology is Rugby Limestone Formation (comprising interbedded mudstone and limestone). There are no superficial deposits recorded for the application site (British Geological Survey website), although alluvial deposits associated with Norman's Brook, located to the immediate north, may be present extending across the northern extent of the application site.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the project can be summarised as follows:

- to determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered;
- to determine suitable mitigation responses to identified remains.

3 METHOD

A total of 12 30m trenches and one 15m trench was excavated (**Illus 1**) taking into consideration the results of the geophysical survey. All of the trenches, except Trench 05, had to be moved from the original planned locations due to a number of factors affecting the site. These included a rising water main running along the northern edge, a possible badger sett to the north-east, possible fuel assets located in the south-east, and finally landscaping of adjacent properties to the west of the property. The geophysical survey results were taken into account during the relocation of the trenches to allow all significant anomalies to be investigated.

All trenches were excavated by a 13 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed and machine excavation



Illus 2

Trench 06 – evidence for ridge and furrow

4.2 Trenches with ridge and furrow; Trenches 06 and 11

Evidence for ridge and furrow was observed in two trenches, numbers 06 and 11, in the centre of the field (**Illus 1**). The geophysical survey (Stratascan, forthcoming) had indicated that features relating to ridge and furrow existed in this area and this was seen in the soil profile, although visible earthwork evidence for these features is negligible at the surface (**Illus 2**). According to the geophysical results, trenches 01, 02 and 13 should have also transected the ridge and furrow. However, no evidence for these earthworks survives within the soil profile of these trenches.

terminated at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The excavation of potential archaeological deposits and features was undertaken by hand to a sufficient degree to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation.

All recording followed the IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Colour transparencies and black-and-white print photographs were taken on 35mm film. Digital photographs were taken on a 7.2mp camera for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive. All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system.

4 RESULTS

The soil profile for the site was consistent throughout, except in the north where there was a substantial modern layer of made up ground (see below). The topsoil was a loose dark grey brown silt clay 0.15m–0.35m in depth overlying a firm pale yellow/grey brown clay subsoil varying between 0.2m–0.3m in depth. The natural was very similar to the subsoil in colour and consistency but contained patches of white gritty stones. The trenches outside of the 1990s zone of substantial made up ground to the north were between 0.6m and 0.8m in depth, becoming shallower towards the south end of the field. The trenches within the area of disturbance were over 1.2m deep, the limit of the excavation, although a sondage was put in Trench 07, discussed below.

4.1 Blank trenches; Trenches 01–05 and 10

No evidence for human activity of archaeological significance was found in any of these trenches. The geophysical survey detected magnetic anomalies in Trenches 10 and 05 but no features were identified during excavation.

4.3 Modern; Trench 13

A square post-hole [1303] was discovered in Trench 13 and appeared to be cut through both the subsoil and the topsoil. The fill [1304] was similar in composition to the topsoil and contained abraded modern ceramic building material and charcoal.

4.4 Made up ground; Trenches 07–09 and 12

The north end of the site was dominated by a made up deposit probably imported from the area which is now the Ashville Business Park during the construction of the park in the late 1990s. This deposit was between 0.6m and 1m in depth and made up of a compact blue-grey clay, likely to be redeposited natural, with modern detritus contained within, including traffic cones, concrete, tarmac, etc. The deposit was deepest to the north-west in Trench 12, but by Trench 03 no evidence was observed, despite the disturbance still being picked up by the geophysical survey. This could be due to the distance from the business park with most of the dumping occurring closer to the construction site. The made up ground seals a dark grey brown silt clay, 0.5m deep, which represents a buried topsoil and beneath this topsoil is the same subsoil seen over the rest of the site, a pale yellow-grey silt clay. The material alters the shape of the slope leading down to the river by making it steeper, clearly seen in the trench section.

