

EBRW/01



# LAND TO THE EAST OF BIRMINGHAM ROAD, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

## Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd  
on behalf of Gallagher Estates

13/02542/OUT

January 2015



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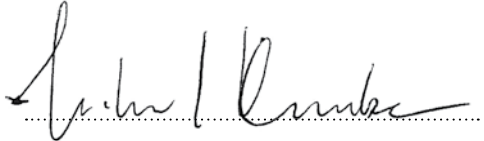
January 2015

project info

**HA JOB NO.** EBRW/01  
**HAS NO.** 1083  
**NGR** 419080 256740  
**PARISH** Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY** Warwickshire County Council  
**OASIS REF.** headland3-197192

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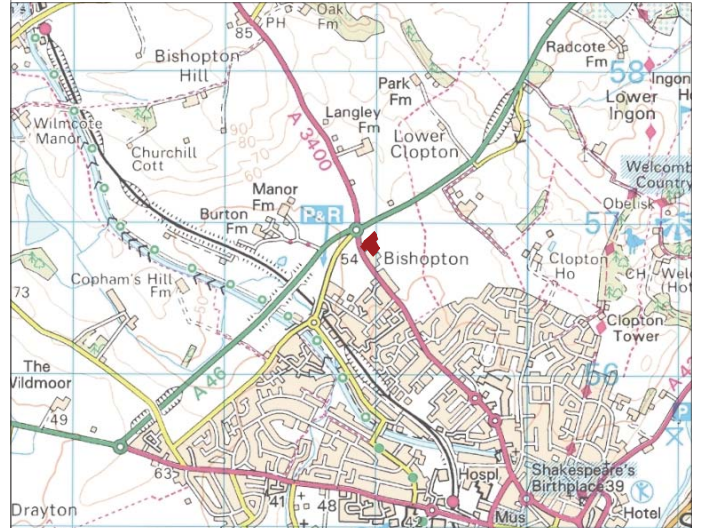
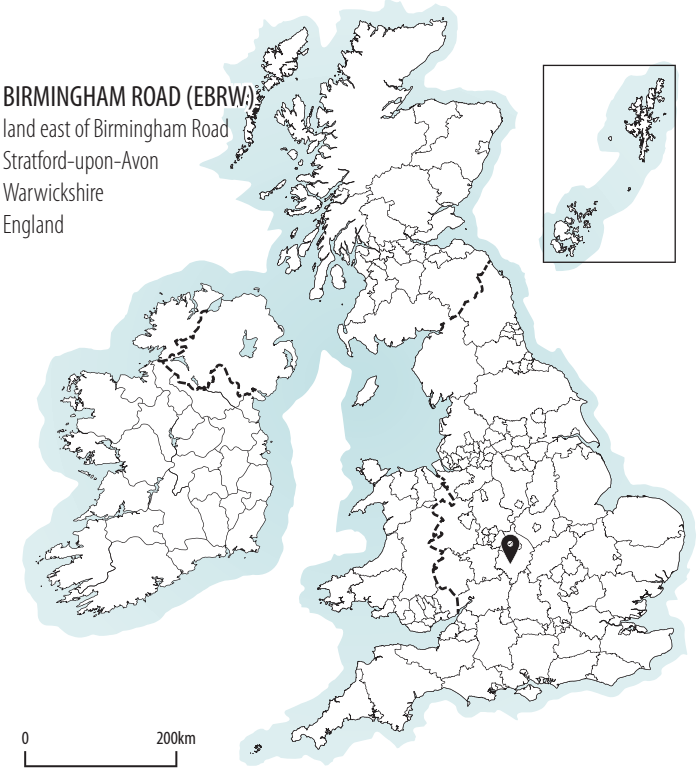
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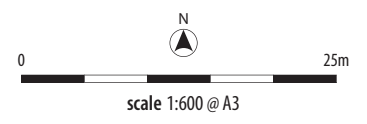
**BIRMINGHAM ROAD (EBRW)**  
 land east of Birmingham Road  
 Stratford-upon-Avon  
 Warwickshire  
 England



