

BCEH/01



# LAND AT BARLEY CLOSE, EARDISLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

*Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment & Trial Trench Evaluation*

*commissioned by Mr Spreckley*

133016/F

April 2014



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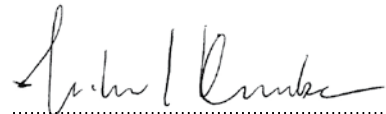
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## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Planning background and objectives	1
1.2	Site location, description and setting	1
<b>2</b>	<b>LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	2
2.2	National policy framework	2
2.3	Regional and local policy framework	2
2.4	Guidance	3
2.5	Research frameworks	3
<b>3</b>	<b>DESK BASED ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Objectives	3
3.2	Scope	3
3.3	Methods	3
3.4	Heritage assessment	4
3.4.1	<i>Archaeological and historical background</i>	4
3.4.2	<i>Cartographic history of the development area</i>	5
3.4.3	<i>Analysis of aerial photographs</i>	6
3.4.4	<i>Known heritage assets within the proposed development area</i>	6
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1	Aims and objectives	8
4.2	Method	8
4.3	Results	9
4.3.1	<i>Trenches containing modern features</i>	9
4.3.2	<i>Trenches containing possible archaeological features</i>	9
4.4	Finds	10
4.5	Discussion	10
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ASSETS</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Known heritage assets	11
5.2	Potential heritage assets	11
<b>6</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1	Description of proposed development	11

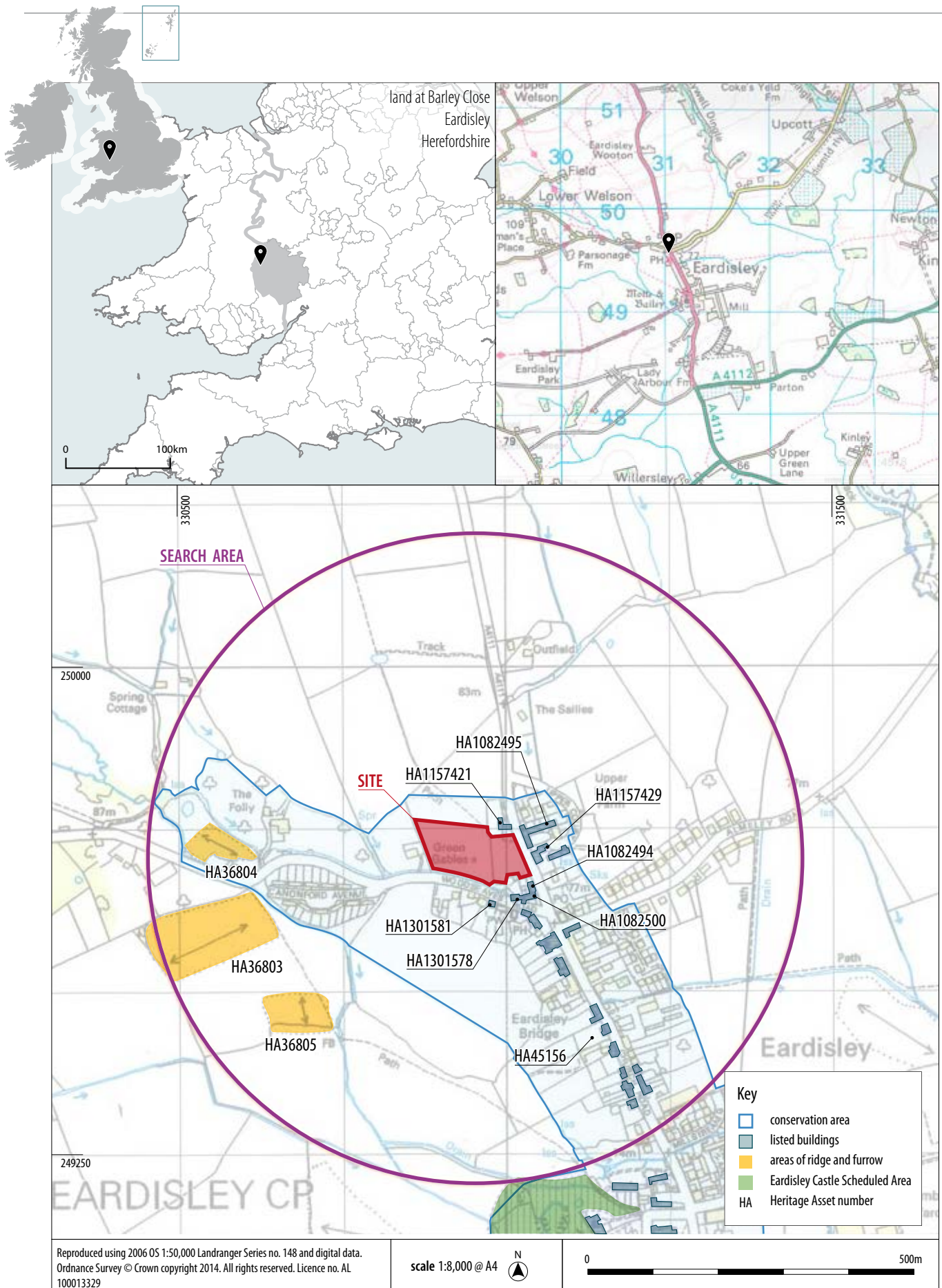
	6.2 What are the physical impacts on heritage assets?	11
7	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	12
8	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	12
	Trade directories	12
	Online sources	12
	Cartographic sources	12
9	<b>APPENDICES</b>	14
	Appendix 1 Heritage asset	14
	Appendix 2 Trench and context register	14

