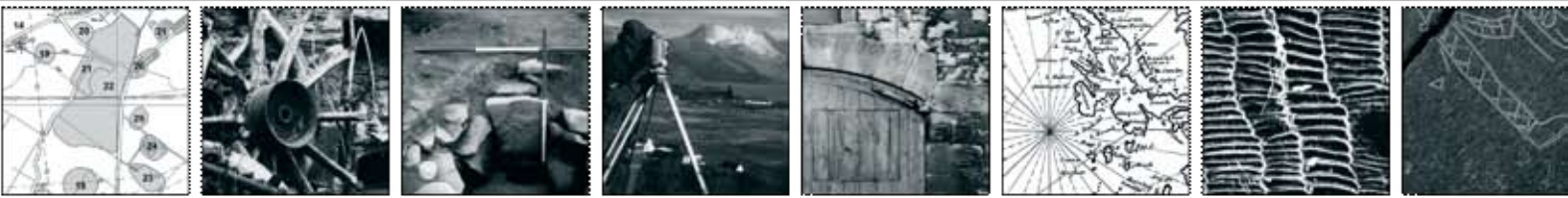


WBAG/01



LAND OFF WILLOW BANK ROAD, ALDERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Field Evaluation

commissioned by Edward Ware Homes

July 2014

LAND OFF WILLOW BANK ROAD, ALDERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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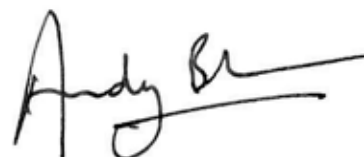
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project team

PROJECT MANAGER Andy Boucher
AUTHOR Luke Craddock-Bennett, Jason Murphy
FIELDWORK Jane Green, Jason Murphy,
Robert Blackburn
GRAPHICS Anna Sztromwasser, Caroline Norrman
SPECIALISTS Laura Bailey, Dr Tim Holden – Environmental
Julie Franklin, Jane Timby, Paul Blinkhorn – Finds
APPROVED BY Andy Boucher – Project Manager



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**Headland Archaeology
Midlands & West**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



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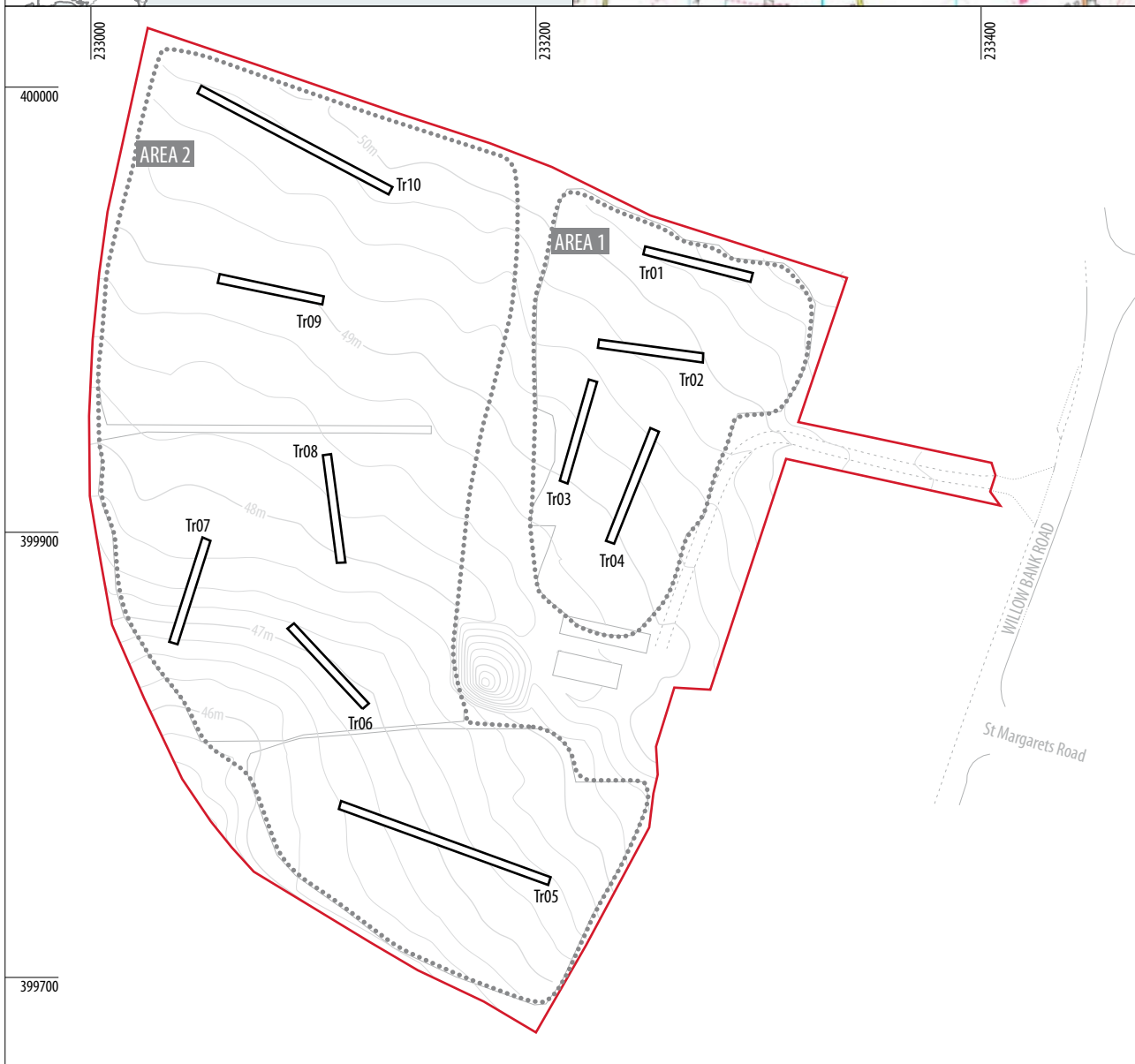
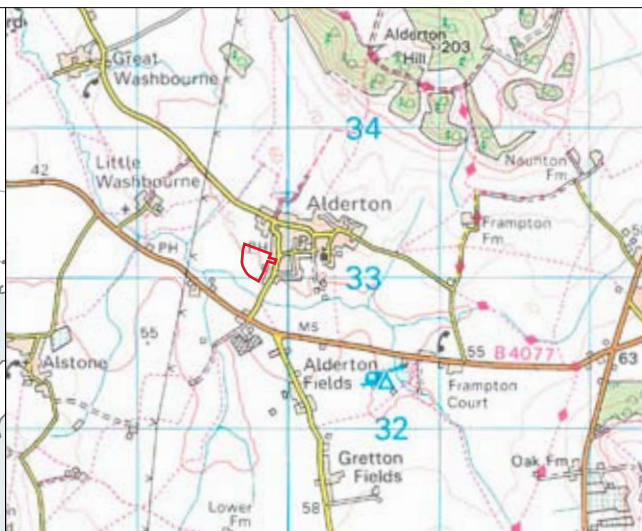
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ILLUS 1

