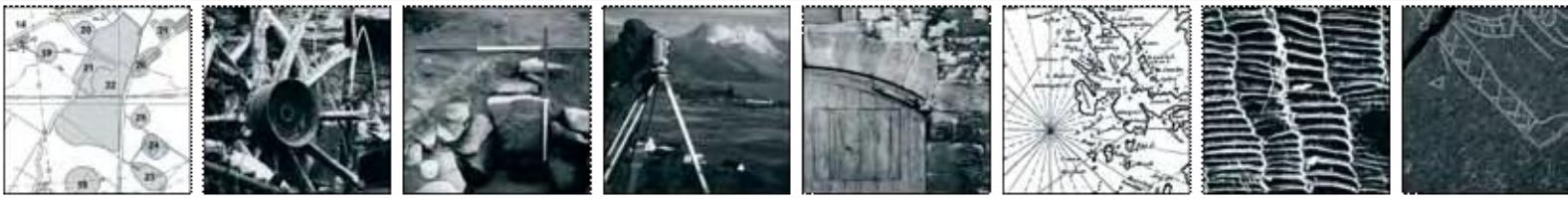
NTTG/01



LAND AT NEW TOWN, TODDINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Edward Ware Homes

July 2014

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

LAND AT NEW TOWN, TODDINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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project info

HA JOB NO.	NTTG/01
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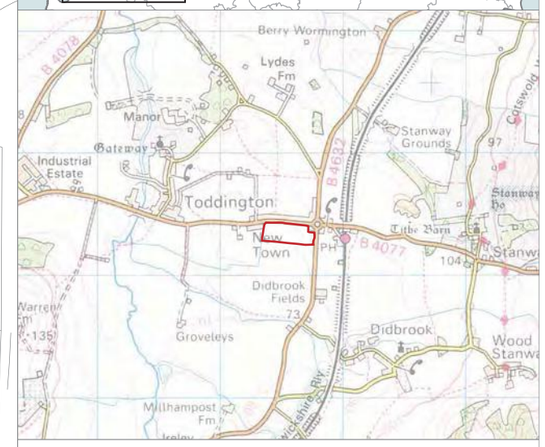

- application boundary
- land drain
- ridge and furrow
- investigated feature
- linear anomaly

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0
50m
scale 1:1,500 @ A3

ILLUS 1
Site location

LAND AT NEW TOWN, TODDINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Edward Ware Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the south of the B4077 and to the east of Toddington, Gloucestershire. The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of a field boundary ditch and a ridge and furrow field system in the east of the site. No archaeological features were identified within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Edward Ware Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the east of Toddington, Gloucestershire. The client proposes to submit a planning application for the residential development of the site.

The aim of the evaluation is to provide further information about the archaeological resource within the development area and to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission.

The trial trenching was undertaken between the 24th and 27th June 2014 in accordance with a project design (Craddock-Bennett 2014) prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Mr Charles Parry.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site is located east of Toddington village Gloucestershire, south of the B4077, at NGR 404527,232350 (site centre) and encompasses approximately 3.6ha of flat pasture land. The site is bounded by the B4632 to the east, a small group of houses to the west and arable fields to the south.

The underlying geology is Charmouth Mudstone Formation. Drift geology is recorded as Head, comprised of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

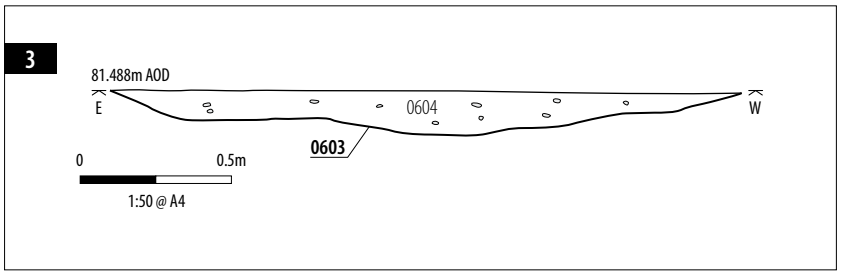
1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken by Archaeology & Planning Solutions in April 2014 (A&PS 2014). The results are summarised below;

> The cropmark of a possible rectilinear enclosure was identified on aerial photographs approximately 275m to the north-east of the site. This may be associated with a later prehistoric/Roman settlement identified by a geophysical survey approximately 400m to the north-east.
>
> Subsequent excavations close to this settlement identified the potential presence of a Mesolithic or Neolithic site; two probable Neolithic or Bronze Age barrows; Bronze Age and Iron Age pits; an Iron Age and/or Roman trackway and field systems; two Roman burials and undated cremations.
>
> Rectilinear enclosures and ditches, probably representing a further prehistoric or Roman field system, are also visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs approximately 950m to the south and these may be associated with an extensive group of probable Iron Age and/or Roman settlement enclosures further to the south.
>
> The site therefore lies within an area which contains extensive evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement and land use.

