

RRNG/01



LAND NORTH OF ROSS ROAD, NEWENT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Field Evaluation

commissioned by CgMs Consulting
on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd

March 2015

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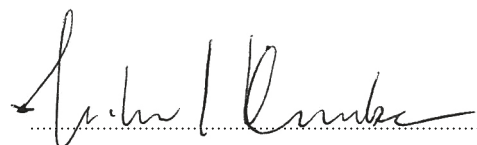
March 2015

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
	1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2	AIMS & OBJECTIVES	2
3	METHOD	2
4	RESULTS	2
	4.1 STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE	2
	Trenches containing potential archaeological deposits	4
	Trenches containing archaeological deposits	4
	Blank trenches	4
5	DISCUSSION	4
6	CONCLUSION	5
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
8	APPENDICES	6
	APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS	6
	Appendix 1.1 Trench register	6
	Appendix 1.2 Photographic register	7
	APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT	9
	Appendix 2.1 Recommendations	9
	Appendix 2.2 Finds catalogue	9

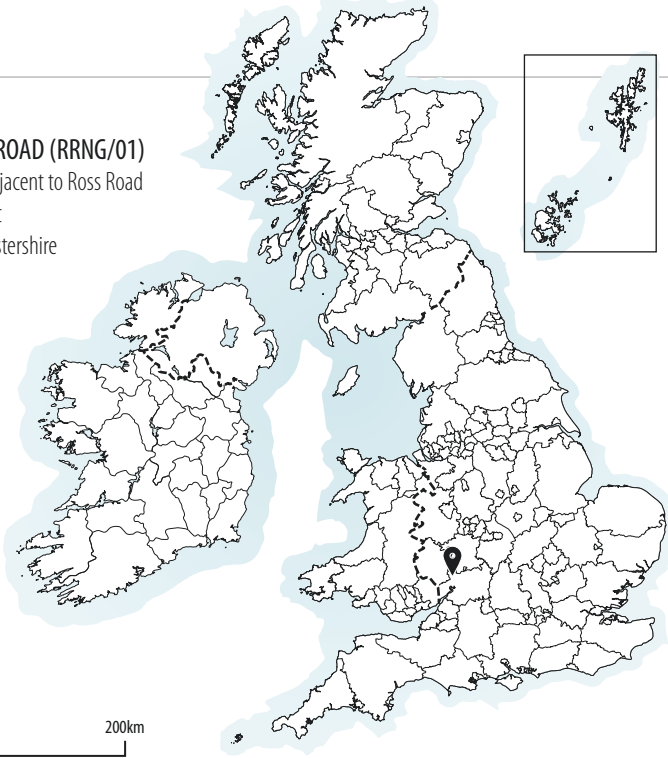
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1		VI
Site location		
ILLUS 2		3
Trench 1, showing section containing geological anomaly identified as potential archaeology by the geophysical survey		
ILLUS 3		3
General view of Trench 2		
ILLUS 4		3
General view of Trench 8 showing the sondage and extent of [0806]		
ILLUS 5		3
Sample section of Trench 8		
ILLUS 6		4
SE facing section showing natural depression with (0803) and (0804)		