Site location

LAND OFF WILLOW BANK ROAD, ALDERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Field Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook a field evaluation on a parcel of land in Alderton, Gloucestershire. The evaluation confirmed the presence of a double-ditched Iron Age settlement enclosure originally identified through geophysical survey. An east-west ditch containing Romano-British pottery was also identified. Ridge and furrow agricultural systems in the western part of the site appear to have truncated the expected continuation of the Iron Age enclosure into this area. Archaeologically significant finds and features are confined to the north-east of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Edward Ware Homes to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land located to the west of Willow Bank Road in Alderton, Gloucestershire.

The client is preparing to submit a planning application for the development of the site. An archaeological desk-based assessment (A&PS 2014) and geophysical survey (Davies 2014) of the site have already been undertaken. In addition to the work already undertaken the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council, Mr. Charles Parry, has requested that an archaeological field evaluation be undertaken in order to further understand the archaeological potential of the site and to enable appropriate decisions to be made regarding the planning application.

The archaeological field evaluation was undertaken between 17th June 2014 and 20th June 2014 in accordance with a project design (Craddock-Bennett 2014) prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with the archaeological advisor.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

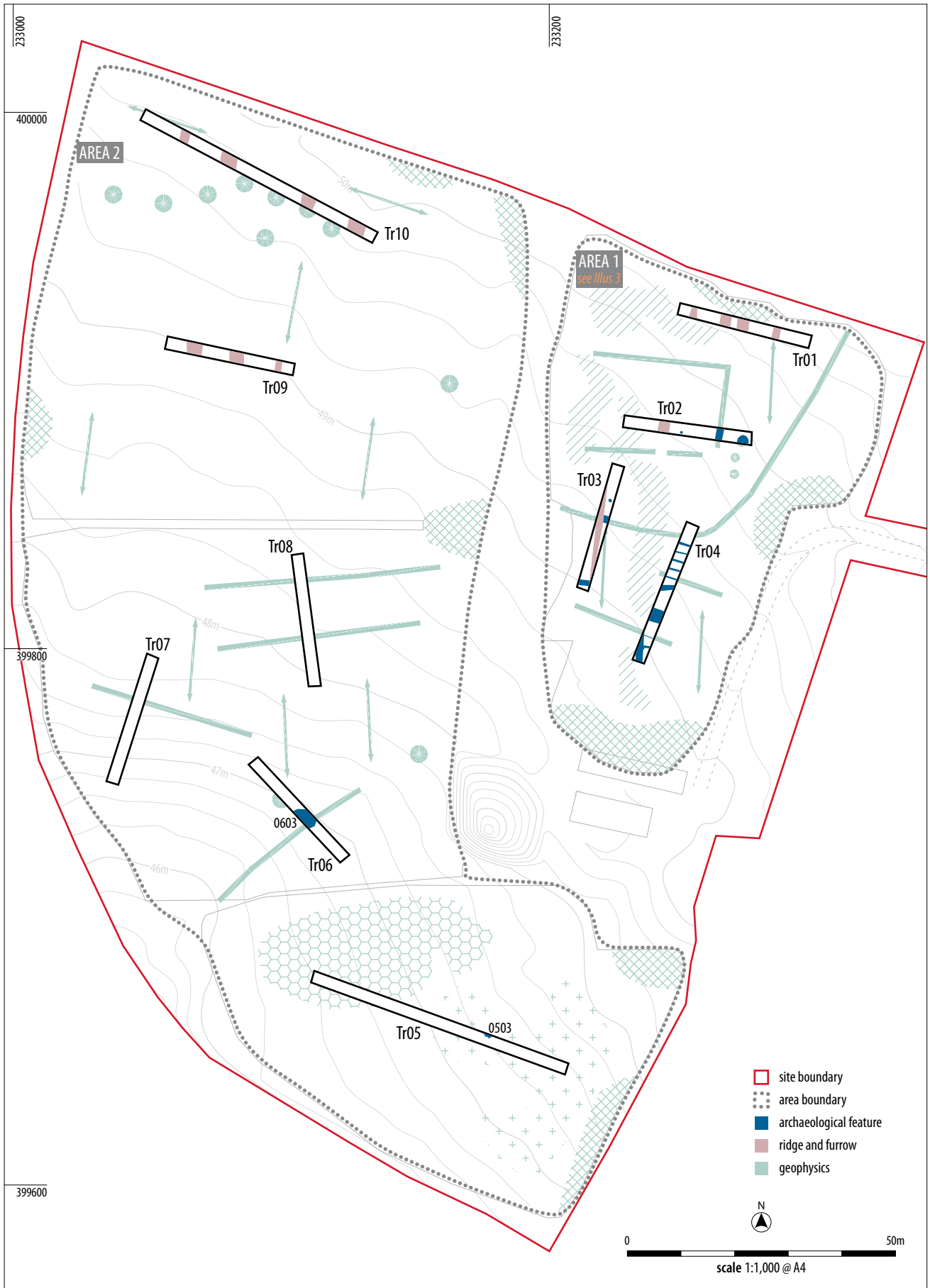
The proposed development site (**illus 1**) is located within the small village of Alderton in the north of Gloucestershire (NGR SO 99776 33097). The site comprises three fields currently in use as horse paddocks. The site is bounded to the north by a hedgerow with allotments beyond, to the east by houses and gardens along Willow Bank Road and to the south and west by a hedgerow with fields beyond.