The natural geology was only observed at the top of the rise. A sondage was excavated to 1.8m in the north end of Trench 07 but the natural was not reached. The made up deposit was deepest in Trench 12, over 1m in depth, suggesting the original slope to the brook was shallower up in the north-west corner of the field.

5 CONCLUSION

No archaeologically significant features were discovered during this investigation.

The surviving remains of the ridge and furrow field system observed in Trenches 06 and 11 were fragmentary in nature and not clearly visible from the ground surface, although the dense layer of scrub obscured the ground surface somewhat. In any case they are of negligible archaeological significance. No evidence for ridge and furrow existed within the buried soils beneath the redeposited material in the north of the site suggesting the earthworks may be late in date as they do not extend into lower lying wetter areas where medieval ridge and furrow is commonly seen to occur.

No archaeological features were identified beneath the modern made ground in the north part of the site. If archaeology were to survive in this area, it would be beneath a considerable depth of material in some places, 1.2m deep at least. The proximity to the river may have deterred human activity in the first instance.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Stratascan (forthcoming) *Geophysical Survey Report, Land North of Cheltenham Road, Staverton, Gloucestershire*.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench register

Trench 01

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.6m	Average depth: 0.55m
1000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.26m
1001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.2m
1002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.1m
No archaeology			

Trench 02

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.6m	Average depth: 0.55m
2000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.3m
2001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.3m
2002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones.		+0.1m
No archaeology			

Trench 03

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.55m	Average depth: 0.5m
3000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.3m
3001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.22m
3002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones.		+0.1m
No archaeology			

Trench 04

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.25m	Average depth: 0.25m
4000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.25m
4001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.25m
4002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones.		+0.1m
No archaeology			

Trench 05

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.8m	Average depth: 0.7m
5000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.3m
5001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.3m
5002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones.		+0.1m
No archaeology			

Trench 06

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.9m	Average depth: 0.85m
6000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM		0.15m
6001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.4–0.5m
6002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.2m

Ridge and furrow observed in trench section

Trench 07

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 1.8m	Average depth: 1.2m
7000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.35m
7001	Made-up ground – patchy blue/grey clay and mid grey brown silt clay with modern inclusions (tarmac, concrete, kerb stones, CBM, plastic). Firm		0.6m
7002	Buried topsoil – dark grey brown silt clay with charcoal and rare CBM inclusions		0.5m
7003	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.5m
7004	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.2m

No archaeology

Trench 08

Length: 15m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 1.2m	Average depth: 0.6m
8000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.15m
8001	Made-up ground – patchy blue/grey clay and mid grey brown silt clay with modern inclusions (tarmac, concrete, kerb stones, CBM, plastic). Firm		0.35m
8002	Buried topsoil – dark grey brown silt clay with charcoal and rare CBM inclusions		0.2m
8003	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.2m
8004	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.2m

No archaeology

Trench 09

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 1.1m	Average depth: 1m
9000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.15m
9001	Made-up ground – patchy blue/grey clay and mid grey brown silt clay with modern inclusions (tarmac, concrete, kerb stones, CBM, plastic). Firm		0.64m
9002	Buried topsoil – dark grey brown silt clay with charcoal and rare CBM inclusions		0.15m
9003	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		+0.1m
9004	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.2m

No archaeology

Trench 10

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.6m	Average depth: 0.6m
10000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.3m
10001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.35m
10002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.1m

No archaeology.

Trench 11

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 0.8m	Average depth: 0.8m
11000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.2m
11002	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.2m
11003	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.1m

No archaeology. Land drain observed running east-west half way down trench

Trench 12

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 1.2m	Average depth: 1m
12000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.15m
12001	Made-up ground – patchy blue/grey clay and mid grey brown silt clay with modern inclusions (tarmac, concrete, kerb stones, CBM, plastic). Firm		+1m
12002	Buried topsoil – dark grey brown silt clay with charcoal and rare CBM inclusions		+0.1m
12003	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusion		+0.1m
12004	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.1m

No archaeology.

