

JBAW/03



LAND OFF JACKSONS MEADOW, BIDFORD ON AVON, WARWICKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Bloor Homes

September 2014

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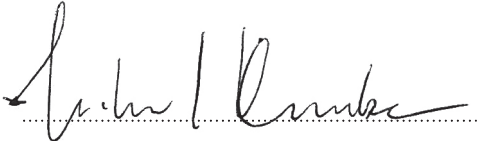
September 2014

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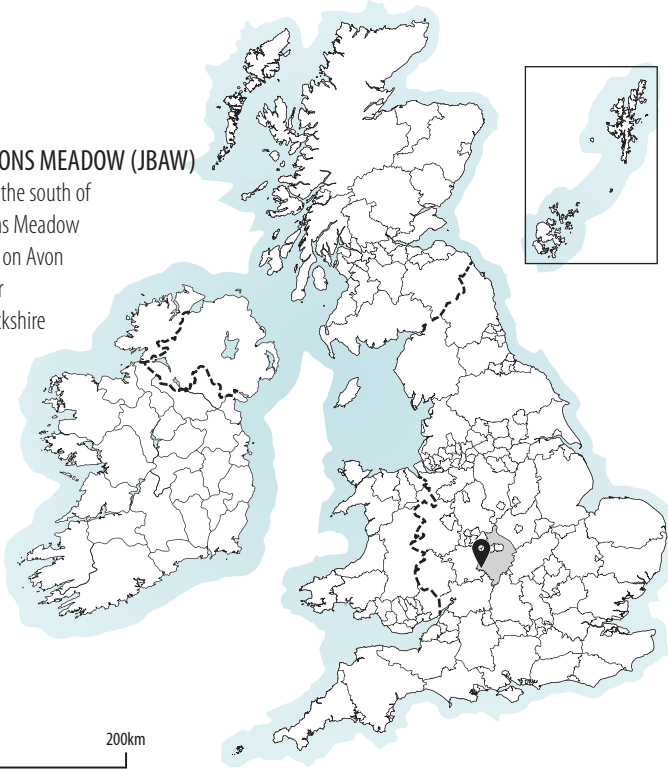
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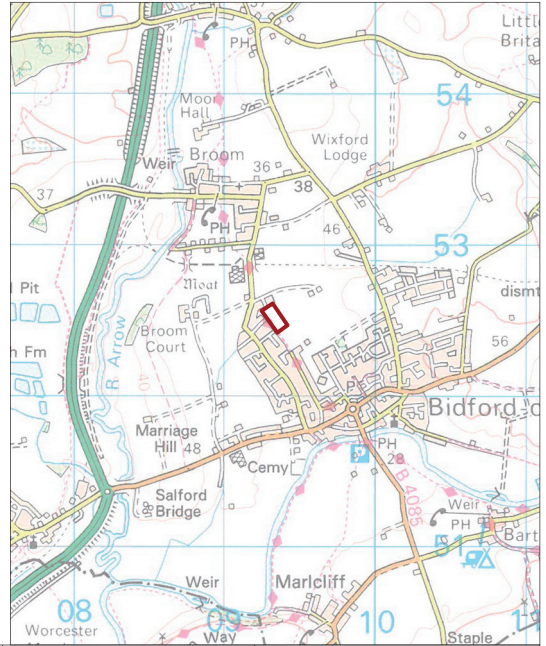
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JACKSONS MEADOW (JBAW)

land to the south of
Jacksons Meadow
Bidford on Avon
Alcester
Warwickshire



0 200km



- KEY
- development boundary
 - trench location
 - feature

N
0 50m
scale 1:1,500 @ A4



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ILLUS 1
Site location

LAND OFF JACKSONS MEADOW, BIDFORD ON AVON, WARWICKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Bloor Homes to undertake a series of trial trenches ahead of the submission of a planning application to develop the site. Two undated linear features were located and are assessed as being of low significance. No further archaeological remains were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Bloor Homes commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land off Jackson's Meadow, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire. The developer intends to submit a full planning application for a residential development on the site. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd produced the Project Design (Kimber, 2014) and submitted it for agreement from the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Anna Stocks). Work commenced on the 27th August 2014 and was completed on 29th August 2014.

