

TACH/02



LAND TO THE REAR OF TEMPLEFIELDS, ANDOVERSFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by The Maintenance Trust of the Whittington Court Estate

March 2015

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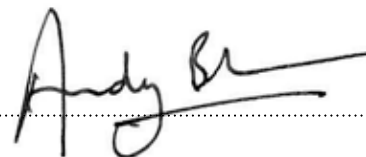
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LAND TO THE REAR OF TEMPLEFIELDS, ANDOVERSFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench field evaluation on a plot of land in Andoversford, Gloucestershire. The evaluation identified evidence for ridge and furrow field systems in the north-east of the site, but no finds or features of an earlier date were identified in this area. Away from the ridge and furrow no finds or features were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land to the rear of Templefields, Andoversford, Gloucestershire. The archaeological works, commissioned by The Maintenance Trust of the Whittington Court Estate and its successors in title to the land, relate to the registered planning application for the proposed development of the site.

The archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council, Mr Charles Parry, advised 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 in order to provide sufficient information to allow the consideration of the planning submission.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Whittington Court Estate to undertake the required works in accordance with a project design agreed with the archaeological advisor (Boucher 2015).

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site (**Illus 1**) comprises an area of land located at NGR 401895 219205 (site centre). The total development site occupies four fields measuring approximately 5ha in size within the village of Andoversford, Gloucestershire.

The site is located on the north side of Gloucester Road and just to the east of its junction with the A40. The site is bound to the south-east and south-west by residential developments, to the south by

playing fields, to the east and north by pasture land and to the north east by a 19th century railway embankment.

The site is at its highest to the south-east falling gently to the north and north-west continually across the site, although to the west the topography does gradually rise after a depression in the land that runs on a north-east to south-west alignment. Immediately prior to the current works the site was used for pasture.

The underlying geology of the site lies close to the boundary between the Whitby Mudstone Formation (to the east) and the Birdlip Limestone Formation (to the west). A finger of alluvium runs north-south at the east end of the site, and a thin band of Head runs near to the northern boundary of the survey area (BGS 2015). The soils in this area are classified in the Elmton 1 association, characterised as shallow, well drained brashy, calcareous, fine loams over limestone (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

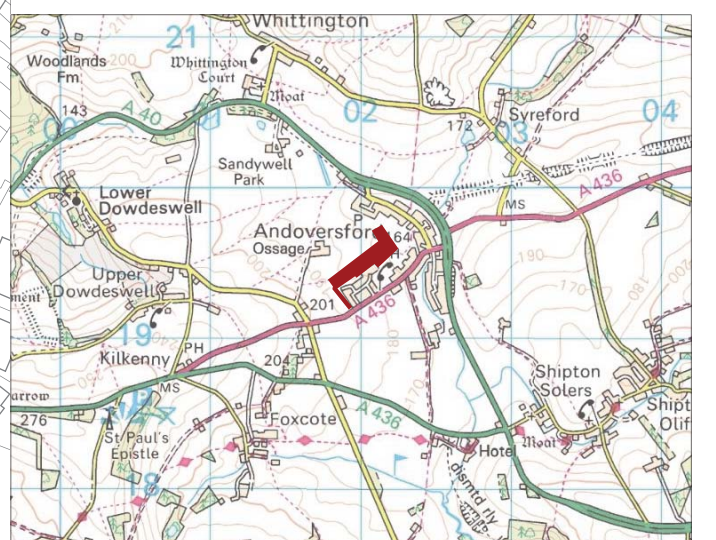
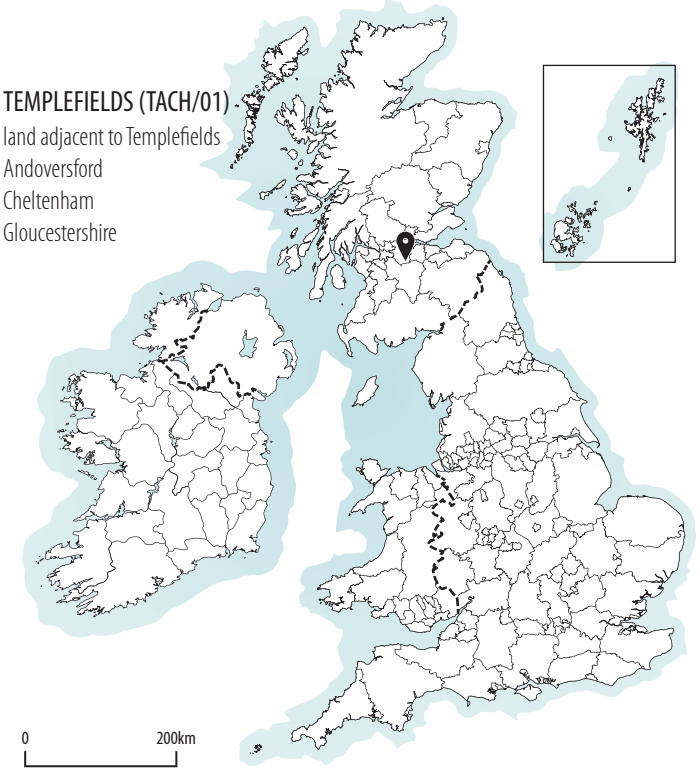
1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