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<b>Illus 1</b>	<i>Site location</i>	viii
<b>Illus 2</b>	<i>Extract from 1904 Ordnance Survey map</i>	4
<b>Illus 3</b>	<i>N-W to S-E aligned ridge in east of proposed development area</i>	5
<b>Illus 4</b>	<i>Upper House Farm and associated buildings (looking N-E from within development area)</i>	6
<b>Illus 5</b>	<i>View from within the development area towards the rear of Forester's and April Cottage (looking S)</i>	7
<b>Illus 6</b>	<i>Trench location plan</i>	8
<b>Illus 7</b>	<i>General view of Trench 1 (looking N-W)</i>	9
<b>Illus 8</b>	<i>Plough scar [404] within Trench 4</i>	10
<b>Illus 9</b>	<i>Tree root action [703] within Trench 7</i>	10

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1</b>	<i>Listed buildings with a potential visual connection to the proposed development site</i>	6
<b>Table 2</b>	<i>Pottery recovered from subsoil deposits within Trenches 1 &amp; 6</i>	10
<b>Table 3</b>	<i>Potential heritage assets</i>	11



## Illus 1

Site location



# LAND AT BARLEY CLOSE, EARDISLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

## *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment & Trial Trench Evaluation*

*Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench field evaluation in connection with a planning application to construct 25 dwellings on land at Eardisley, Herefordshire. The desk-based assessment identified a low potential for unidentified assets of medieval and post-medieval date. The subsequent field evaluation did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Planning background and objectives

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench field evaluation on land at Barley Close, Eardisley, Herefordshire. The archaeological works relate to a planning application submitted to Herefordshire Council for the proposed residential development of the site (133016/F).

The archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council, Mr Julian Cotton, considered that the site had the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest. In accordance with relevant policy and best practice, the archaeological advisor requested that an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation be undertaken in order to provide sufficient information to allow the consideration of the planning application.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr James Spreckley to undertake the required works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation agreed with the archaeological advisor (Mayes 2014; Craddock-Bennett 2014).

The following document assesses whether any upstanding or buried remains of historic value are present within the site boundary. This document does not constitute an assessment of impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets within the study area.

### 1.2 Site location, description and setting

The proposed development site comprises an area of land located at NGR 330950, 249703 (site centre). The site occupies approximately one hectare infilling an area between the A4111 Hereford to Kington Road to the east and Woodseaves Road to the south (**Illus 1**).

A public footpath crosses the north-east corner of the proposed development area.

The site comprises a grass field with existing development bordering the east, west, and south of the site and a small section of the northern boundary. Within close proximity to the proposed development site are several listed buildings, including Upper House Farm; a Grade II\* listed property located immediately to the east of the development area.

The site is gently undulating and occupies an elevated position (c1–3m) above Woodseaves Road. An elevated ridge traverses the north-east corner of the site, where the ground drops down approximately 1m to the road level of the A4111.

The boundaries of the proposed development are as follows:

- To the north, the area is partially open with vistas across an agricultural landscape while the north-east corner is defined by a hedge line separating a portion of the field from the curtilage of an existing property (1157421).
- To the east the site is bounded by a hedge line with farm access running parallel to the A4111.
- To the south-east the area is bounded by hedges surrounding an area of residential development of which three of the properties are recorded on the listed buildings register (HA1082494, HA1082500, HA1301578), whilst continuing towards the west the hedge line separates the remaining southern boundary from the course of a small drain channel following the line of Woodseaves Road.
- The western boundary is defined by the property line of Green Gables, formed primarily by hedge and trees.

Visibility to and from the proposed development is generally restricted at a low level by existing field boundaries. Otherwise, there

are accessible views in, to and from the proposed development site, particularly from Woodseaves Road and Upper House Farm, the open portion of the northern boundary and in particular from the existing public footpath if approaching the proposed development site from the north.

Eardisley is a long, narrow, linear village with houses situated on either side of the main thoroughfare. The site of a castle and a farm near the south end and a large farm complex (Upper Hall Farm) at the northern end mark the extents of the village.

The village contains 14 medieval hall houses dated before the early 1500s, built at intervals, parallel to the main thoroughfare, while other notable buildings such as Castle House date from a revival in building in the 1700s. Towards the northern end of the village, the black and white Tram Inn commemorates the age of horse drawn trams that once brought coal from Brecon to Eardisley and on to Kington in the early 19th century, before the steam railway came to Eardisley in 1864 (closed 1962).

## 2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

### 2.1 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

With regard to development proposals affecting listed buildings, Section 66 of the act requires local planning authorities to have 'special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

With regard to development within a conservation area, Section 77 requires that 'special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area'.

### 2.2 National policy framework

National Planning Policy in England is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. The policies in the NPPF are a material consideration that must be taken into account in development management decisions and in the development of Local Plans, where relevant. Therefore, the development management policies in the NPPF can be applied directly by the decision-maker when determining whether development should proceed.

The NPPF supports a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and sets out the definitions of sustainability including protecting and enhancing the historic environment. **P131** of the NPPF states that 'In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- The desirability of sustaining or enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

- The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness'

The NPPF defines 'heritage assets' as 'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'.

The more important classes of heritage asset benefit from a presumption against harm. Broadly speaking, the categories of heritage asset are identified as:

- Designated heritage assets – A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area. The NPPF contains an almost overbearing presumption against allowing development proposals that would cause 'substantial harm' to such assets (para 132–133). Any lesser degree of harm must be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals (para 134) – and decision-makers must give 'great weight' to the asset's conservation (para 132).
- Non-designated assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled ancient monument. Such assets have the policies for designated heritage assets extended to them.
- All other non-designated heritage assets. 'In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset' (para 135).