The site is located on flat ground at an elevation of approximately 34m OD and is currently agricultural land. The underlying solid geology within the site comprises Mercia mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic period

Superficial deposits are recorded as consisting of Wasperton sand and gravel, formed approximately 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period, indicating a local environment previously dominated by rivers. (British Geological Survey website; (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the site was produced by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Craddock-Bennett 2014). The full results will not be repeated here; the previous work identified that evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the area is extremely limited.

The potential for previously unknown archaeological remains occurring within the development area was considered to be low. Crop marks identified to the north of the development area have not been investigated, but are potentially of prehistoric date. Remains relating to medieval or post-medieval agricultural practices are possible considering the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks to the west of the site and the cartographic history of the site as agricultural land.

On the advice of the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, a geophysical survey of the site was carried out (Bartlett 2014). The survey identified no clear evidence for archaeological activity within the site boundary and concluded that the site appeared generally undisturbed with only a few minor magnetic anomalies present.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the evaluation was 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 (following the National Planning Policy Framework). The local and regional research contexts are provided by the Archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands. Any evidence that was retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks. The results of the evaluation will be used 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



ILLUS 2

Plan shot of Trench 8 showing natural gravel deposits

ILLUS 3

S facing section of tree throw [504]

ILLUS 4

W facing section of feature [103]

128 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with The Warwickshire Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

4 METHOD

The evaluation comprised excavation of eight trenches totalling 375 linear metres equalling a 4% sample of the area. All trenches measured 1.6m width (standard machine bucket width). Trenches were arranged to provide even coverage across the site. All trenches were set-out using differential GPS.

All trenches were opened in controlled spits by a JCB type excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was be stored beside the trench; topsoil and subsoil were kept separate by putting topsoil on one side of the trench and subsoil on the other.

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. A sufficient quantity (to adequately evaluate the site) of identified features were be investigated and recorded. This involved excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m slot of linear features. Trenches were backfilled by replacing excavated materials back in the hole in reverse order of excavation; and by tamping down with the excavator as tidily as practicable.

All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. 35mm colour and black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive.



5 RESULTS

The entire site was covered with a 0.3m deep plough soil (context – 100, 200, 300 etc.). This was a mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material was found within including clay pipe, glass, ceramics, and plastic. Beneath the plough soil was a subsoil (101, 201, 301 etc.) which was a light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. This deposit varied in depth between 0.05m–0.25m and was not seen at all in Trench 8. The subsoil was cut by land drains, tree throws [504] and [803] and showed evidence of plough scarring along the top of the deposit. The subsoil sat on top of the geological horizon, a mid red brown clay sand and gravel (Illus 2).

Two tree throws were discovered in Trench 5 and Trench 8 (Illus 3). Both cuts, [504] and [803], were irregular in plan, with uneven stepped sides, a flat base and a sharp break of slope. The fills (505) and (802) were a mid blue grey silt sand with iron panning throughout, a diffuse interface and a compact, moist consistency. [504] was 1.60m in length, +0.95m in width and 0.40m deep. [803] was 0.48m in length, +0.39m wide and 0.13m deep.

Evidence for land drains were picked up in Trenches 4 and 7 with most of the channels containing post-medieval ceramic pipes. Features [103] and [303] were linear in plan, running east-west, with gently sloping sides, a rounded, uneven base and a sharp break of slope (Illus 4). They were over 1.60m in length, 0.38m wide and 0.13m deep. The fills were a dark blue grey silt sand with a clear, uneven interface and a loose, moist consistency. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature. [103] was possibly visible in the subsoil (bringing its depth to 0.40m) but this was difficult to see in section and may not have been the case.

6 CONCLUSION

The trial trenching has confirmed the broad findings of the desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey by demonstrating that the proposed development area does not contain extensive or significant archaeological remains. However, neither the field drains in Trenches 4 and 7 nor the linear features located in Trenches 1 and 3 were detected by the geophysics. This suggests that in this case ground investigation was necessary in order to complement geophysical prospection.