From the HER comes the following entry for a significant Roman site that lies to the east of the proposal area: 'The Roman small town at Wycomb comprises an area of approximately 10 hectares within which significant evidence for Roman settlement has been recognised from excavations and aerial photographs. Wycomb is the name of the field in which the Roman settlement lies, and is thought to be derived from the Latin 'victus'. The site lies approximately 250m south of the village of Syreford and immediately to the north east of the village of Andoversford. The recorded area of settlement is divided into two distinct zones by the line of the 19th century

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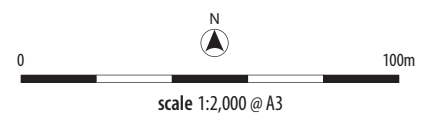
TEMPLEFIELDS (TACH/01)
 land adjacent to Templefields
 Andoversford
 Cheltenham
 Gloucestershire



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KEY
 [Red line] development boundary
 [Black line] trench location



ILLUS 1
 Site location

railway embankment, which stands to about 6m in height. Remains survive beneath this embankment however, and the area is included in the scheduling. The land on either side of the embankment is relatively level rising to a gentle slope in the north eastern corner near Syreford Farm. The western extent of the settlement is defined by the River Coln, while to the east the land rises to form a broad valley within which the settlement is contained.'

To the east of the site are listed buildings associated with Manor Farm with three other listed structures lying to the south of the site.

Ridge and furrow is present within the eastern part of the survey site.

Inspection of historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping shows that over the past 160 years the PDA has not altered.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the implication of the development proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following the National Planning Policy Framework).

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- assess the nature of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;
- provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- produce a site archive for deposition with Gloucester Museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)
- Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)

The evaluation comprised the excavation of nine 50m long trenches and one 100m long trench, all trenches measuring 1.6m in width. This varied from the strategy set out in the WSI as there were a number of on-site complications that arose following its agreement. Principally the access road to the site was too narrow to allow for the delivery of the size of excavator that was originally planned, as such a smaller excavator with a narrower bucket of 1.6m rather than 1.8m was used. To rectify the changes to trench size that occurred one trench was extended enabling the correct excavated percentage to be achieved.

There were minor trench changes in regards to their positioning due to the presence of overhead cables and buried services in

three of the four fields. The length of the trenches was however not affected.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil/upper subsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. Due to safety reasons regarding the depth of excavation Trench 10 was not excavated to the natural geology all the way across its length. A small dry valley which the trench transected that contained a thick deposit of colluvium, the underlying geological deposit was reached either side of this deposit and the colluvium at the edges of the dry valley was excavated until a depth of 1.30m was reached. The depth of excavation was then raised to a safe depth for the remainder of the trench.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 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 (**Illus 2**).

4 RESULTS

The location of features discussed below can be found on **Illus 2**. A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 1.

4.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

The geology of the site changed from east to west, on the higher ground to the west ooidal limestone was present in Trench 10 and encountered between 0.25m below ground level (BGL) at the highest point and a depth of 1.3m BGL in a small dry valley (**Illus 3**). Trenches 1–9 each contained drift deposits overlying the bedrock geology with the highest concentration visible at the lowest part of the site in Trenches 3 and 4. Here high concentrations of gravel were present in the natural clay. Further up the slope the natural became slightly better sorted with stones becoming smaller and fewer yet still sat in a clay matrix e.g. [802, 902] (**Illus 4**). In these nine trenches the geological deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.29m and 0.65m BGL and consisted of a light yellow-orange clay with the abundance of stones present increasing from west to east. Subsoil deposits were encountered between 0.1m and 0.47m BGL and comprised a silty clay but varied across site in colour, from a light orange-brown at the highest and lowest points of the site e.g. [1001, 301], to a light yellow-orange in the centre of the site e.g. [501, 701] (**Illus 5**). Stones found in the subsoil increased in quantity and size the further north and down slope. Topsoil was consistently a dark-mid brown silty clay e.g. [700, 800] between 0.1m–0.25m in thickness.