### 2.3 Regional and local policy framework

The Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in March 2007 and guides development within the county. The UDP has the status of a Development Plan Document. It is operative as parts of the Local Development Framework and most of its policies have now been 'saved' (March 2010) until they are superseded by other emerging Development Plan Documents in the Local Development Framework.

Of the saved policies, the following are relevant to the protection of heritage assets within the proposed development area:

- **ARCH1 Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations** Prior to the determination of applications for development on sites where there is a reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance, an archaeological field evaluation may be required. In addition where proposals are put forward within AIUA's (Archaeologically Important Urban Areas) that may affect the integrity of the historic character of such settlements a historic landscape appraisal will be expected.
- **S7 Natural and Historic Heritage** The historic heritage including archaeology, buildings and areas of historic or architectural importance, will be protected, restored, or enhanced.

- **HBA6 New Development within Conservation Areas** Where the setting of and views into and out of the conservation area, including vistas and landmarks, are important to the character and appearance of the area they should be safeguarded.
- **HBA8 Locally Important Buildings** Development proposals which would adversely affect the appearance or setting of locally important buildings of architectural or historic interest, or buildings that make a valuable contribution to the character and appearance of the area, will not be permitted.

## 2.4 Guidance

Guidance to help practitioners implement this policy, including the legislative requirements that underpin it, is provided in *Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide* produced to support the previous Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010) but presently confirmed as relevant pending the release of updated guidance by English Heritage.

More recently English Heritage has issued detailed guidance on the **Setting of Heritage Assets** (2011). This guidance is based on principles and guidance already issued by English Heritage in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (2010)*, *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). It provides a framework for assessing impacts based on the identification of an individual asset's cultural significance and the relationship between that and its surroundings followed by assessment of the degree to which change in the surroundings affects significance. Setting is often assessed in terms of visual relationships; however other relevant factors can include noise, smell, or the way in which an asset is encountered within its surroundings.

## 2.5 Research frameworks

The relevant research framework is *The Archaeology of the West Midlands* (Watt, ed. 2006).

# 3 DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

## 3.1 Objectives

The purpose of this document is to undertake the recommendations advised by the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council in his initial advice to the applicant (b133016s1).

In doing so, the document will:

- identify and describe the significance of known heritage assets that might be affected by the proposed development;
- assess the potential presence and significance of previously unknown heritage assets that might be affected by the proposed development.

Furthermore, the document is intended to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposed

development by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following *Planning for the Historic Environment Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* 2010).

## 3.2 Scope

This assessment comprises a baseline survey (documentary research and field survey) followed by an initial assessment of the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource. At the request of the client no assessment of the setting of heritage assets outside the site boundary was undertaken. Heritage assets are here as defined by the NPPF with a presumption that all pre 1st edition OS features are of historic interest. Selected later features (wartime, industrial etc) are included in the definition if their particular circumstances merit it.

The assessment utilised the following study areas (**Illus 1**):

- Development area. The potential for both the known buried archaeological remains and previously unrecorded assets to be affected by the development were considered.
- Study area, extending 500m from the centre of the proposed development area. Designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets recorded in the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and national databases were considered to further inform the assessment of the potential for previously unrecorded cultural heritage assets to exist within the Study Area.

## 3.3 Methods

The desk-based study has been based on readily available and relevant documentary sources. The following sources were consulted:

- Databases of designated assets held by English Heritage;
- Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR);
- Records of archaeological sites and events held by the National Monuments Record (NMR);
- Aerial photographs held by the County Historic Environment Record (and by the National Library of Air Photos, Swindon);
- Historic mapping held by Hereford library;
- Other readily accessible published and online sources;
- Site visit on 17th January 2014.

The site was visited on 17th of January 2014 in order to gather baseline data.

In carrying out this assessment, the cultural significance of assets has been considered in relation to the definition of significance provided in the NPPF; 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations is due to its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting.'

The above values have been used to identify the overall cultural significance of assets. This may be:

- **Very High** assets of exceptional significance that may be valued internationally.
- **High** assets that are of importance at a national scale. These are frequently designated, e.g. scheduled or listed, but may be undesignated.
- **Moderate** assets that are of importance at a regional scale.
- **Low** assets that are of importance at a local scale.
- **Negligible** very poorly preserved or extremely common assets that are unlikely to be valued at any scale.

Effects are described in terms of the development's effect on the asset's cultural significance and the extent to which it will degrade or enhance the asset's significance.

### 3.4 Heritage assessment

Appendix 1 contains a list of heritage assets within the search area with a physical or visual connection to the proposed developments site, or with the potential to inform this assessment. The location of these assets is shown in **Illus 1**.

#### 3.4.1 Archaeological and historical background

##### *Prehistory*

There are no known assets of prehistoric date within the search area.

A circular earthwork known as The Camp, 2.5 miles (4km) north-west of the site, has been interpreted from recent aerial photographs as a Neolithic henge. The earthwork is surrounded by a dry ditch and there are traces of an outer bank on its southern half (SMR 946)

##### *Romano-British*

There are no known sites or monuments of Romano-British date within the search area or within close proximity to the village of Eardisley.

##### *Medieval*

Although it is likely that the area would have attracted early settlement and agricultural activities, there is no known physical evidence of pre-Norman settlement within the search area.

Undated earthworks which may relate to original areas of occupation or agricultural activity are recorded on the SMR register of which one is located approximately 660 meters to the south west of the development area (15220) while there are three areas of surviving medieval Ridge and Furrow located approximately 275m to the west of the development area ( HA36803, HA36804, HA36805).