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- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>KEY</b>                  | <b>GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION</b> |
| development boundary        | agricultural                      |
| geophysical survey boundary | ferrous                           |
| trench location             |                                   |
| furrows                     |                                   |



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ILLUS 1  
 Site location



# LAND TO THE EAST OF BIRMINGHAM ROAD, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

## Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on an area of land in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. The evaluation confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow across the site but no earlier archaeological features were observed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on land to the east of Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. The archaeological works were undertaken to satisfy a condition placed on the land as part of the planning application (13/02542/OUT).

It was determined by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Anna Stocks, that the site had the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest. In accordance with relevant policy and best practice, the archaeological advisor requested that a field evaluation be undertaken as a first step towards satisfying the condition.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) to undertake the required works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation submitted to and agreed with the archaeological advisor on behalf of the planning authority (Kimber 2014).

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site comprises an area of land located at NGR 419080 256740 (site centre). The total development site occupies a single field measuring approximately 3ha on the northern outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The site fronts onto the east side of Birmingham Road for only a short length in the south-west and is separated from the surrounding fields by a mature hedgerows. Immediately prior to the current works the site was utilised as pasture land.

The underlying solid geology within the site comprises the Mercia Mudstone Group. No superficial deposits are recorded for the site. (British Geological Survey website; (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the site was produced by EDP (Crutchley 2013). 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; and that although more evidence of Saxon activity exists in the vicinity the proposed development area is likely to have been agricultural land for centuries.

A geophysical survey undertaken by ASWYAS (Webb 2013) found only evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture and ferrous anomalies of likely recent date.

## 2 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 enable the development by fulfilling the archaeological condition to the satisfaction of the planning authority;
- to establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development;



**ILLUS 2**

SW facing section of excavated furrow (0503)



**ILLUS 3**

Section facing SE of ridge and furrow in Trench 5

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 12 trenches totalling 600 linear metres equalling a 4% sample of the area. All trenches measured 1.8m wide (standard machine bucket width). Due to the generally negative results of the geophysical survey trenches were arranged to provide even coverage across the site and at least one profile of the potential ridge and furrow, and to avoid running length-wise along furrow bases.

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, colour slide and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

- to establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development;
- to inform the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy;
- to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

### 3 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)

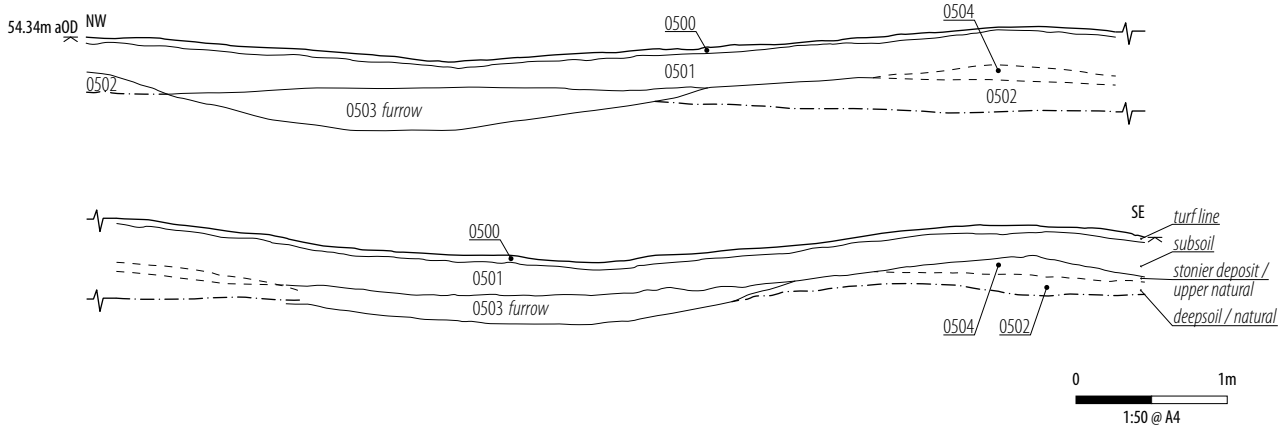
## 4 RESULTS

The location of features discussed below can be found on **Illus 1**. A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 1.