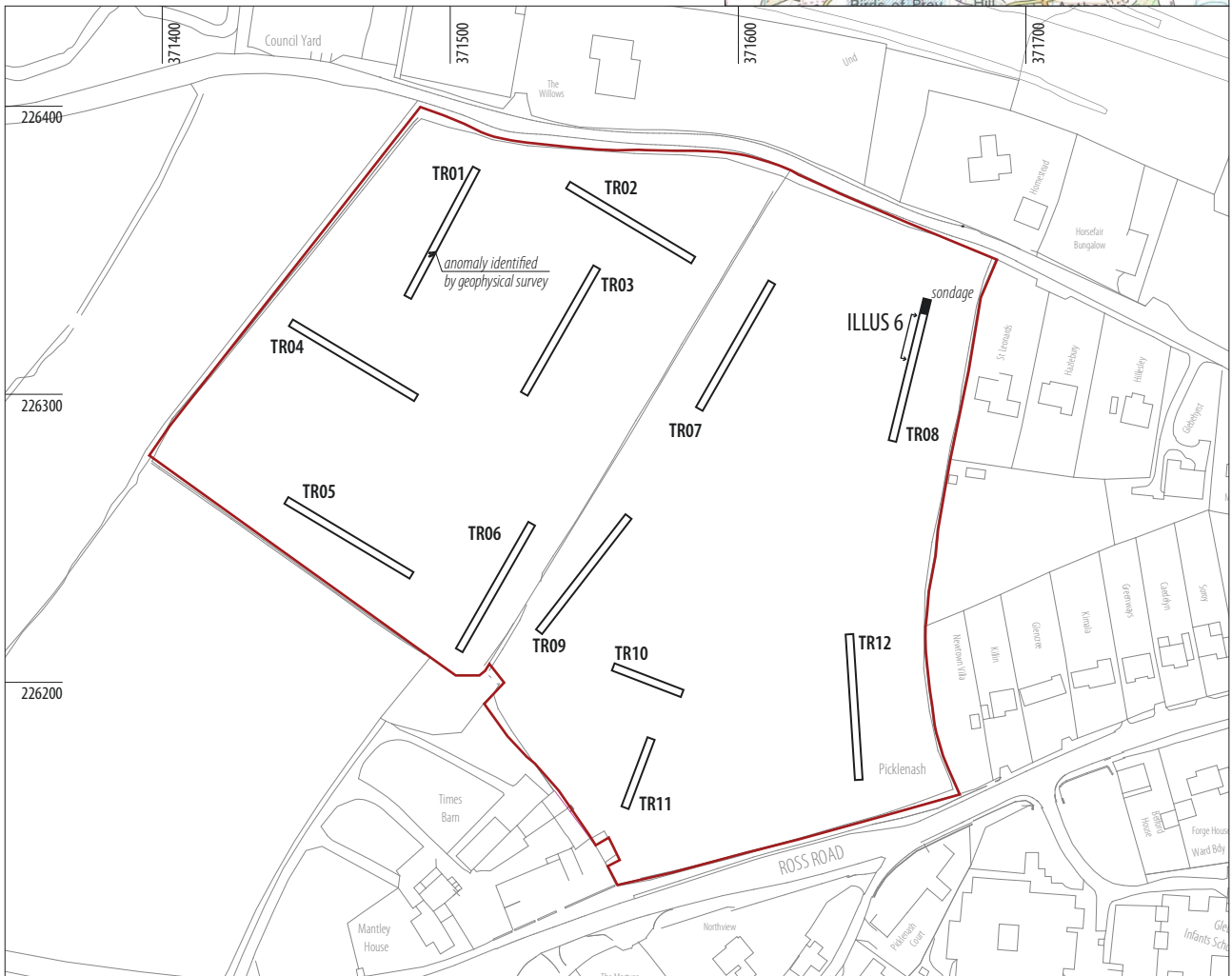
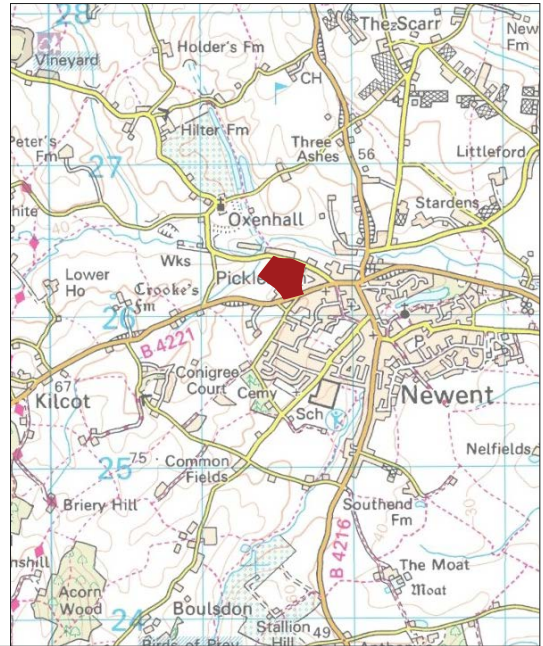
LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1		9
Assemblage summary by context		