There are three Domesday entries for Eardisley. Listed under the lands of the King in Elsdon hundred is the entry 'Harold also held *Herdeslege*. 2½ hides waste. 'Harold is Harold Godwinson, King of England in 1066, who held the land in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

Another part of Eardisley was held by Roger de Lacy who had subinfeudated it to Robert de Baskerville. This land (occupied by a fortified house) was not in any hundred and lay in the middle of woodland. The fortified house was presumably the origin of Eardisley castle and the status of this land as a 'castlery' could explain its extra-hundred status.

The third entry for Eardisley is under the lands of Hugh d'Asne. This was half a hide in Elsdon hundred which had also been held by Harold.

The close physical association of the castle site and Church of St Mary Magdalene on a slightly elevated east-west ridge has been used to suggest probability that 'the castle was developed from an earlier manorial complex that included the church' (Baker 2011).

The castle earthwork consists of a roughly oval moated enclosure with a motte on its south-west side rising approximately 4.3 meters above a bailey.

Although recorded as being 'ruinous' in 1374, the castle was still defensible in the 17th century. The royalist stronghold here was burnt to the ground during the civil war, with only one of the gatehouses surviving, later used as a private family residence by a member of the Baskerville family. Spearheads and armour have been found in the inner moat, along with a huge piece of masonry thought to be part of a drawbridge or sluice gate, and there is evidence for further buried foundations and stone on the site.

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene stands at the south end of the village and outside of the study area. Heavily restored in 1862–3 the church probably dates to the middle of the 12th century and contains an exceptional example of a Norman font carved in the Herefordshire Romanesque style.

An archaeological evaluation (HA45156) undertaken within the grounds of Oakwood House (225m to the south-east of the proposed development area) revealed a linear ditch containing 13th century pottery. The ditch is believed to represent the rear boundary of a burgage plot.



**Illus 2**

Extract from 1904 Ordnance Survey map





**Illus 3**

*N-W to S-E aligned ridge in east of proposed development area*

#### *Post-medieval*

The major Post-medieval activity that took place within the boundary of the village, apart from the modernisation expected within a rural community, is the construction of the Hay Railway and the Kington Tramway, 1811 and 1818 respectively. Both railways were examples of a narrow gauge horse drawn tramway. The Hay Railway ran for 24 miles (38km) and took five years to construct; opening in 1816, a common connection with the Kington Tramway allowed the through working of wagons, pulled by horses, along a continuous 36 mile (58km) line to wharves on the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal, the first section from Eardisley to Kington was opening in 1820. Both Tramways were conceived solely for the carriage of goods and minerals, and therefore did not carry any passengers.

#### **3.4.2 Cartographic history of the development area**

Due to the closure of the Herefordshire records office at the time of the production of this report the map progression for the site was limited to the available resources at Hereford library and the Headland internal library.

The first map to show detailed coverage of the site is the 1904 1:10,560 scale OS map (**Illus 2**). The proposed development field is identified as belonging to Upper House Farm. The 1904 map also records the route of two public footpaths running north-west and south-west from the farm access point on the A4111 Kington road.

Green Gables to the west of the site had not yet been built at this stage and the curtilage associated with Forester's Cottage was smaller than its present size and divided into two areas.

The second edition Ordnance Survey map from 1905 shows identical details to that of the 1904 map.

The 1953 1:10,560 scale maps record that to the east of the site the original field had been divided for the construction of Green Gables and still records that two foot paths transect the site.

The 1963 Ordnance Survey map shows identical details to that of the 1953 map within the scope of the study area.

The 1980 1:10,000 scale OS map records that the small row of out-buildings seen in detail on the 1904 map and associated with the north boundary of Forest Gardens had been removed, the boundary has also been extended northwards to reflect that of The Elms (former Post Office).

Within the curtilage of Forest Garden, a new extension has been constructed to the north of the main building and the original garden area has been divided to form a small linear north-south garden area possibly associated with the division of the original building into two separate areas of accommodation.

Within the curtilage of the Barn complex (HA1157421) towards the north of the site, a small out-building has been removed.

The south west aligned public footpath connecting the A4111 with Woodseaves Road has not been recorded and only the line of the north-west foot path is shown to still run within the development area.

Name	Listed Building	Grade	Description
Upper House Farm	1157429	II*	Farmhouse, Probable C15 origins, altered and extended circa 1600 with further mid-C19 alterations. Timber-framed with rendered and painted brick infill on rubble base, partly roughcast with stone-tiled roofs laid in diminishing courses.
Barn about 10m north of Upper House Farmhouse	1082495	II	Barn, circa 1700, altered late C20. Timber-framed and weather-boarded on rubble base with stone-tiled roof laid in diminishing courses.
Barn and shelter about 50m north-west of Upper House Farmhouse	1157421	II	Barn and shelter shed. Probably C17, altered mid-C19. Timber-framed and weather-boarded on rubble base with corrugated iron roof.
The Old Forge	1082494	II	Former smithy and house, now house. Probably late C16, altered mid-C19 and mid-C20. Timber-framed with painted brick infill on rubble base, partly roughcast and weather-boarded with machine-tiled roof and brick ridge stack.
Number 1 (April Cottage), 2 and 3	1082500	II	Row of three houses, C17, altered mid-C19 and late C20. Timber-framed with rendered infill on rubble base, refaced with painted rubble. Slate roof with rubble ridge stack and two diagonal rubble shafts.
Number 4 (Forester's Cottage), 5 and 6	1301578	II	Row of three houses, C17, with mid-C19 and mid-C20 alterations and additions. Timber-framed with painted brick and rendered infill on rubble base; machine-tiled roof with brick ridge stacks.
The Cruck House	1301581	II	House, Probably C14, altered mid-C19 and mid-C20. Timber-framed with painted brick and rubble infill on painted rubble base and with some painted rubble walling; stone-tiled roof laid in diminishing courses and rubble stack at east end with rubble and brick shafts.