The site is located on ground which rises to the north-east from around 46m to around 50.5m AOD. The geology of the site is recorded as Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by Head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological assessment of the site was undertaken by Archaeology & Planning Solutions (2014). The results are summarised below.

An archaeological evaluation directly to the north-west of the site identified a Neolithic pit along with undated ditches, gullies, post-holes and pits which are interpreted as part of a possible enclosed field system with associated low level archaeological activity. The Neolithic pit was located approximately 200m to the north of the site. Another archaeological evaluation approximately 300m to the east identified the remains of a Middle Iron Age settlement which included a sub-square ditched enclosure, field boundary ditches, a roundhouse and grain storage pits subsequently used to dispose of domestic waste. An early medieval settlement was found in the same evaluation and included a possible sub-circular ditched enclosure, a possible sunken-featured building which contained pottery of 6th–8th century date and a pit which contained at least one burial along with disarticulated human bone. In addition the cropmark of a possible prehistoric or Roman settlement has been identified approximately 450m to the



ILLUS 2

Site plan with geophysical results

north and small Iron Age and Roman pits were identified during the archaeological investigation of a pipeline route approximately 475m to the south.

In June 2014 a detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan (Davies 2014). The survey identified a probable former settlement with an enclosure ditch located in the north-east of the site (*Illus 2*). Small discrete anomalies identified within the probable enclosure were interpreted as possible pit features. Widely spaced curving, parallel linear anomalies indicated the potential for ridge and furrow cultivation on the site.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.
- to describe the significance of heritage assets that may be affected by the development, allowing the planning authority to make an informed assessment of any potential impacts on the historic environment in line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery (Accession No. CAGM.2014.1) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation.

3 METHOD

A project design outlining the proposed methodology for the archaeological field evaluation was produced by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2013). This proposed methodology was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

A total of 10 evaluation trenches were excavated, amounting to a sample of approximately 2% of the proposed development area. Trenches were targeted on anomalies believed to be of archaeological origin identified by the geophysical survey.

All trenches were excavated by a JCB excavator equipped with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Overburden was removed and machine excavation terminated at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The excavation of archaeological deposits and features was undertaken by hand to a sufficient degree to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation.

All spoil, including the topsoil strip was checked for datable artefacts and diagnostic finds were retained.

All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to m AOD.

All recording followed the IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All deposits 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 on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

The Archaeological Advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council was informed of the progress of the fieldwork and visited site on 18th June to monitor the works.

4 RESULTS

A total of 10 trenches were excavated within the proposed area of development.

A full description of the deposits identified in each trench is provided in Appendix 1 and the locations of the trenches and features are recorded on illustration 2.

Topsoil across the area was generally consistent, comprising of a mid to dark brown silty clay, varying between 0.18m and 0.40m in depth (e.g. [101, 200]). This overlay a light brown silty clay subsoil (e.g. [201, 301]) measuring between 0.10m and 0.25m in depth.

The geological deposits remained fairly consistent across the site and were composed of a light brown silty clay with a grey hue (e.g. [402, 502]). Rounded stone and gravel inclusions were present within the deposit.