### 4.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Topsoil across the site consisted of a loose dark red brown sand clay e.g. [100, 200] measuring between 0.10m and 0.20m in depth. Across the site the topsoil was underlain by a firm mid red brown silt clay subsoil showing evidence of disturbance caused by deep ploughing e.g. [101, 301]. At an average depth of 0.30m below ground level the geological horizon was observed, a light red brown sand clay with gravel e.g. [102, 302]. A slight variation in this material was observed in Trench 3 and the north-west ends of trenches 2, 11 and 12 as there were no gravel inclusions.





ILLUS 4

Section facing SW of ridge and furrow in Trench 5

## 4.2 TRENCHES CONTAINING RIDGE AND FURROW

### Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

These trenches all contained the remains of a ridge and furrow field system which had been noted in the geophysical survey undertaken by ASWYAS (Webb 2013). The topsoil and subsoil were removed to the top of the furrows or the natural. The furrows (e.g. [203, 403] comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions and occasional post-medieval pottery, and were generally around 2-3m wide, with 3-5m spacing between furrow centres.

Trench 5 was positioned to provide a section through the profile of the upstanding ridge and furrow [Illus 4]. Three furrows were hand excavated and found to be approximately 0.20-0.30m in depth. The ridges comprised a shallow stony deposit [504] between 0.10 and 0.15m thick lying above the geological material [502]. Post-medieval field drains were noted running along two of the furrows.

## 5 DISCUSSION

Although there was some evidence for deep ploughing this field has not been intensively farmed in recent times, as evidenced by the intact ridges and furrows. Post-medieval field drains were noted running along the base of the furrows, suggesting some later land improvement.

The absence of earlier archaeological remains, along with the similarly negative results from other nearby evaluations (Mayes 2012a, Mayes 2012b), suggests that the local area was not utilised for settlement in the pre-modern period.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation has confirmed the presence of a ridge and furrow field system demonstrating that the proposed development area was used as agricultural land from the medieval period onwards.

No archaeological features were observed other than the ridge and furrow field system. Following consultation by the client's representative with the Archaeological Advisor it has been confirmed that the trial trenching work is sufficient to allow discharge of the archaeological planning condition.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2014 *British Geological Survey* [online] www.bgs.ac.uk

Crutchley, A 2013 *Land to the East of Birmingham Road, Stratford Upon-Avon: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment* The Environmental Dimension Partnership.

Mayes, S 2012a *Land to the West of Birmingham Road, Bishopton, Stratford-upon-Avon: Archaeological Evaluation* Headland Archaeology (HAS 940).

Mayes, S 2012b *Land adjacent to Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon: Archaeological Evaluation* Headland Archaeology (HAS 970).

Webb, A 2013 *Land to the East of Birmingham Road, Stratford Upon-Avon: Geophysical Survey* Archaeological Services West Yorkshire.



## 8 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

#### Trench register

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.25-0.30

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

100	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.15
101	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.10
102	Natural - Light grey brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.05

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground, trench runs along the top of a ridge.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
2	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.25-0.35

Context	Context Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	---------------------	--------------------------

200	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.15
201	Subsoil - Mid red brown silt clay, firm, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.10
202	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.05
203	Furrow - Dark grey brown silt clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	/

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
3	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.40-0.50

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

300	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.20
-----	--	------

301	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.15
-----	---	------

302	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.15
-----	--	-------

303	Furrow - Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	/
-----	---	---

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground. Trench runs along the top of a ridge.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
4	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.25-0.50

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

400	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.10
401	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.15
402	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.05
403	Furrow - Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	/