**Table 1**

*Listed buildings with a potential visual connection to the proposed development site*

Within an area marked as an orchard towards the south of Woodseaves Road a new residential building is recorded (Fairview), this is the only major addition to the arrangement of buildings along Woodseaves Road, although two small out buildings fronting the orchard have been removed.

for the study area made the identification of previously unidentified features within the study area unsuccessful.

### 3.4.3 Analysis of aerial photographs

The historical aerial photographic search identified that a total of 20 images of the 500m study area and its surroundings were present within the English Heritage archive, the archive records were vertical prints, no oblique images of the site were identified.

The date range of the images spanned a period of 49 years, the earliest being 1946, the latest 1995, 13 taken by the RAF and the most recent by the Ordnance Survey. The lack of oblique images

### 3.4.4 Known heritage assets within the proposed development area

#### *Visible standing archaeological remains*

The site slopes from north to south and occupies an elevated position above Woodseaves Road by approximately 3m and the A4111 Kington road by approximately 2m. An elevated ridge on a north-west to south-east alignment is present in the north-east corner of the site (**Illus 3**). The ground drops down from the top of the ridge by approximately 1.7m at the southern end to the road level of the A4111, while at the northern end the slope is more gradual.



**Illus 4**

*Upper House Farm and associated buildings (looking N-E from within development area)*



**Illus 5**

*View from within the development area towards the rear of Forester's and April Cottage (looking S)*

This ridgeline once connected with a small shallow sunken hollow at the northern end, the junction now obscured by the curtilage of a listed barn (HA1157421) that follows the line of the public footpath marked on the OS mapping.

Situated upon the crest of the aforementioned ridge, a slightly raised, rectangular area, possibly representing a building platform, or flattened working area can be seen.

Located within the area of the proposed development a raised bank, runs east-west for approximately 110m across the site with an average drop of 0.45m, the bank may have originally related to the aforementioned ridgeline and may represent evidence for a former field boundary.

Towards the southern boundary of the site a sunken farm entrance connects the proposed development site with Woodseaves road. There is no evidence to indicate whether this entrance was used in antiquity; however the cartographic evidence would suggest that this is a relatively modern entrance.

#### ***Designated heritage assets***

There are no Scheduled Monuments within either the proposed development area or within the search area. Eardisley Castle (DHE6061) is located immediately to the south of the study area approximately 500m from the centre of the proposed development area.

#### ***Conservation Areas***

The proposed development site is located within the Eardisley Conservation Area (DHE 6260).

Eardisley is characterised by its linear development of medieval and post-medieval buildings located within a rural village setting. The northern part of the village deviates from the linear development

with the conversion of former farm buildings associated with Upper House Farm and the addition of new build properties.

The statutory definition of a conservation area is 'an area of special architectural interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance' It is the quality and interest of areas rather than individual buildings, which is important.

There are many factors that contribute to the character of a conservation area:

- The historic layout of property boundaries and thoroughfares.
- A particular mix of uses.
- Vistas along streets and between buildings.
- Characteristic materials
- Appropriate scaling and detailing of buildings.
- Quality shop fronts, street furniture, hard and soft surfaces
- Trees and open spaces.

The aim must be to ensure that the quality of townscape is preserved or enhanced as well as protecting individual buildings.

#### ***Listed buildings***

There are seventy-four entries in the listed buildings register held by English Heritage for the village of Eardisley of which twenty-three fall within the extent of the 500m search area. The majority of these buildings are associated with the linear development of the village along the Hereford to Kington road and have no visual connection with the proposed development.

The site visit identified seven listed buildings with a potential visual connection to the proposed development area.



### Historic landscape character

The character of the land comprising the proposed development area is recorded as Small Compass Enclosure of the Landscape. The proposed development does not involve the removal of any hedgerows and conforms to the existing field pattern.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the potential for buried archaeological remains within the development area, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken. Fieldwork took place between the 26th and 28th February 2014.

### 4.1 Aims and objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the extent, nature and importance of any buried heritage assets within the proposed development area.

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
- assess the impact of previous land use on the site;

- inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- produce a site archive for deposition with Hereford Museum and to provide information for accession to the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record.