7 REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey <<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>>, accessed September 2014.
- Bartlett, A 2014 *Land off Jacksons Meadow, Bidford on Avon: Geophysical Survey*, Bartlett Clark Consultancy.
- Craddock-Bennett, L 2014 *Land off Jackson's Meadow, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire: Desk-based Assessment*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Photo register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	30	34	03	–	IS shot
02	29	33	04	NW	Tr3 – plan
03	28	32	05	NE	Tr3 – SW facing section
04	27	31	06	SE	Tr1 – [104], NW facing section
05	–	–	07	SE	Tr1 – [104], NW facing section
06	26	30	08	NE	Tr1 – plan
07	25	29	09	NW	Tr5 – [504]
08	24	28	10	SE	Tr5 – plan
09	23	27	11	E	Tr7 – plan
10	22	26	12	W	Tr7 – E facing section
11	21	25	13	W	Tr8 – plan
12	20	24	14	S	Tr8 – N facing section
13	19	23	15	W	Tr8 – [803]
14	18	22	16	NW	Tr6 – plan
15	17	21	17	SE	Tr6 – NW facing section
16	16	20	18	NE	Tr4 – plan
17	15	19	19	SE	Tr4 – NW facing section
18	14	18	20	NE	Tr2 – plan
19	13	17	21	SE	Tr2 – NW facing section

Context register

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
1	N-S	25	1.60	0.50
Context	Description			Thickness of deposit (m)
100	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.			0.30
101	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].			0.23
102	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.			+0.02
103	Cut of channel. Linear in plan with gently sloping sides, a rounded, uneven base and a sharp break of slope. Possibly cut through subsoil (bringing the depth to 0.40m). L:+1.60m and W:0.38m. Filled by (104).			0.13
104	Fill of [103]. Dark blue grey silt sand with a clear, uneven interface and a loose, moist consistency. No inclusions. Becomes greyer towards the base of the cut.			0.13

One channel running NE-SW at southern end of trench, possibly cut through the subsoil. No dating evidence recovered.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
2	NE-SW	50	1.60	0.50
Context	Description			Thickness of deposit (m)
200	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.			0.30
201	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].			0.15
202	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.			+0.05

No archaeology.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
3	NW-SE	50	1.60	0.40
Context	Description			Thickness of deposit (m)
300	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.			0.30
301	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].			0.16
302	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.			+0.02
303	Cut of channel. Linear in plan, unexcavated. L:+1.60m and W:0.38m. Filled by (304).			Unexcavated
304	Fill of [303]. Dark blue grey silt sand with a clear, uneven interface and a loose, moist consistency. No inclusions.			Unexcavated

One channel running E-W at NW of trench end of trench, possibly cut through the subsoil. No dating evidence recovered.



Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
4	N-S	50	1.60	0.50

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
400	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.	0.30
401	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].	0.20
402	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.	+0.20
403	Land drain – ceramic post-medieval pipe.	Unexcavated

No archaeology. Excavated to 0.80m at northern end to test the mixed looking natural, land drain [403] found at base.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
5	SE-NW	50	1.60	0.50

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
500	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.	0.30
501	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].	0.23
502	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.	+0.05
503	Plough scars.	Unexcavated
504	Cut for tree throw. Circular in plan with stepped sides, a flat base and a sharp break of slope. L:1.60m and W:+0.95m.	0.40
505	Fill of tree throw. Mid blue grey silt sand with iron panning throughout. A diffuse interface and a compact, moist consistency becoming wet at the base. No inclusions.	0.40

No archaeology but one tree throw and some plough scars were observed.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
6	NE-SW	50	1.60	0.50

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
600	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.	0.30
601	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].	0.34
602	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.	+0.05

No archaeology.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
7	NE-SW	50	1.60	0.40

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
700	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.	0.30
701	Subsoil. Light red brown clay sand with a sharp, smooth interface and a firm, moist consistency. Across whole site. Possibly cut by [103].	0.20
702	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.	+0.05
703	Land drains – post-medieval ceramic pipe	–

No archaeology. Land drains transect trench running NW-SE and NE-SW.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
8	NE-SW	50	1.60	0.40
Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)		
800	Plough soil. Mid grey brown silt sand with a clear, smooth interface and a loose, friable consistency. Post-medieval and modern material found within including glass, ceramics, and plastic. Across whole site.	0.30		
801	Natural. Mid red brown clay sand and gravel.	+0.10		
802	Fill of tree throw [803]. Mid blue grey silt sand with iron panning throughout. A diffuse interface and a compact, moist consistency becoming wet at the base. No inclusions. L:0.48m and W:0.39m.	0.13		
803	Cut of tree throw. Irregular in plan with steep sides, a flat base and sharp break of slope. L:0.48 and W:0.39.	0.13		

No archaeology. No subsoil observed in this trench.



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