ILLUS 2

S facing section of Trench 10



ILLUS 3

S facing section of Trench 8



ILLUS 4

W facing section of Trench 7

In the south-west of the site there was a small dry valley running NNE-SSW, a deposit of red-brown silty clay colluvium between was present at its base. The upper 1.05m of the colluvium was excavated, but it continued to descend deeper, the full depth of the dry valley was not determined (Illus 6).

4.2 TRENCHES CONTAINING RIDGE AND FURROW

Evidence for ridge and furrow field systems was identified in two trenches (5 and 6), both situated in the north eastern area of the site. The ridge and furrow in Trench 5 ran north-east – south-west while in Trench 6 the furrows ran from south-east – north-west, despite the opposing directions they are very similar in size, probably reflecting different field divisions of the same period. Undulations were noted in the topsoil and subsoil deposits, but no impact of furrows into the underlying geological deposits was visible. Above ground the furrows measured between 5.68m–6.03m in width and 0.09m–0.12m in depth (Illus 7). A large difference in depths of subsoil between ridge and furrow was noted - 0.43m of subsoil in a ridge to 0.23 in a furrow (Illus 8).

4.3 TRENCH CONTAINING POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOSITS

Beneath the colluvium deposit in Trench 10 several possible small palaeochannels were visible cutting into the natural at the base of a small dry valley (see Illus 5). These varied in width and were investigated but once identified as not archaeological were not excavated further. There was no evidence of organic preservation or associated human activity.

ILLUS 5

NE facing section of colluvium deposit (1004)

ILLUS 6

Trench 5 with ridge and furrow

ILLUS 7

NE facing section of ridge and furrow through Trench 5



4.4 BLANK TRENCHES

With the exception of land drains, no features or significant deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9.

5 DISCUSSION

The location of furrows associated with ridge and furrow field systems shows a strong correlation with the results of the geophysical survey in Field 4 with more ridge and furrow picked up in Trench 5 (not visible in the geophysical survey but present on aerial photography). It is also visible on the aerial photography that the modern field boundaries no longer follow their medieval predecessors as can be seen at the south east of the site with the continuation of ridge and furrow through a modern boundary. The ridge and furrow at the far eastern end of the development area coupled with a lower topography helps to support a greater quantity of ground water than in the western and central parts of the site. The limestone present not far below the ground surface in the south west of the proposed development area also provides better drainage for that particular area.

The identification of possible agricultural anomalies (as identified by the survey) has been less successful. Linear anomalies identified in the location of Trenches 2 and 8 were not identified during field evaluation.

The presence of the ridge and furrow together with the absence of any significant archaeological deposits or truncation of features beneath the ridge and furrow suggests that the land use has been one of agricultural and not occupational activity.



6 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation identified the presence of ridge and furrow field systems to the east of the site, but no finds or features of an earlier date were found in this area. Away from the ridge and furrow no archaeological features were visible.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 2015 [online] www.bgs.ac.uk.

Boucher, A 2015 *Land at to the rear of Templefields, Andoversford, Gloucestershire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Project code: TACH15/01.

Webb, A 2015 *Land North of Templefields, Andoversford, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Report*, Project code: TACH15/01.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

TR01 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
100	Topsoil. Mid brown-orange, silty clay, friable. Occasional small rounded stone inclusions throughout.	0.00–0.25m
101	Subsoil. Light orange clay, friable. Frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.25–0.53m
102	Natural. Light orange clay, firm. Occasional medium sized angular stones throughout.	0.53m+

Summary: No archaeology present, field drain at north-western end of trench running N-S. Sondage excavated at south-western end of trench to confirm natural.

TR02 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
200	Topsoil. Mid brown-orange, silty clay, friable. Occasional small rounded stone inclusions throughout.	0.00–0.17m
201	Subsoil. Light yellow-orange silty clay, friable. Occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.17–0.46m
202	Natural. Light yellow-orange clay, friable. Occasional small angular stones throughout.	0.46m+

Summary: No archaeological features of deposits identified, no field drains.

TR03 Dimensions: 30m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
300	Topsoil. Mid brown-orange silty clay, friable. Occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.1m
301	Subsoil. Light orange-brown silty clay, occasional small rounded stones at northern end of trench.	0.1–0.35m
302	Natural. Light orange clay, plastic. Frequent angular stones at northern end of trench.	0.35m+

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified.

TR04 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
400	Topsoil. Mid brown-orange silty clay, friable. Occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.15m
401	Subsoil. Light orange-brown silty clay, occasional small rounded stones at northern end of trench.	0.15–0.38m
402	Natural. Light orange clay, plastic. Frequent angular stones at northern end of trench.	0.38m

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified.