### 4.2 Method

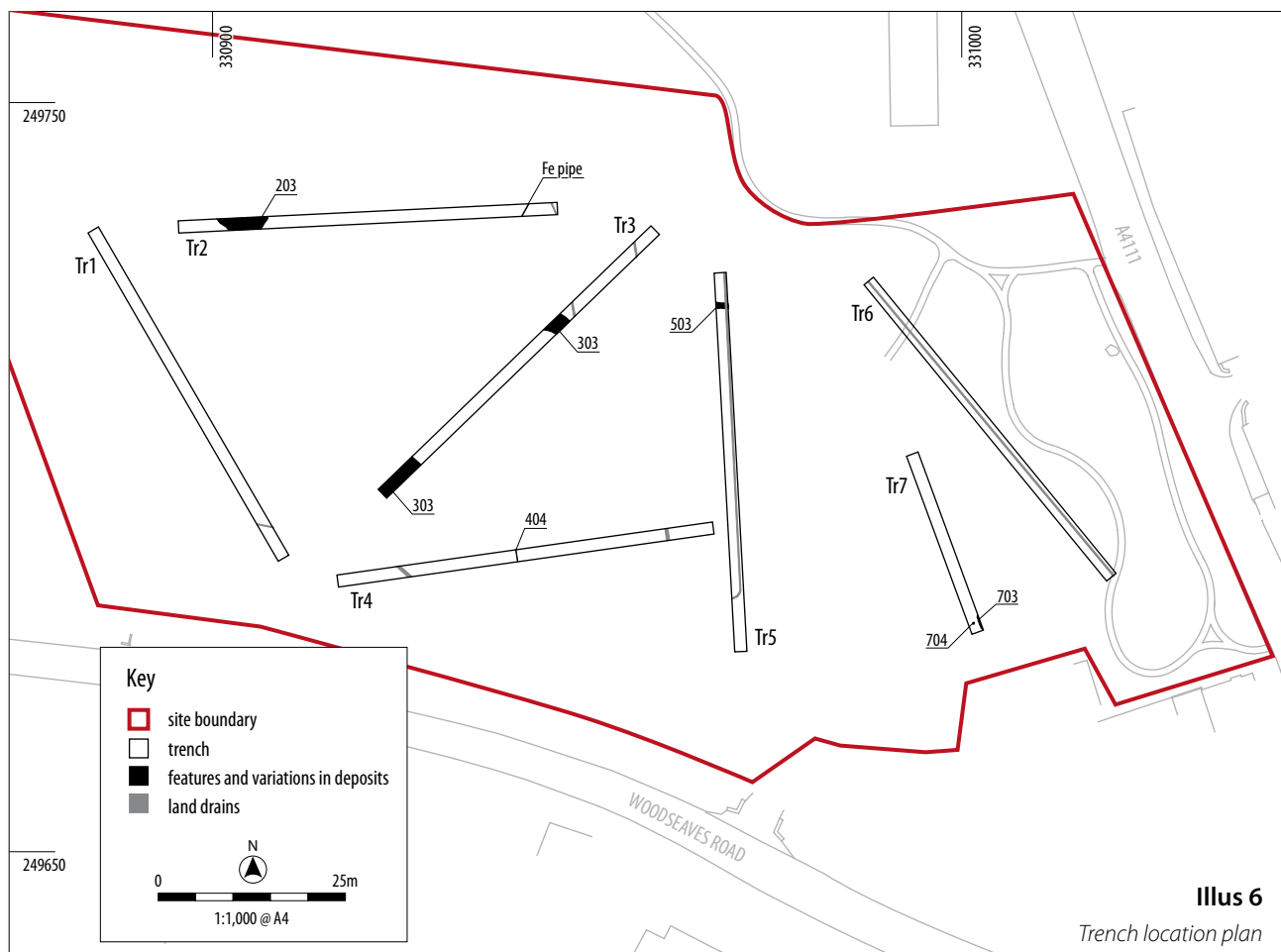
The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000)
- Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001)

Six trenches measuring 50m by 1.6m and one trench measuring 25m by 1.6m were excavated within the development area (**Illus 6**). The trenches were positioned to intercept possible earthworks identified within the site.

The evaluation 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.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.





All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital photographic images and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Leica Total Station.

### 4.3 Results

A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 2.

The overall stratigraphy within the site consisted of a light brown silty clay topsoil eg [100] over a layer of light pink/brown subsoil containing infrequent angular grit inclusions eg [101].

This sequence subsequently overlay geological deposits comprising variations of mid brown clays with mottled patches of a lighter yellow clay eg [103] and areas of mixed and poorly sorted gravels, generally in a red/brown, sandy matrix eg [202, 402]. Excavation ceased at the top of geological deposits.

The man-made features encountered within the evaluation trenches predominantly consisted of modern features associated with land drainage. A shallow linear feature identified within Trench 4 represents a possible plough furrow. Within the topsoil and subsoil deposits a number of pottery fragments dating to the post-medieval period were recovered.

#### 4.3.1 Trenches containing modern features

##### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east in order to transect the linear ridge line which traversed the site on an east-west orientation. The trench was excavated to the top of geological deposits [102] at an approximate depth of 0.55m below the existing ground level (*Illus 7*).

No evidence was observed to indicate the deliberate construction or function of the linear ridge line; the ridge line was only identified in a thickening of the topsoil [100] at the point where the trench and ridge line crossed.

The cut for a modern land drain [103] was identified at the southern end of the trench. Hand excavation revealed the land drain at a depth of 1.10m below the existing ground level.

Although no features of archaeological significance were observed within the evaluation trench a small amount of pottery was collected from the subsoil [101]. A single sherd of re-deposited pottery was recovered from the fill [104] of the land drain.

##### *Trench 2*

An iron water pipe [204] and a land drain [205] were observed at a depth of 0.4m. No features of archaeological significance were present within the trench.



**Illus 7**

*General view of Trench 1 (looking N-W)*

##### *Trench 3*

Two land drains were observed in the northern part of the trench at a depth of 0.46m below the existing ground level.

##### *Trench 5*

Trench 5 contained a modern land drain aligned north-south along the length of the trench. A linear spread of flat stones [503] aligned east to west was present at the northern end of the trench. Investigation of the feature established that it was likely to be geological in nature, as no cut was identified and no evidence for human activity was observed.

##### *Trench 6*

Trench 6 was positioned to intercept a raised and flattered area within the eastern part of the proposed development; no evidence for deliberate construction was identified. A modern land drain present along the full length of the trench was observed at a depth of 0.45m below the existing ground level.

#### 4.3.2 Trenches containing possible archaeological features

##### *Trench 4*

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of geological deposits [404] at an approximate depth of 0.45m below the existing ground level. Within the trench two modern land drains [405] and a very shallow linear cut [404] were observed.