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
5	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.40-0.60

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

500	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.20
501	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.10
502	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.05
503	Furrow - Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	0.30

504 Ridge – stony deposit similar to natural situated underneath the subsoil of each ridge.

Ridge and furrow prominent on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
6	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.40-0.30

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

600 Topsoil – Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry. 0.20

601 Subsoil – Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions. 0.10

602 Natural – Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay. +0.05

Ridge and furrow prominent on the ground. Runs along the top of a ridge.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
7	N-S	50	1.80	0.25-0.40

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

700 Topsoil – Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry. 0.20

701 Subsoil – Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions. 0.10

702 Natural – Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay. +0.05

703 Furrow – Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery. /

Ridge and furrow prominent on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
8	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.35-0.40

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

800 Topsoil – Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry. 0.15

801 Subsoil – Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions. 0.15

802 Natural – Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay. +0.10

Ridge and furrow prominent on the ground. Runs along the top of a ridge.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
9	N-S	50	1.80	0.35-0.45

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

900 Topsoil – Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry. 0.20

901 Subsoil – Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions. 0.10

902 Natural – Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay. +0.05

903 Furrow – Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery. /

Ridge and furrow prominent on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
10	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.30-0.40

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
---------	-------------	--------------------------

1000 Topsoil – Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry. 0.15

1001 Subsoil – Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions. 0.10

1002 Natural – Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay. +0.10

1003 Furrow – Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery. /

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground.



TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
11	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.30-0.40

Context	Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
1100	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.10
1101	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.10
1102	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.10
1103	Furrow - Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	/

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground.

TR	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
12	N-S	50	1.80	0.25-0.30

Context	Context Description	Thickness of deposit (m)
1200	Topsoil - Dark red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry.	0.10
1201	Subsoil - Mid red brown sand clay, loose, friable, dry with occasional small-medium angular stone inclusions.	0.10
1202	Natural - Light red brown sand clay with abundant small-medium angular and rounded gravel inclusions. Occasional lenses of clay.	+0.10
1203	Furrow - Dark grey brown sand clay, moist, firm with frequent charcoal and post-medieval pottery.	/

Ridge and furrow faintly visible on the ground.

## Photo register

Photo	C/S	B+W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	36	36	263	/	ID Shot
02	35	35	264	SE	TR4-Plan
03	34	34	265	SE	TR1-Sample section
04	33	33	266	NE	TR1-plan
05	32	32	267	SW	TR2-Sample section

Photo	C/S	B+W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
06	31	31	268	NE	TR2-Plan
07	30	30	269	SE	TR3-Sample section
08	29	29	270	NE	TR3-Plan
09	28	28	271	NE	TR5-Sample section
10	27	27	272	SE	TR5-plan
11	26	26	273	NW	TR6-Sample section
12	25	25	274	SW	TR6-plan
13	/	/	275	NW	TR7-Sample section
14	24	24	276	N	TR7-Plan
15	/	/	277	SE	TR8-Sample section
16	23	23	278	SW	TR8-Plan
17	22	22	279	NW	TR9-Sample section
18	21	21	280	N	TR9-Plan
19	/	/	281	NE	TR10-Sample section
20	20	20	282	NW	TR10-plan
21	19	19	283	NW	TR11-plan
22	/	/	284	SW	TR11-Sample section
23	/	/	285	NE	TR12-Sample section
24	18	18	286	E	TR12-plan
25	/	/	287	NE	TR5-(503)
26	/	/	288	SE	TR5-(503) NWFS
27	/	/	289	NE	TR5-(503) SWFS
28	/	/	290	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
29	/	/	291	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
30	/	/	292	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
31	/	/	293	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
32	/	/	294	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
33	/	/	295	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
34	/	/	296	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
35	/	/	297	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
36	/	/	298	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
37	/	/	299	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
38	/	/	300	/	General shot of backfilled trenches
39	/	/	301	/	General shot of backfilled trenches







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