ROSS ROAD (RRNG/01)
land adjacent to Ross Road
Newent
Gloucestershire



0 200km



KEY
 development boundary
 trench location

0 125m
 N
 scale 1:2,500 @ A4

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ILLUS 1
 Site location

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LAND NORTH OF ROSS ROAD, NEWENT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Field Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological field evaluation on a parcel of land north of Ross Road, Newent, Gloucestershire ('the site'), as part of a programme of archaeological works commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd ('the Developer'). The purpose of the works was to enable an informed decision on a planning application for the development of the land for residential use.

12 trial trenches were opened across the area of proposed development impact. The majority of the evaluation trenches contained no features of archaeological interest however a naturally formed feature was identified within Trench 8 containing medieval pottery; the identified pottery is thought to be most likely the result of the unstructured deposition of domestic waste and therefore unlikely to yield significant information through analysis.

The significance of the archaeological remains located is therefore assessed as low.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by CgMs (acting on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on a site north of Ross Road, Newent, Gloucestershire. The client has submitted a planning application for the development of the site, forming a residential development of up to 85 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and associated development infrastructure.

A geophysical survey was conducted on the site in 2014 of which the preliminary results indicated the presence of a single positive anomaly (Davies 2014). The archaeological advisor to the Forest of Dean District Council (Mr Charles Parry) requested that a programme of archaeological trial trenching be undertaken on the site in order to assess its archaeological potential, including the potential feature identified by the geophysical survey, and allow an informed recommendation on the planning application.

A Written Scheme of Investigation for the project was prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Craddock-Bennett 2015) and approved by the archaeological advisor to the Forest of Dean District Council. The archaeological field evaluation was undertaken between the 23rd and 26th of February 2015.

1.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development site (**Illus 1**) comprises a 4.9ha area of land located at NGR: 371550, 226262

(site centre), north of the B4221, Ross Road and comprises two large hedged fields currently under pasture.

The fields undulate steeply from a high point at Ross Road (45m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) in the southeast, down to the centre of the eastern most field (35m AOD) before rising again to the west. The proposed development site is bound to the north by Horsefair Lane, to the east by residential properties and to the south by Ross Road and Mantley House farm and agricultural fields. The west of the study site is formed by another field boundary beyond which is further agricultural land.

The solid geology of the proposed development site comprises sandstone of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation and in two zones, one across the higher ground in the centre and a second area along the southern edge of the site bedrock is formed by mudstone also of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation.

No superficial deposits are recorded for the proposed development site, but alluvium is recorded to the immediate west following a



fault line and stream (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/> data accessed 04/03/2015).

The overlying soils are known as Bromsgrove which are typical brown earths. These consist of 'a well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils over sandstone' (<http://www.ukso.org> data accessed 04/03/2015)

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development site was prepared by CgMs Consulting in May 2014 (Gidman 2014). The results are summarised below:

The archaeological desk-based assessment identified 'low potential for any archaeological evidence within the site' and stated that 'There are no known archaeological assets within or in close proximity to the study site'.

The desk based assessment concluded that the proposed development site is 'likely to have remained an area of woodland until cleared for agricultural purposes in either the late Medieval or early Post-Medieval period'.

A geophysical survey was subsequently undertaken by Stratascan in September 2014 (Davies 2014) at the request of CgMs Consulting. The preliminary results indicated the presence of a single positive anomaly (illus 1), possibly revealing the presence of a 'pit like' feature.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the field evaluation were:

- 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 proposed development area (following the National Planning Policy Framework);
- to assess the results of the 2014 geophysical survey ;
- to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- to inform formulation of further measures, if required, to mitigate impacts of proposed development on surviving archaeological remains; and
- to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Tewkesbury Museum Service.

The results of the evaluation will enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

3 METHOD

A specification for trial trenching outlining the proposed methodology for the archaeological field evaluation was produced

by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Craddock-Bennett 2015). This document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the archaeological advisor to the Forest of Dean District Council.