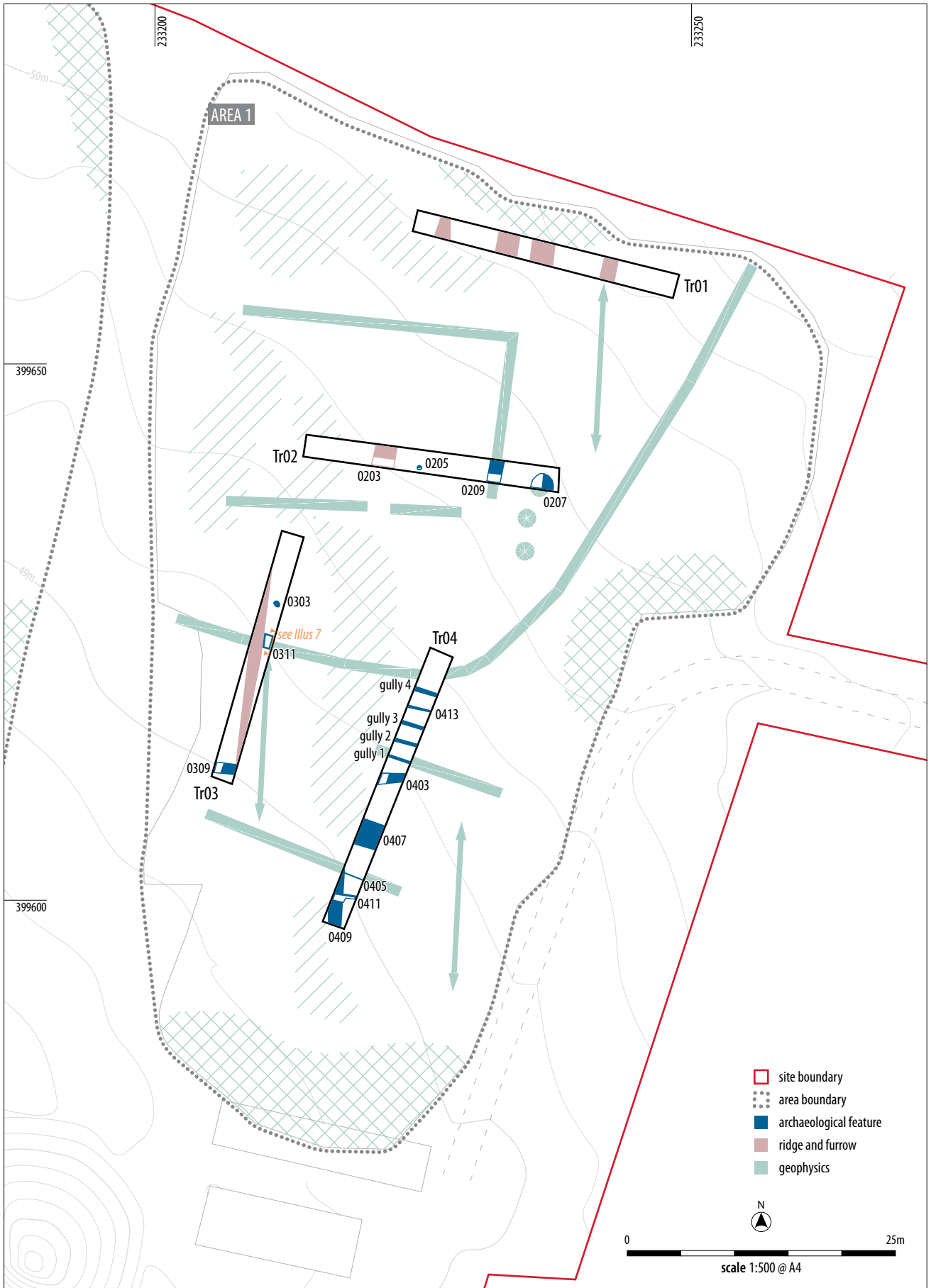
For ease of description the site has been divided into two areas. Area 1 comprises the paddock to the north-east where the geophysical survey identified a potential enclosure. Area 2 comprises the fields to the south and west where remains of limited archaeological significance were identified.

4.1 AREA 1

Evidence for enclosure ditches (Trenches 2, 3, 4)

Trench 2

Trench 2, orientated east-west, was positioned to target the interior and eastern extent of a rectilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (*Illus 3*). Evidence for a ditch [209] measuring 0.42m in depth was identified on a north-south orientation. The base of the ditch was rounded in profile with a break of slope of 45° in the west and 30° in the east (*Illus 4*). A single fragment of animal



ILLUS 3
Detail of Area 1

ILLUS 4

N facing section of rectangular enclosure [0209]
within Trench 02



ILLUS 5

N facing section of storage pit [0207]



ILLUS 6

N facing section of ridge and furrow, Trench 02



bone and infrequent charcoal flecking was observed in the ditch fill [210].

Within the interior (west) of ditch [209] a single post-hole [205] was identified. The feature was oval in plan (0.20m x 0.34m) and terminated in a rounded base at a depth of 0.26m. Both wheat and hulled barley were recovered from the fill [206] of the post-hole which comprised a dark grey/brown silty clay containing infrequent charcoal inclusions.

Situated to the east of ditch [209] was a circular pit feature measuring approximately 2.10m in diameter (**Illus 5**). The steep sided pit [207] terminated in a flat base at a depth of 0.62m. Heavily fragmented animal bone was recovered from the fill [208] along with two small sherds of pottery dating to the Iron Age. The feature continued to the south beyond the limit of the evaluation trench, and the results of the geophysical survey suggest that two further pit features of similar dimensions are present to the south.

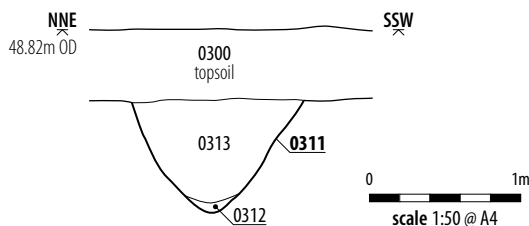
Evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture was also identified within the trench (**Illus 6**). A furrow [203] to the west of post-hole [205] measured 2.20m in width and extended to a depth of 0.15m. A small sherd of Central Gaulish samian ware was recovered from the fill. Although the sherd is likely to be intrusive, its presence is suggestive of Roman activity within the enclosure area post-dating the 2nd century.

Trench 3

Two further ditch features were observed within Trench 3. Linear [311] corresponded to the location of a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The anomaly appeared to represent the south-western extent of a sub-rectangular enclosure ditch. A slot excavated through the feature revealed a v-shaped profile extending to a depth of 0.70m (**Illus 7**). Silting deposits [312] were identified in the base of the feature which in turn were overlain by a homogenous deposit of brown silty clay [313] containing infrequent charcoal inclusions and small stones. Two sheep molars were also recovered from the ditch fill.