Trench 13

Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Max depth: 1.8m	Average depth: 1.2m
13000	Topsoil – mid grey brown silt clay, firm, moist with occasional CBM. Imported		0.35m
13001	Subsoil – yellow/grey brown silt clay, compact, no inclusions		0.5m
13002	Natural – yellow/grey brown silt clay with occasional patches of tiny white stones		+0.2m
13003	Cut – modern fence post, square in plan. Width:0.41, Length: 0.39, Depth:0.08		0.08m
13004	Fill – mid grey brown silt clay with small angular stones and occasional CBM and charcoal		0.08m

No archaeology. One modern square feature, probably the remnant of a fence post

Appendix 2 Photo register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description	Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	37	37	001	–	ID Shot	35	22	22	034	E	TR4 – section facing W
02	36	36	–	W	TR7 – section	36	21	21	035	S	TR4 – plan
03	–	–	002	W	TR7 – section	37	20	20	036	SW	TR2 – section facing N
04	–	–	003	W	TR7 – section	38	–	–	037	E	General working shot
05	–	–	004	W	TR7 – section	39	–	–	038	E	General working shot
06	–	–	005	W	TR7 – section	40	–	–	039	E	General working shot
07	35	35	006	W	TR7 – section N end of trench	41	–	–	040	E	General working shot
08	34	34	007	E	TR7 – section at south end facing W	42	–	–	041	NW	TR2 – plan
09	33	33	008	N	TR7 – Trench shot	43	–	–	042	S	TR3 – section facing N
10	32	32	009	S	TR6 – section facing N	44	–	–	043	W	General working shot
11	–	–	010	E	General working shot	45	–	–	044	E	General working shot
12	31	31	011	W	TR6 – Trench shot	46	–	–	045	E	General working shot
13	30	30	012	W	TR6 – oblique shot of ridge and furrow	47	–	–	046	E	General working shot
14	29	29	013	E	TR6 – oblique shot of ridge and furrow	48	–	–	047	E	General working shot
15	28	28	014	S	TR11 – section facing N	49	–	–	048	E	General working shot
16	27	27	015	W	TR11 – plan shot	50	–	–	049	E	General working shot
17	26	26	016	W	TR5 – section facing E	51	–	–	050	E	General working shot
18	–	–	017	N	TR5 – general shot	52	–	–	051	E	General working shot
19	–	–	018	NE	TR5 – slot through tree roots	53	–	–	052	E	General working shot
20	–	–	019	S	TR5 – plan	54	–	–	053	E	General working shot
21	25	25	020	–	General working shot	55	–	–	054	E	General working shot
22	–	–	021	E	General working shot	56	–	–	055	E	General working shot
23	–	–	022	E	General working shot	57	–	–	056	E	General working shot
24	–	–	023	E	General working shot	58	–	–	057	E	General working shot
25	–	–	024	E	General working shot	59	–	–	058	E	General working shot
26	–	–	025	E	General working shot	60	–	–	059	E	General working shot
27	–	–	026	E	General working shot	61	–	–	060	E	General working shot
28	–	–	027	E	General working shot	62	–	–	061	E	General working shot
29	–	–	028	E	General working shot	63	17	17	062	W	TR3 – plan
30	–	–	029	E	General working shot	64	16	16	063	W	TR8 – section facing E
31	–	–	030	E	General working shot	65	15	15	064	N	TR8 – plan
32	–	–	031	E	General working shot	66	14	14	065	S	TR9 – section facing north
33	24	24	032	N	TR1 – section facing S	67	13	13	066	W	TR9 – plan
34	23	23	033	E	TR1 – plan	68	12	12	067	W	TR12 – section facing E
						69	11	11	068	N	TR12 – plan
						70	10	10	069	E	TR10 – section facing W

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
71	9	9	070	N	TR10—plan
72	8	8	071	S	TR13—section facing N
73	7	7	072	N	TR13—plan [1303]
74	6	6	073	E	TR13—plan



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