The archaeological field evaluation comprised the excavation of approximately 2% of the 4.9ha of the proposed development area, equating to 10 x 50m long trenches and 2 x 25m long trenches, totalling 550 linear metres.

All trenches were excavated by a tracked excavator equipped with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Trench 01 was targeted to investigate an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey and Trenches 09 and 10 were repositioned to avoid underground services at the request of the landowner.

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 primarily undertaken by hand to a sufficient degree to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation except for Trench 8 where the depth of overburden necessitated in a sondage being excavated by machine with the agreement of the archaeological advisor in order to examine the stratigraphy.

All contexts were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma record cards. 35mm colour transparencies 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 but will not form part of the site archive.

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

4 RESULTS

Full trench descriptions are given in Appendix 1 and the finds assessment is included as Appendices 2 and 3. The following results section summarises the archaeological resource observed across the proposed development area and identifies the features of archaeological importance.

4.1 STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

Deposit composition was generally consistent across the site although depths varied considerably in relation to the topography. A mid brown silty sand topsoil deposit with a grey hue e.g. [0101, 0201] between 0.22m and 0.26m in depth overlay a mid-orangey/pinky brown silty sand subsoil deposit measuring between 0.21m and 0.65m in depth e.g. [0102, 0202]. Geological deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.44m and 2.2m (Trench 08) and



ILLUS 2

Trench 1, showing section containing geological anomaly identified as potential archaeology by the geophysical survey