7



8



9



ILLUS 7

WNW facing section of enclosure ditch [0311]

ILLUS 8

E facing section of linear [0309] Trench 03

ILLUS 9

E facing section of linear [0403] Trench 04

south aligned furrow was present within the trench, leading to the partial truncation of feature [311].

Trench 4

Feature [309] continued into Trench 4 in the form of linear [403]. A pronounced double-break of slope was visible to the north, however, the southern side of the feature exhibited a steep single break of slope to a flat base (Illus 9). A small amount of heavily abraded barley was recovered from the ditch along with a single, large body sherd of Roman pottery (Severn Valley ware).

A number of narrow linears [405, 411, 413] identified within the trench are believed to relate to post-medieval land drainage. Staffordshire glazed ware dating to the 17th century was recovered from a north-south orientated furrow [409] present within the southern end of the trench. An adjacent shallow linear [407] containing an orangey brown silty clay appears to correspond to an area of enhanced magnetic response identified by the geophysical survey. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

Evidence for ridge and furrow

Trench 1

Four parallel linear features on a north-south alignment were identified within the base of Trench 1. The westernmost feature continued into Trench 2, where it was investigated ([203] see above). A north-south furrow was also observed within Trench 3.

geophysical survey) was present on an east-west alignment. The ditch [309] measured 1.10m in width and exhibited a double-break in profile; the upper part shallow (c.45°), before descending sharply (c.70°) to a narrow, rounded base at a depth of 0.53m (Illus 8). No finds were recovered from the feature, although infrequent charcoal inclusions were recorded from within the fill [310].

A pit feature [303] was identified towards the northern end of Trench 3. The circular feature measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. Frequent charcoal inclusions were identified within the fill

4.2 AREA 2

Evidence for ridge and furrow

Trenches 9 and 10

The bases of furrows were observed in Trenches 9 and 10. Pottery dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods was recovered from the topsoil [1001] in Trench 10. Excavation to the level of geological deposits revealed parallel furrows related to ridge and furrow

agriculture. No evidence for the potential pit alignment suggested by the geophysical survey was identified within Trench 10.

Post-medieval and modern activity

Trenches 5 and 6

Located in Trench 5, to the south of Area 2, was a single irregular feature [503] containing heat affected deposits. Brill Boarstall ware dating to the medieval period was recovered from the fill [504]. Also recovered from the feature was a modern clay pipe stem and wire nail.

A shallow deposit [603] containing broken slates and 19th century pottery was identified within the centre of Trench 6. The location of the deposit correlates with an area of enhanced response on the geophysical survey results.

5 DISCUSSION

The field evaluation has confirmed the presence of an enclosure in the north-east of the proposed development area.

Pottery recovered from the inner rectilinear enclosure [209] suggests an Iron Age date for the feature. No definitive evidence for structural remains was identified in the interior of the enclosure, however, the presence of a potential post-hole [205] hints at this possibility. The large pit [207] identified on the exterior of the enclosure (and apparently belonging to a pit alignment) does not appear to have been used for the disposal of rubbish, and is characteristic of a grain storage pit, a common feature of Iron Age settlements.

The outer enclosure ditch identified by the geophysical survey was not identified within Trench 4 as expected. A slot excavated through the feature [311] in Trench 3 revealed a deeper profile than ditch [209]. Although no dating evidence was recovered, it seems a reasonable assumption that the two enclosures are contemporary and represent the inner and outer boundaries of a small settlement.

The relationship of ditch [309/403] to the Iron Age enclosure is less clear. The profile of the ditch is more characteristic of Roman construction and the pottery recovered appears to support a Roman date for the feature. The east-west alignment of the ditch respects the alignment of the rectilinear enclosure [209] to the north, but establishing a relationship on the basis of the evaluation results is not possible. The feature has not been clearly identified by the geophysical survey and how far the ditch continues to the east and west is unknown.

The results of the evaluation bear comparison with the features identified by Cotswold Archaeology during the evaluation of a site

300m to the east. The remains were interpreted as a Middle Iron Age settlement surrounded by a sub-square ditched enclosure. The present site is comparable in form. The presence of Roman pottery and a double-break ditch suggests either a continuity of occupation into the Romano-British period or the re-use of an abandoned Iron Age site during this period.

6 CONCLUSION

The field evaluation has largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the proposed development area, however, the double-break ditch [309/403] identified during the evaluation was not identified during the geophysical survey.

The results of the geophysical survey and field evaluation confirm that the archaeological resource is confined to the north-eastern part of the site and extensive ploughing of the western part of the site has potentially truncated or removed the archaeological deposits in this area.

7 PROJECT ARCHIVE

With the landowners consent all finds recovered during the field evaluation will be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be deposited under the accession number CAGM.2014.1 within 1 year of the completion of fieldwork.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
1	101	Topsoil; Dark brown silty clay	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.40m
	102	Natural; Light brown/grey silty clay.		0.40m+