ILLUS 2

Trench 6 – Field boundary [0603]



ILLUS 3

Trench 6 – North facing section of field boundary [0603]

A detailed gradiometer survey of the site was undertaken by Stratascan in June 2014 (Davies 2014). Former field boundaries and an area of ridge and furrow were identified. There was no evidence to suggest that any of the features related to prehistoric or Roman activity.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the field evaluation were:

- To provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the development by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.
- To describe the significance of heritage assets potentially 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 to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHOD

A project design outlining the proposed methodology for the archaeological field evaluation was produced by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2014). This document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

A total of 8 evaluation trenches were excavated, each measuring 50m x 1.6m. This amounted to a sample of approximately 2% of the proposed development area.

Two of the trenches (Trench 6 and 7) were targeted on linear anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. The remaining trenches were non-targeted and were located in order to achieve maximum coverage of the proposed development area.

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

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.

4 RESULTS

A total of 8 trenches were excavated within the proposed area of development. Trench 8 was stopped c. 17m into excavation. This was in response to information obtained from a local resident about the presence of a septic tank run off pipe which ran along the length of the trench. It was then relocated c. 1m to the west,

ILLUS 4
Trench 6 – North facing section of furrow [0605]

where excavation resumed. Therefore, Trench 8 has been recorded as two trenches; Trench 8(a) and (b).

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 1.

Topsoil across the area was generally consistent, comprising of dark brown clay, varying between 0.12m and 0.20m in depth (eg [0100, 0800]). This overlay a light brown grey silty clay subsoil (eg [0101, 0301]) measuring between 0.20m and 0.31m in depth.

Heavy clay deposits were encountered at a depth of c.0.15–0.31m and were believed to be geological in origin. The colour of these deposits varied from yellow to mid grey/blue but the composition of the deposits was consistent across the site.

4.1 LINEAR ANOMALIES

Trench 6 and 7, both orientated east-west, were positioned to target a possible field boundary, identified on the geophysical survey, which runs north-south and then changes direction at the south of the site and continues in a westerly direction. Evidence for a ditch [0603] measuring 0.33m in depth and 4.40m wide was identified (**Illus 2** & **3**). No datable material was recovered from the fill of the feature [0604] which comprised mid yellow orange clay.

The continuation of the field boundary [0603] was observed in Trench 7, as [0704], similar in width and on the same alignment. However it was deemed unnecessary to insert a slot across it as the same linear was sufficiently investigated within Trench 6.

4.2 EVIDENCE FOR RIDGE AND FURROW

Trench 6 was targeted to investigate a second shorter linear [0605], identified on geophysical survey, which runs north-south parallel to [0603] and represents possible evidence for a ridge and furrow field system. The furrow measured 1.90m in width and extended to a depth of 0.29m (**Illus 4**). No datable material was recovered from within the mid yellow orange clay fill [0606].

Further evidence for ridge and furrow was identified within Trenches 6 and 7. The furrows were observed as regular bands orientated north-south and were present within both trenches. One of the furrows, [0702], was investigated within Trench 7. The furrow [0702] measured 2.05m in width and extended to a depth of 0.22m. No datable material was recovered from within the mid brown grey fill [0703].

4.3 BLANK TRENCHES

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trenches 1–5 and 8(a) & (b).

Ceramic land drains and modern drains were observed within Trenches 1, 2 and 5. A linear anomaly in the western end of the site, detected on the geophysical survey, was identified as a modern storm drain within Trench 1.

5 DISCUSSION

The field evaluation confirmed the presence of a wide field boundary [0603] and a ridge and furrow field system [0605, 0702] in the east of the site.

Furrows are present (See **Illus 1**) to the west and east of boundary [0603], suggesting that this feature may have subdivided the ridge and furrow field system creating two separate areas. The furrows seem to run parallel with [0603] suggesting they may be contemporary. The width of the excavated furrows [0605, 0702] and their regular spacing within the trenches, suggests that these are evidence for a ridge and furrow field system.

5.1 CONCLUSION

The field evaluation has largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, in identifying a field boundary ditch and a ridge and furrow field system along with modern drainage activity. The evaluation has established that it is unlikely that archaeological remains pre-dating the ridge and furrow features are present.

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7 APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1 REGISTERS

Trench register

Trench 1

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
NW-SE	50	1.6	0.45
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0100	Topsoil – dark grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones		0.00–0.14
0101	Subsoil – Light brown grey silty clay. Very slightly stony, angular stones. Rare post-medieval material within		0.14–0.24
0102	Natural – mid grey blue clay		0.24+
0103	Bands of orange yellow gravelly clay within (0102) natural variation		
0104	Modern storm drain pipe-runs N-S across centre of trench		

No archaeology present. Ceramic land drains and modern storm drain observed within.