**Illus 8**

*Plough scar [404] within Trench 4*



**Illus 9**

*Tree root action [703] within Trench 7*

Feature [404] was aligned north to south and measured 0.08m in width with an excavated depth of only 0.03m (Illus 8). The linear feature was filled by [402], a light brown silty clay. The uneven nature of the base and sides of [404] may suggest that the feature was natural in origin or that it represented a plough scar, no finds were observed within the sampled section.

#### **Trench 7**

Trench 7 was positioned to target a possible flat platform within the proposed development area. Excavation failed to identify any evidence for the deliberate creation of the apparent platform.

Located towards the southern end of the evaluation trench two features were identified; [703] and [704]. Feature [703] (Illus 9) measured approximately 2.00m in length and 0.25m in width (continuing beyond the excavated area). The mid brown silty clay fill was present to a depth of 0.07m and was devoid of archaeological material. The uneven, undulating nature of the sides and base of the feature was suggestive of root action.

Feature [704] was located to the west of [703] and comprised of an irregular shaped circular feature measuring approximately 0.58m by 0.49m with a depth of 0.05m. The feature was also filled by a mid brown silty clay similar in composition to the fill of feature [704]. The shallow nature and similar fills possibly indicates a contemporary relationship between [703] and [704], whilst the irregular form and lack of archaeological material suggests that they are not man-made features.

## **4.4 Finds**

Pottery was recovered from subsoil deposits within Trenches 1 and 6.

## **4.5 Discussion**

The archaeological evaluation established that the majority of features present within the proposed development area date to the modern period. A possible plough scar was identified within Trench 4 although no artefacts were recovered to date this feature.

Pottery dating to the post-medieval period was recovered from the site, however, no pottery or other dating evidence was recovered from stratigraphically secure deposits.

The visible earthworks present within the proposed development site are not formed in a manner that shows an intentional design, the ridge line and flattened areas investigated are possibly formed as a by-product of a removed field boundary and a natural change in the landscape, respectively.

Trench	Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Period
1	104	4	10	pottery	PMO	glazed redware body sherds	Post-medieval
1	101	2	2	pottery	Fragments	two small sherds of fine sandy fabric	—
6	601	1	5	pottery	PMO	glazed redware body sherd	Post-medieval

**Table 2**

*Pottery recovered from subsoil deposits within Trenches 1 & 6*

The identification of only relatively modern features suggests that the historical use of the area as agricultural land has remained relatively consistent.

## 5 SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ASSETS

### 5.1 Known heritage assets

The significance of heritage assets with a visual connection to the proposed development is considered below.

Name	Reference	Grade	Significance of HA (High, Moderate, Low, Negligible)
Eardisley Conservation Area	DHE 6260	N/A	High
Upper House Farm	1157429	II*	High
Barn about 10m north of Upper House Farmhouse	1082495	II	Moderate
Barn and shelter about 50m north-west of Upper House Farmhouse	1157421	II	Moderate
The Old Forge	1082494	II	Moderate
Number 1 (April Cottage), 2 and 3	1082500	II	Moderate
Number 4 (Forester's Cottage), 5 and 6	1301578	II	Moderate
The Cruck House	1301581	II	Moderate

### 5.2 Potential heritage assets

Although no remains of archaeological significance were identified during the trial trench evaluation, there is still the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site.

There is a negligible possibility of remains dating to the prehistoric period the nearest area of activity dating to this period has been identified some 2.5km towards the north west of the site.

There is a negligible possibility of remains dating to the Romano-British period as no Romano-British heritage assets have been identified within close proximity to the proposed development area.

The potential for medieval activity is considered low. Although the proposed development area is adjacent to medieval properties, the

trial trench evaluation did not identify any archaeological deposits dating to this period. The nature of any potential activity is likely to be agricultural and probably associated with the operations of Upper House Farm. Towards the west of the study area there are three occurrences of medieval ridge and furrow (HA36803, HA36804, and HA36805) surviving within the landscape, however, no continuation of these field systems was identified within the proposed development area.

Within the area of the proposed development there is a low probability of post-medieval activity occurring, the nature of which would most likely also be associated with Upper House Farm and represent agricultural activity.

## 6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Description of proposed development

Planning permission (133016/F) is being sought for a residential development of 25 houses with associated surrounding landscaping and tree planting.

The proposed development will inevitably involve ground-disturbing activities that would have a destructive effect upon any unknown archaeological remains within the footprint of the development.

Effects upon the setting of heritage assets located outside the site boundary have not been considered.

### 6.2 What are the physical impacts on heritage assets?

The results of the trial trench field evaluation suggest that there is a low potential for buried heritage assets to be present with the proposed development area.

The results of the evaluation are consistent with the cartographic evidence in suggesting that the site has remained as agricultural land throughout the historic period.

The proposed development would inevitably, due to the nature of construction, have a direct impact on the ridge and platform earthworks within the site. There is no evidence to suggest that these features are archaeologically significant.

Description of potential HA	Significance of potential HA (High, Medium, Low, Negligible)	Likelihood of it occurring within the development area (High, Medium, Low, Negligible)
Possible remains of prehistoric date	High (due to scarcity of recorded prehistoric activity in the vicinity)	Negligible (Prehistoric activity unlikely to be widespread)
Possible remains of Romano-British date	High (due to scarcity of confirmed R-B activity in vicinity)	Negligible (R-B activity in vicinity has not been recorded)
Possible remains of medieval date	Medium (importance related to development of medieval village)	Low (Medieval development appears to be concentrated to the south of the site)
Possible remains of post-medieval date	Low (Potential assets likely to relate to agricultural use of site)	Low (Post-med development may relate to agricultural activity, such as field boundaries)

**Table 3**

*Potential heritage assets*

## 7 CONCLUSION

The proposed development falls within Eardisley Conservation Area. No further designated heritage assets are present within the proposed development area.