Summary of excavation; Four furrows on a north-south alignment present in the base of the trench.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
2	200	Topsoil; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.18m
	201	Subsoil; Light brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone and charcoal inclusions.		0.18 – 0.43m
	202	Natural; Light brown/grey silty clay.		0.43m+
	203	Cut of furrow; Orientated N-S, 2.20m wide.		0.43 – 0.58m
	204	Fill of furrow [203]; Mid grey/brown silty loam.		0.43 – 0.58m
	205	Cut of post-hole; Oval with vertical sides, 0.20 x 0.34m in plan. Rounded base.		0.43 – 0.69m
	206	Fill of post-hole [205]; Dark grey/brown silty clay. Infrequent charcoal flecks.		0.43 – 0.69m
	207	Cut of large pit; Oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base. 2.10 x 1.40m in plan. Continues to the south beyond limit of excavation.		0.43 – 1.05m
	208	Fill of pit [207]; Light grey/brown silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions. Infrequent pottery, animal bone and charcoal present.		0.43 – 1.05m
	209	Cut of linear; 1.37m wide in plan, gently sloping sides (approx 45°) to rounded base.		0.43 – 0.85m
	210	Fill of linear [209]; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions. Infrequent charcoal flecks.		0.43 – 0.85m

Summary of excavation; Trench targeted over enclosure interior as identified by geophysics. Enclosure ditch, pit and post-hole identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
3	300	Topsoil; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.27m
	301	Subsoil; Light brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone and charcoal inclusions.		0.27 – 0.36m
	302	Natural; Orange/brown and blue/green clay.		0.36m+
	303	Cut of pit; Circular in plan with steep sides and flat base. 0.75m diameter.		0.36 – 0.61m
	304	Fill of pit [303]; Mid to dark orangey brown clayey silt. Frequent charcoal inclusions. Infrequent animal bone.		0.36 – 0.61m
	305	Cancelled		-
	306	Cancelled		-
	307	Cut of furrow; Aligned north-south.		-
	308	Fill of furrow [307]		-
	309	Cut of linear; East-West aligned, 1.10m wide. Feature continues into Trench 4 as [403]. Double break – Shallow at top, before steep sides to rounded base.		0.36 – 0.89m
	310	Fill of linear [309]; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Compact. Infrequent charcoal inclusions.		0.36 – 0.89m
	311	Cut of linear; NW-SE aligned, 1.10m wide. Steep-sided to eroded pointed base.		0.36 – 1.06m
	312	Primary fill of linear [311]; Brown silty sand with orange mottling.		0.99 – 1.06m
	313	Upper fill of linear [311]; Brown silty clay with orange mottling. Infrequent charcoal flecks and small stones.		0.36 – 0.99m

Summary of excavation; Trench targeted over outer enclosure ditch as identified by geophysics. Enclosure ditch [311] identified and additional ditch [309] of similar profile.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
4	400	Topsoil; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.18m
	401	Subsoil; Light brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone and charcoal inclusions.		0.18 – 0.30m
	402	Natural; Light brown/grey silty clay.		0.30m+
	403	Cut of linear; Continuation of feature [309]. 1.17m wide.		0.30 – 0.98m

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
404		Fill of linear [403]; Light brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent charcoal flecks.		0.30 – 0.98m
405		Cut of linear; 1.48m wide, Gentle slope (20°) to uneven base.		0.30 – 0.62m
406		Fill of linear [405]; Greyish brown silty clay. Infrequent charcoal flecks.		0.30 – 0.62m
407		Cut of linear; 2.00m wide, Gentle slope (15°) to concave base.		0.30 – 0.52m
408		Fill of linear [407]; Orangey brown silty clay.		0.30 – 0.52m
409		Cut of linear; Gently sloping sides to rounded base. 1.41m wide. N-S orientated furrow. Relationship with [412] unclear.		0.30 – 0.46m
410		Fill of linear [409]; Mid greyish/brown silty clay. Frequent charcoal flecking.		0.30 – 0.46m
411		Cut of linear; 0.36m wide. Gently sloping sides to uneven base. Drainage gully related to ridge and furrow.		0.30 – 0.34m
412		Fill of linear [411]; Mid grey/brown silty clay.		0.30 – 0.34m
413		Group of 5 linear features; Individually 0.27m wide. Steep sided to rounded base. Post medieval drainage gullies.		0.30 – 0.43m
414		Fill of linear group [413]; Brown mottled silty clay.		0.30 – 0.43m

Summary of excavation; Trench identified continuation of possible outer enclosure ditch [403] and a number of gullies likely to relate to post-medieval drainage.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
5	500	Topsoil; Mid brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.20m
	501	Subsoil; Light brown/grey silty clay. Infrequent stone and charcoal inclusions.		0.20 – 0.30
	502	Natural; Light brown/grey silty clay.		0.30m+
	503	Cut of pit related to episode of burning; 1.20m x 0.40m (continuing beyond excavated area). Irregular sides and base.		0.30 – 0.70m
	504	Fill of pit [503]; Mixed deposit. Multi-coloured silty clay (heat affected) with ash, charcoal, wood and brick inclusions.		0.30 – 0.70m

Summary of excavation; Fire pit containing post-medieval material.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
6	601	Topsoil; Dark brown friable clayey silt.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.25m
	602	Natural; Orange/brown silty clay.		0.25m+
	603	Spread of modern material in centre of trench. Contained 19th century pottery and slate.		-

Spread of modern material correlating with geophysical anomaly.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
7	701	Topsoil; Dark brown friable clayey silt.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.30m
	702	Natural; Orange/brown silty clay.		0.30m+

No archaeological finds or features.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
8	801	Topsoil; Dark brown clayey silt.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.40m
	802	Natural; Orange/brown silty clay.		0.40m+

No archaeological finds or features.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
9	901	Topsoil; Dark brown clayey silt.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.33m
	902	Natural; Orange/brown silty clay.		0.33m+

No archaeological finds or features. Evidence for furrows in base of trench.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
10	1001	Topsoil; Dark brown clayey silt.	25m x 1.6m	0.00 – 0.35m
	1002	Natural; Orange/brown silty clay.		0.35m+

No archaeological finds or features. Evidence for furrows in base of trench.



APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	25	32	01	NE	SW facing section of fire pit-pre-ex [503]
02	—	—	02	NE	Mid-ex shot of copper ring and burnt branch
03	24	31	03	NE	Post-ex shot of SW facing section of fire pit
04	23	30	04	SW	NE facing section of ridge and furrow Trench 2 [203]
05	22	29	05	—	ID shot
06	21	28	06	S	N facing section of large pit [207]
07	20	27	07	E	W facing section of large pit [207]
08	19	26	08	E	West facing section of post-hole [205] Trench 2
09	18	25	09	N	Trench 2; S facing section
10	17	24	10	E	West facing section of pit [303] Tr. 3
11	16	23	11	W	Trench 10; post-ex
12	15	22	12	W	Trench 9; post-ex
13	14	21	13	S	Trench 8; post-ex
14	13	20	14	N	Trench 7; post-ex
15	12	19	15	NW	Trench 6; post-ex
16	11	18	16	E	Trench 3; relationship slot W. Facing section [305]
17	10	17	17	E	Trench 2; Shot of trench
18	09	16	18	S	[209] linear
19	08	15	19	E	Trench 3; trench shot
20	07	14	20	S	Trench 8; post-ex
21	06	13	21	W	Trench 8; E facing section
22	05	12	22	E	Trench 8; Slots across anomalies
23	04	11	23	E	Trench 8; slots across anomalies
24	03	10	24	N	Trench 10; section of furrow
25	02	09	25	W	Trench 10; oblique of furrow
26	01	08	26	W	Trench 4; general shot
27	37	37	27	—	ID shot BW film # 945 Col slide # 951
28	36	36	28	W	[403] linear. W facing section
29	35	35	29	W	Trench 3; linear [309] E facing section
30	—	—	30	W	Trench 3; linear [309] E facing section
31	—	—	31	W	Trench 3; linear [309] E facing section
32	—	—	32	W	Trench 4; linear [403]

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
33	34	34	33	E	Trench 3; V shaped cut [311]
34	33	33	34	E	Trench 4; [405]
35	32	32	35	E	Trench 4; [405] general shot
36	31	31	36	S	Trench 2; post-hole [203] post-ex
37	30	30	37	N	Trench 4; Ridge and furrow [409] and gully [411]
38	29	29	38	—	Trench 4; Gully [413]
39	—	—	39	—	Trench 4; Gully [413]
40	—	—	40	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 3, 4
41	—	—	41	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 2
42	—	—	42	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 1
43	—	—	43	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 10
44	—	—	44	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 8, 9
45	—	—	45	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 6, 7, 8
46	—	—	46	—	Backfilled trenches Trench 5

APPENDIX 3 FINDS ASSESSMENT

JULIE FRANKLIN, JANE TIMBY, PAUL BLINKHORN

Introduction

The finds assemblage was small but included pottery from a number of periods: Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval. There were also a few lumps of fired clay and a handful of other post-medieval or modern finds. See Table 1 for assemblage summary.

Trench	Pottery (IA)	Pottery (Rom)	Pottery (Medi)	Pottery (PM)	CBM	Glass	Clay Pipe	Metalwork
02	2	1	–	2	–	–	1	–
04	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
05	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	2
10	–	–	1	2	2	1	1	–
Total	2	2	2	5	2	1	3	2

TABLE 1

Summary of assemblage by trench

Pottery

The assemblage numbered 11 sherds of pottery weighing 174g. The post-medieval sherds are in good condition but the earlier sherds are abraded and clearly residual. Where possible, they were recorded using the classification system of the Gloucester City type-series (e.g. Vince 1984; Vince 1984). The Roman wares have been recorded with reference to the National Roman fabric series (Tomber & Dore 1998).

The earliest pottery was in the form of two small Iron Age fossil shell-tempered pieces from the same handmade vessel, recovered from pit [207] (fill 208). A tiny ship of Central Gaulish samian was found in ridge and furrow in the same trench. This indicates activity from the 2nd century or later. Another Roman sherd, a large body sherd of grey Severn Valley ware, was recovered from linear feature [403] (fill 404). This was a long-lived Roman industry spanning the 1st to 4th centuries.

The two medieval sherds were found in Trenches 5 and 10. One is a sherd of Malvern Chase medieval cooking pot/jar. This industry was active from the 12th-14th centuries. The other is of Brill/Boarstall ware and dates to between the 13th and 16th centuries (Mellor, 1994). It is from a glazed jug, a common Brill vessel type.

Post-medieval wares date from the late 17th century or later and are of commonly found types of the period including a brown-glazed chamber pot and a stoneware tankard.

Finds

The fragments of fired clay are of uncertain date and are largely undiagnostic of function. They were found associated with medieval and post-medieval finds. The other finds are all clearly post-medieval or modern in origin, including 19th century clay pipe fragments, bottle glass, a nail and a small copper alloy ring fitting or possible finger ring.

Discussion

Iron Age and Roman activity is clearly concentrated at the eastern side of the site, in Trenches 2 and 4. Medieval and post-medieval material is more widely spread.