Trench 2

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
E-W	50	1.6	0.45
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0200	Topsoil – as Tr1		0.00–0.11
0201	Subsoil – Mid grey brown clay		0.11–0.31
0202	Natural – mid yellow grey-very slightly stony, small stone inclusions		0.31+
0203	Sandy fill of drain-post medieval pottery within		
0204	Cut of drain-filled by (0203)		

No archaeology present. Ceramic land drains observed within.

Trench 3

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
NE-SW	50	1.6	0.4
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0300	Topsoil – as Tr 8(a)		0.00–0.11
0301	Subsoil – as Tr 1 (0101)		0.11–0.25
0302	Natural – as Tr 1 (0102)		0.25+
0303	Variation in natural same as (0202) Tr 2.		

No archaeology present.

Trench 4

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
E-W	50	1.6	0.45
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0400	Topsoil – as Tr 8		0.00–0.12
0401	Subsoil – as Tr 1		0.12–0.24
0402	Natural – as Tr 1 (0102)		0.24+
0403	Variation in natural as Tr1 (0103)		

No archaeology present.

Trench 5

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
NW-SE	50	1.6	0.35
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0500	Topsoil – as Tr 8 (a)		0.00–0.10
0501	Subsoil – as Tr 2		0.1–0.22
0502	Natural – as Tr 1 (0102)		
0503	Variation in natural as Tr 2		

No archaeology present. Ceramic land drains observed within.

Trench 6

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
E-W	50	1.6	0.44
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0600	Topsoil – as Tr 8(a)		0.00–0.20
0601	Subsoil – as Tr 1		0.20–0.25
0602	Natural – grey blue and light orange bands across the trench		0.25+
0603	Cut of boundary ditch, fill (0604)		
0604	Mid yellow orange clay fill of boundary ditch [0603]		
0605	Cut of furrow, fill (0606)		
0606	Mid yellow orange fill of furrow (0605)		

No archaeology present. Field boundary ditch and furrows observed within

Trench 7

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
E-W	50	1.6	0.3
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0700	Topsoil – as Tr 8(a)		0.00–0.18
0701	Subsoil – as Tr 1		0.18–0.22
0702	Cut of furrow		0.22+
0703	Mid brown grey fill of furrow		
0704	Linear – continuation of [0603]		
0705	Natural – as Tr 1 (0102)		

Ridge and furrow and field boundary observed within. No archaeology present.

Trench 8a

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
N-S	17.3	1.6	0.27
Context	**Description**		**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
0800	Topsoil – dark grey brown silty clay with occasional stones		0.0–0.20
0801	Natural – as Tr 2 (0202)		0.20+

No archaeology present.

Trench 8b

Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
N-S	50	1.6	0.23
Context	**Description**		**Thickness of deposit (m)**
0900	Topsoil – as Tr 8(a)		0.00–0.15
0901	Natural – as Tr 8(a)		0.15+

No archaeology present.

Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	–	–	01	N	Tr 8(a) plan
02	36	01	02	S	ID shot Col slide 955, B&W 957
03	35	02	03	N	Tr 8(a) plan
04	34	03	04	E	W facing section Tr 8(a)
05	33	04	05	N	Tr 8(b) plan
06	32	05	06	E	W facing section Tr 8(b)
07	31	06	07	W	Tr 7 plan
08	30	07	08	N	S facing section Tr 7
09	–	–	09	SE	Oblique shot of N facing section [0603] ditch
10	29	08	10	W	S facing section of Tr 6
11	28	09	11	W	Tr 6 plan
12	27	10	12	S	N facing section of furrow [0605]
13	26	11	13	S	N facing section of ditch [0603]
14	25	12	14	S	N facing section of ditch [0603]
15	24	13	15	S	N facing section of ditch [0603]
16	23	14	16	N	S facing section of [0703]
17	22	15	17	W	Tr 4 plan
18	21	16	18	N	Tr 4 S facing section
19	20	17	19	W	Tr 2 plan
20	19	18	20	N	Tr 2 S facing section
21	–	–	21	N	Tr 2 cracked land drain
22	18	19	22	NW	Tr 1 plan
23	17	20	23	SW	Tr 1 NE facing section
24	16	21	24	NE	Tr 3 Plan
25	15	22	25	NW	Tr 3 SE facing section
26	14	23	26	SE	Tr 5 plan
27	13	24	27	SW	Tr 5 NE facing section
28	12	25	28	W	Tr 7 plan
29	11	26	29	NW	Tr 7 – shot showing furrows
30	–	–	30	N	Tr 8(a & b) backfilled
31	–	–	31	–	Tr 4 backfilled
32	–	–	32	–	Tr 2 backfilled
33	–	–	33	–	Tr 1 backfilled

Drawing register

Drawing	Scale	Plan/Section	Description
1	1:20	Section	S facing section of furrow [0702] Tr 7
2	1:20	Section	N facing section of ditch [0603] Tr 6
3	1:20	Section	N facing section of furrow [0605] Tr 6

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