ILLUS 3

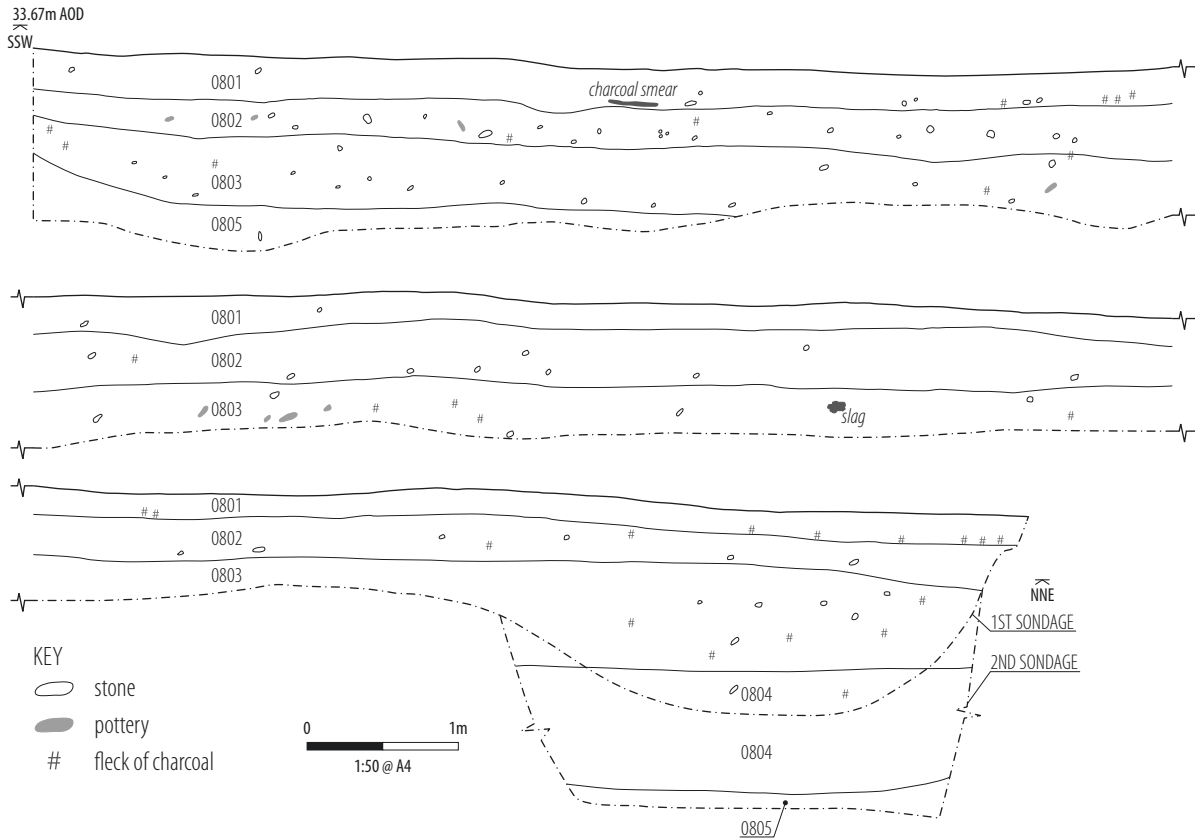
General view of Trench 2

ILLUS 4

General view of Trench 8 showing the sondage and extent of [0806]

ILLUS 5

Sample section of Trench 8



ILLUS 6

SE facing section showing natural depression with (0803) and (0804)

generally consisted of a mid-orange silty sand with a brown hue e.g. [0103, 0203], but also intermixed with firmer reddish brown clayey sand, and orangey brown clayey sand deposits e.g. [1203, 1103].

Trenches containing potential archaeological deposits

Trench 01

Trench 01 was positioned to target the positive anomaly identified in the geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Davies 2014) (illus 1). Excavation revealed no archaeological features, however a relatively large patch of degraded sandstone in the geological subsoil (0103) (illus 2) was observed at the location of the possible archaeological anomaly.

Trenches containing archaeological deposits

Trench 08

Trench 08 was located at the lowest point of the proposed development site within a natural hollow and water run off point. The trench contained a large natural feature or hollow ([0806]) within the geological subsoil [0805] that measured approximately 20m in length from the northern end of the trench with a maximum depth from ground level of 2.2m.

Within [0806] two fills were identified ([0803], [0804]) that contained abraded pottery dating to the 13th – 14th centuries. No other features of archaeological significance were observed within Trench 08.

Blank trenches

There was no evidence for archaeological activity in Trenches 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 09, 10, 11, 12 (illus 1).

5 DISCUSSION

The majority of the evaluation trenches contained no evidence of archaeological activity. Within Trench 08 was a large natural feature, formed by the topography of the site sloping from down from the south towards the northern end of the evaluation trench.

The nature of the pottery that was observed within [0806] was generally abraded in appearance, this and its position in a naturally silted hollow suggests that it was transported to this location. This may have been the result of natural or semi-natural processes, for example colluviation assisted by plough erosion. From the results observed within the remaining evaluation trenches up-slope of Trench 08 it is unclear as to where the pottery originated from – apparently not from archaeological features within the site. It is most likely to have derived from manuring on the fields in the medieval or post-medieval period.

The targeted trench (Trench 01) revealed only at the location of the geophysical anomaly a large area of naturally degrading sandstone that related to a natural change in the subsoil geology at the point where the above ground topography changed i.e. the crest of the hill. No indication of any archaeological activity was associated

with this change in geology. Therefore the geophysical survey appears to have provided a reasonably accurate picture of the low archaeological potential of the site.

6 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has met its objectives by confirming the low archaeological potential of the site. The available evidence appears to support the conclusions of the desk-based assessment, that the site has had a recent agricultural character, with little evidence for human activity earlier than the medieval period.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 'Ross Road, Newent, Gloucestershire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation', Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

Davies, R 2014 'Geophysical Survey Report: Land North off Ross Road Newent, Gloucestershire', Stratascan Report J7358.

Gidman, J 2014 'Land off Ross Road, Newent, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment', CgMs Consulting. Ref: JG/16064.