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Finds Catalogues

Pottery

Trench	Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric code	Ware	Date	Period
02	0204	1	0	LEZ SA	Central Gaulish samian	2ndC	Rom
02	0204	2	13	—	Unglazed red earthenware	PM	PM
02	0208	2	4	—	Shell-tempered	IA	IA
04	0404	1	28	SVW RE	Severn Valley ware (reduced)	2nd–4thC	Rom
04	0410	1	50	TF74	Staffordshire/Bristol Manganese Glazed Ware	L17thC	PM
05	0504	1	4	BB	Brill/Boarstall ware	13th–16thC	Medi
10	1000	1	5	TF40	Malvern Chase ware	12th–14thC	Medi
10	1000	2	70	TF95	Bristol/London stoneware	L17th–18th	PM
174							

Finds

Trench	Context	Qty	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date	Period
02	0204	1	Clay Pipe	Bowl	plain sherd, thin walled	L18th/e.20th	Mod
05	0504	1	Clay Pipe	Stem	narrow bore	L18th/e.20th	Mod
05	0504	1	Iron	Nail	small wire nail	19th/20th	Mod
05	0504	1	Copper Alloy	Ring	small ring, possibly small finger ring or fitting	—	—
10	1000	1	Clay Pipe	Bowl	small sherd with foliate moulded seam	19th	Mod
10	1000	1	Glass	Bottle	green body sherd	19th/20th	Mod
10	1000	2	CBM	fired clay	fragments	—	—

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

LAURA BAILEY AND TIM HOLDEN

Introduction

This report presents the results of an assessment of two samples and hand collected bone taken during archaeological works at Willow Bank Road, Alderton, Gloucestershire, a multi-period site dating from the Iron Age to Late Medieval period. Two 10 litre soil samples were processed for environmental assessment. The samples were taken from ditch and post-hole fills. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any palaeoenvironmental remains in the samples.

Method

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. All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006).

Hand collected animal bone from six contexts was submitted for assessment. The aims of the assessment were to provide a basic quantification of the available data, to characterise the assemblage as far as possible and to help identify the potential of the data-set to benefit from further analysis.

Numbers of identifiable bone fragments were recorded, together with the preservation and any signs of modification of the bone. Where possible, fragments were identified to species level using Schmid 1972. However, where bone was very fragmented and not possible to identify it was marked as indeterminate (See Table 3).

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Tables 1 (Retent samples), 2 (Flot samples) and 3 (Animal bone). Material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables.

Wood charcoal

A small amount of wood charcoal was present in the retents from both samples (Tables 1). The charcoal was heavily fragmented and ranged in size from 1 to 5mm.

Cereal grain

Cereal grain was present in both samples. Emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were recovered

from the fill (206) of post-hole [205]. A small amount of barley grain was also recovered from the fill (404) of Ditch [403] together with bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). The cereals were heavily abraded.

Animal bone

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from various features including ditch and pit fills. The assemblage amounted to 39 fragments from six contexts, weighing 100g in total (Table 3). The bone was in good to fair condition, with good surface preservation, suggesting that it did not lie exposed at the surface for a long period of time. Fragmentation was high and both ancient and modern breaks were visible.

Animal bone was recovered in the retents from Sample 2, from the fill 404 of Ditch [403] (Table 1). Although heavily fragmented, pig tooth and rib fragments from a small ungulate were identified.

All of the hand collected bone derived from medium sized mammal e.g. sheep, goat, pig. In many cases it was not possible to identify to species level as it was heavily fragmented however, a fragmented pig molar was recovered from furrow 204 and sheep molars were recovered from the fill (313) of Ditch [311]. Indeterminate mandible and metacarpal fragments were recovered from the fills (404 and 210) of ditches [403 and 209] respectively.

Other finds

A lithic recovered from the fill (404) of Ditch 403 will be discussed in a separate finds report.

Discussion

Although a small quantity of plant macrofossils were recovered, the assemblage gives an insight into foodstuffs consumed in the area. Wheat was the most commonly encountered grain, although a small amount of barley was also present. On their own, the cereal grains offer little scope for further analysis. A large fragment of bodysherd of grey Severn Valley ware recovered from the ditch [403] suggests that it dates to the Roman period. The presence of emmer and bread wheat is entirely compatible with this date. However, the presence of cereal grain demonstrates the potential for the recovery of plant remains from the site and in the event that further excavation is to be undertaken, the cereal grains may help to characterize both the type of site and date.

Both pig and sheep were identified within the assemblage, however, the assemblage is very small, and therefore little can be said of the relative importance of species present.

References

Cappers, RTJ, Bekker, RM & Jans, JEA 2006 *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library, Groningen.



TABLE 1

Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	Unburnt bone	Charcoal		Material available for AMS dating	Comments
			Mammal	Qty	Max size (cm)		
0206	1	10	—	++	0.5	No	—
0404	2	10	++	+	0.5	No	Also contains lithic

Key: + = rare (0–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (15–50) 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)	Cereal grain		Other plant remains	Charcoal		Material available for AMS	Comments
			Hordeum vulgare	Triticum sp.		Qty	Max size (cm)		
0206	1	100	+	+	Chenopodium sp +	+	0.05	Cereal +	Contains barley, and emmer wheat
0404	2	100	+	++	—	+++	0.03	Cereal +	Contains hulled barley, 1 emmer and 4 bread wheat

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

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

TABLE 3

Animal bone

Context	Weight (g)	No. of fragments	Medium sized mammal (e.g. pig/sheep/goat)	Indet	Comments (fragmentation, diversity cutmarks and other observations re. bone type)
204	0.3	1	1	—	Fragment of pig molar
208	15.2	6	6	—	Heavily fragmented- Indeterminate
210	12.6	1	1	—	Metacarpal fragment
304	3	3	—	3	Heavily fragmented- Indeterminate
313	7.6	2	2	—	Sheep molars
404	47.5	4	4	—	Mandible fragments



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**Headland Archaeology
North East**

13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705
northeast@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
North West**

10 Payne Street
Glasgow G4 0LF

0141 354 8100
northwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
Midlands & West**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
South & East**

Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578
southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com