The trial trench evaluation did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance. The potential for buried assets within the proposed development area is therefore considered to be low.

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## 9 APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Heritage asset

Heritage asset ID (HA)	Designation/type	Description
15220	HER Monument	Irregular enclosures visible as cropmarks south-east of Parsonage Farm, Eardisley
36803	HER Monument	Ridge and furrow
36804	HER Monument	Ridge and furrow
36805	HER Monument	Ridge and furrow
45156	HER Event	Two trenches, each 10m x 2m, were excavated at the rear of Oakwood. One of the trenches revealed a probable Medieval plot boundary. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered in the other trench.
1082494	Grade II Listed Building	The Old Forge
1082495	Grade II Listed Building	Barn about 10m north of Upper House Farmhouse
1082500	Grade II Listed Building	Number 1 (April Cottage), 2 and 3
1157421	Grade II Listed Building	Barn and shelter about 50m north-west of Upper House Farmhouse
1157429	Grade II* Listed Building	Upper House Farm
1301578	Grade II Listed Building	Number 4 (Forester's Cottage), 5 and 6
1301581	Grade II Listed Building	The Cruck House

### Appendix 2 Trench and context register

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
1	100	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small – angular–well sorted–Post med blue and white pottery	1.6 x50m,	0.18m
	101	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting	N-80.41m	0.36m
	102	Geological deposit – mid brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions.	S-79.33m OD excavated level	0.1m + Machine excavation ceased at this level
	103	Cut of land drain NW to SE excavated to 0.55m below trench depth		0.55m
	104	Fill of 103 silty clay mixture of 102 and a change in the natural at a lower depth		0.55m
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays (102), no features of archaeological significance were observed. Within the stratigraphic sequence possible fragments of a dark age/iron age pottery were identified within 101, while fragments of a thin red bodied, green glaze pottery were identified within the fill of 103 (104)			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
2	200	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small – angular–well sorted-	1.60 x50m,	0.2m
	201	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting	W-80.33m	0.2m
	202	Geological deposit – mid brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	E-80.74m OD excavated level	Machine excavation ceased at this level
	203	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions		Machine excavation ceased at this level
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, no features of archaeological significance were observed. The trench contained a seamless iron pipe and the run of a land drain.			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
3	300	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small - angular-well sorted-		0.19m
	301	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting.	1.60x50m,	0.27m
	302	Geological deposit – mid brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	SW-79.5m	Machine excavation ceased at this level
	303	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	NE-80.45m OD excavated level	Machine excavation ceased at this level
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, no features of archaeological significance were observed. The trench was positioned to intersect the linear ridge within the field, no indication was observed within the section to indicate that the ridge line was a deliberately constructed feature; the ridge line may represent a removed hedge line that once divided the field.			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
4	400	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small - angular-well sorted-	1.60x50m,	0.25m
	401	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting.	W-79.9m	0.2m
	402	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	E-79.22m	Machine excavation ceased at this level
			OD excavated level	
	403	Land drain , continuation of that seen within Trench 1 (103) mix fill – natural and subsoil		Unexcavated
	404	Shallow cut for linear feature with uneven base, possible plough furrow- no finds (cutting 402)		0.05m wide depth 0.02m
	405	Land drain- fill similar to 403- unexcavated		Unexcavated
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, within the trench a modern land drain and a very shallow linear cut possible representing a plough scar was observed.			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
5	500	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small - angular-well sorted-	1.60x50m,	0.17m
	501	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting.	N-80.43m	0.34m
	502	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	S-79.44m	Machine excavation ceased at this level
			OD excavated level	
	503	Stone spread , band of irregular stones sitting upon 502, no visible cut and cut by land drain and appears to be a natural feature		0.06m
	504	Land drain, aligned north south cutting 503		0.45m to drain
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, trench 5 contained modern land drains and a linear spread of flat stones(503) no visible cut for 503 was observed and the stone probably represent a natural change in the geologic deposit 502.			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
6	600	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small - angular-well sorted-	1.60x50m,	0.16m
	601	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting.	N-79.68m	0.25m
	602	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	S-78.99m	Machine excavation ceased at this level
			OD excavated level	
<b>Summary of excavation</b>	The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, no features of archaeological significance were observed, within the trench a modern land drain ran down the centre of the trench			

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
7	700	Light Grey brown silty clay, stone – small - angular-well sorted-	1.60 x 50m,	0.2m
	701	Light pink brown – silty clay slightly stony – angular – small to medium, moderate sorting.	NNW-88.75m	0.2m
	702	Geological deposit – light brown pink clay with yellow mottled patches and manganese inclusions	SSE-88.29m OD excavated level	Machine excavation ceased at this level 20m
	703	Possible tree bowel cut into the section line, section the base and sides where irregular and uneven		0.07m
	704	Cut of circular feature approximately 0.58 x 0.49 x 0.05m		0.05m
	705	Fill of 704 mid brown grey silty clay, no inclusion		—
	706	Fill of 703 mid brown grey silty clay, no inclusion		—
<b>Summary of excavation</b>		The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the clays, the trench was positioned to target a possible flat platform, no indication within the section was observed to confirm if the platform was deliberately rise or was a natural feature within the landscape. A tree bowel and a possible stone throw were recorded.		







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