8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

TR01	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0101	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.24
0102	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.24–0.45
0103	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand (degraded sandstone), very friable with slightly firmer clayey patches towards SW trench end, occasional small-medium sub-angular sandstone.	0.45+

TR02	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.8

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0201	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.25
0202	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.25–0.9
0203	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand	0.9+

TR03	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.65

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0301	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.25
0302	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.25–0.66
0303	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand (degraded sandstone), very friable, occasional small-medium sub-angular sandstone.	0.66+

TR04	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.5

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0401	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.23
0402	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.23–0.45
0403	Subsoil – mid yellowy brown, silty sand, very friable, moist/damp, occasional small pebble.	0.45–0.7
0404	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand (degraded sandstone), very friable, occasional small-medium sub-angular sandstone.	0.7+

TR05	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.6

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
501	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.23
502	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.23–0.6
503	Geological subsoil – NW half of trench: dark reddish brown, clayey sand, and silty sand, firm but friable, very occasional sandstone.	0.6+

TR06	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.65

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0601	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.26
0602	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.26–0.78
0603	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand (degraded sandstone), very friable, occasional small-	0.78+

TR07	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.7

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0701	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.26
0702	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.26–0.7
0703	Geological subsoil – mid brownish orange, silty sand, patches of darker orangey/pinky brown silty sand (degraded sandstone), very friable, occasional small-medium sub-angular sandstone.	0.7+

TR08	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NNE-SSW	50	1.80	0.85

Context.	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
0801	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, silty sand, patches of yellow/white builders sand at NNE trench end, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.2
0802	Subsoil – mid pinkish brown, silty sand, very friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal, abraded pottery.	0.2–0.36
0803	Deposit - mid orangey brown, silty sand, gradual/wavy interface, friable, moist, very occasional small sub rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal, pottery.	0.36–1.06
0804	Deposit - mid greyish brown, silty sand, gradual/wavy interface, friable, moist, very occasional small sub rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	1.06–2.2
0805	Geological subsoil – mid brown orange, silty sand, pinkish brown clayey sand patches, firm but friable, occasional sandstone.	2.2+
0806	Natural hollow or depression within the landscape, approximately 20m in length from the northern end of the trench. Filled by 803, 804	

TR09	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	50	1.80	0.80

Context.	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
1001	Topsoil – light greyish brown, silty sand, friable moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.25
1002	Subsoil – mid orangey brown, silty sand, friable, moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.25–0.95
1003	Geological subsoil - dark reddish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, no inclusions.	0.95+

TR10	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	25	1.80	0.8

Context.	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
1001	Topsoil – light greyish brown, silty sand, friable moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.2
1002	Subsoil – mid orangey brown, silty sand, friable, moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.2–0.52
1003	Geological subsoil – mid reddish brown, clayey sand, with light brown sandy patches (degraded sandstone), firm but friable, moist, moderate degraded sandstone.	0.52+

TR11	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N	25	1.80	0.6

Context.	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
1101	Topsoil – light greyish brown, silty sand, friable moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.22
1102	Subsoil – mid orangey brown, silty sand, friable, moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.22–0.58
1103	Geological subsoil – SW trench end: mid brown orange, silty sand, pinkish brown clayey sand patches, firm but friable, moist, occasional sandstone.	0.58+

TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N-S	50	1.80	0.6

Context.	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
1201	Topsoil – light greyish brown, silty sand, friable moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.0–0.22
1202	Subsoil – mid orangey brown, silty sand, friable, moist, very occasional very small sub-rounded stone, occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.22–0.44
1203	Geological subsoil – S trench end: light orangey brown, silty sand, friable, moist, very occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.44+

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B+W	Digital	Direction	Description
01	36	36	01	–	ID shot
02	35	35	02	NE	Trench 01 plan
03	34	34	03	SE	Trench 01 section - showing positive geophysical anomaly
04	33	33	04	SE	Trench 02 plan
05	32	32	05	SW	Trench 02 section
06	31	31	06	NE	Trench 03 plan
07	30	30	07	NW	Trench 03 section
08	29	29	08	NW	Trench 04 plan
09	28	28	09	NE	Trench 04 section
10	27	27	10	SW	Trench 05 plan
11	26	26	11	NE	Trench 05 section
12	25	25	12	NW	Trench 06 plan
13	24	24	13	NE	Trench 06 section



Photo	C/S	B+W	Digital	Direction	Description
14	23	23	14	SW	Trench 07 section
15	22	22	15	NE	Trench 07 plan
16	21	21	—	WNW	Trench 08 sondage section
17	20	20	16	N	Trench 12 plan
18	19	19	17	W	Trench 12 section A
19	18	18	18	E	Trench 12 section B
20	17	17	19	N	Trench 11 plan
21	16	16	20	E	Trench 11 section
22	15	15	21	W	Trench 10 plan
23	14	14	22	S	Trench 10 section
24	13	13	23	N	Trench 09 plan
25	12	12	24	—	Trench 09 section
26	11	11	25	WNW	Trench 08 sondage section
27	—	—	26	WNW	Trench
28	10	10	27	SSW	Trench
29	09	09	28	N	Oblique section of natural hollow (0803) (0804)
30	08	08	29	WNW	Trench
31	—	—	30	N	Trench
32	—	—	31	WNW	Trench
33	—	—	32	SSW	Trench
34	—	—	33	NNE	Trench
35	—	—	34	SW	Trench
36	—	—	35	NW	Trench
37	—	—	36	NW	Trench
38	—	—	37	NW	Trench
39	—	—	38	NW	Trench
40	—	—	39	NW	Trench
41	—	—	40	SSW	Trench
42	—	—	41	SW	Trench
43	—	—	42	NE	General site shot - plant, portaloos and entrance

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

JANE TIMBY, JULIE FRANKLIN

The assemblage numbered 11 sherds (86g) of pottery, 7 sherds (35g) of ceramic building material and a single lump of ironworking waste. Finds derived from only two contexts (0802, 0803), both within Trench 8. Where diagnostic of date, the finds are all medieval. A summary of the assemblage is shown below, while a complete catalogue is given at the end of the report.

Context	Pottery (Medi)		CBM		Industrial Waste		Dating
	Count	Wgt	Count	Wgt	Count	Wgt	
0802	3	13	6	30	–	–	12
0803	8	73	1	5	1	88	13
Total	11	86	7	35	1	88	

TABLE 1

Assemblage summary by context

The pottery is in poor condition with quite well-fragmented sherds, some quite abraded. The ceramic building material (CBM) is also in a poor, very degraded, condition. The eleven sherds of pottery all appear to be from locally made products. Most of the sherds are from jars / cooking pots with one single piece from a decorated glazed jug. Identifiable wares include Cotswold limestone-tempered ware, Herefordshire Border ware, Hereford sandy ware and Worcester sandy ware. The latter features as the glazed jug which has roller-stamped decoration and a worn glaze. Overall the sherds suggest a date in the 13–14th century.

The seven pieces of ceramic building material are small and abraded with no diagnostic features. Their association with pottery of medieval date suggests they are also likely to be of this date. The single piece of iron slag may suggest ironworking in the vicinity during the medieval period.

While the finds seem to suggest that deposits (802) and (803) are 13th-14th century in date, the assemblage is very small and the sherds small and abraded, hence any dating evidence derived from them should be used with caution.

Appendix 2.1 Recommendations

The assemblage is too small to warrant further work unless additional material is recovered from the same locality in which case it should be added into any overview.

Appendix 2.2 Finds catalogue

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date	Period
0802	6	30	CBM	Fragments	frags	–	–
0802	1	3	Pottery (Medi)	Cotswold limestone-tempered	body - jar	12th-14th	Medi
0802	2	10	Pottery (Medi)	sand & limestone tempered	body - jar	12th-14th	Medi
0803	1	5	CBM	Fragments	frag	–	–
0803	3	10	Pottery (Medi)	Herefordshire Border ware	body/base	14th-15th	Medi
0803	3	47	Pottery (Medi)	Hereford sandy ware	rim / base - jar	12th-14th	Medi
0803	1	6	Pottery (Medi)	Herefordshire Border ware	rim - jar	13th-15th	Medi
0803	1	10	Pottery (Medi)	Worcester glazed ware	body - jug	13th-15th	Medi
0803	1	88	Industrial Waste	Iron Slag	dense lump	–	–



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