TR05 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
500	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.17m
501	Subsoil. Light yellow-orange silty clay, plastic. Frequent small stones throughout.	0.17–0.43m
502	Natural. Light yellow-orange clay, plastic. Frequent small and medium sized angular stones throughout.	0.43m+

Summary: Two furrows visible in section at north-western end of trench, neither cut natural deposits. Single field drain present at south-eastern end of trench running N-S.

TR06 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
600	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.18m
601	Subsoil. Light yellow-orange silty clay, plastic. Frequent small stones throughout.	0.18–0.65m
602	Natural. Light orange clay with grey hue. Plastic. Frequent small and medium angular stones throughout.	0.65m+

Summary: Four furrows visible in section along trench, none cut natural deposits. Single field drain present at eastern end of trench running NW-SE.

TR07 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
700	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.16m
701	Subsoil. Light yellow-orange clay, plastic. Frequent small stones throughout.	0.16–0.39m
703	Natural. Light yellow-orange clay, plastic. Occasional small angular stones throughout.	0.39m+

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified. Single field drain at south-eastern end of trench running N-S.

TR08 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m		
Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
800	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay, friable. Occasional very small rounded stones throughout.	0.00–0.15m
801	Subsoil. Mottled orange-brown silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.15–0.25m
802	Natural. Orange-blueish grey mixed clay. Rare medium sized angular stones.	0.25m+



Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified. Two field drains, first present at north-western end of trench, running east. Second south-east of centre running N-E.

TR09 Dimensions: 50m x 1.6m

Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
900	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay, friable. Occasional very small round stones throughout.	0.00–0.12m
901	Subsoil. Mottled orange-brown silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.12–0.33m
902	Natural. Light yellow-orange clay, plastic. Occasional small angular stones throughout.	0.33m+

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified.

TR10 Dimensions: 100m x 1.6m

Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
1000	Topsoil. Mid brown, silty-clay, friable. Frequent small stones.	0.00–0.15m
1001	Subsoil. Light Brown silty clay, friable. frequent small angular stones, occasional medium sized angular stones.	0.15–0.25m
1002	Natural. Light orange-brown clay with very frequent fragmented white limestone.	0.25m+
1003	Colluvium deposit. Red-brown, silty clay, firm. Frequent small to medium sized angular stones.	0.25–1.3m

Summary: Depth of 0.35, for southern 70m of trench along 1002. Northern 30m positioned in a hollow in the landscape containing a 1.05m deposit of colluvium. Evidence of palaeochannels beneath 1003 at base of trench, not excavated. Trench is located at the highest part of the site with a notable change in geology.

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	Colour	B&W	Digital	Facing	Description
001	37	37	001	E	ID shot
002	36	36	002	NE	TR01 Sample section
003	35	35	003	SW	TR01 Trench shot
004	–	–	004	N	Working shot
005	–	–	005	N	Working shot
006	–	–	006	W	Working shot
007	34	34	007	NW	TR02 Sample section
008	33	33	008	NE	TR02 Trench shot
009	32	32	009	W	TR03 Sample section
010	31	31	010	N	TR03 Trench shot
011	30	30	011	W	TR04 Sample section
012	29	29	012	N	TR04 Trench shot
013	28	28	013	S	TR07 Trench shot
014	27	27	014	NE	TR05 Sample section
015	26	26	015	SE	TR05 Trench shot
016	25	25	016	S	TR06 Sample section
017	24	24	017	S	TR06 Trench shot
018	23	23	018	E	TR07 Sample section
019	22	22	019	N	TR07 Trench shot
020	21	21	020	W	TR05 NE facing section of ridge and furrow
021	20	20	021	NW	TR05 NE facing section of ridge and furrow
022	–	–	022	NE	General working shot of TR05
023	19	19	023	NW	TR09 Sample section
024	18	18	024	NE	TR09 Trench shot
025	17	17	025	S	TR08 Trench shot
026	16	16	026	N	TR08 Sample section
027	15	15	027	N	TR10 Trench shot
028	14	14	028	N	TR10 Sample section
029	13	13	029	SE	TR10 NE facing section of (1004)
030	12	12	030	E	TR10 Trench shot
031	–	–	031	–	VOID
032	–	–	032	N	TR03 Area shot after backfilling
033	–	–	033	N	TR04 Area shot after backfilling
034	–	–	034	SE	TR05 Area shot after backfilling
035	–	–	035	E	TR06 Area shot after backfilling

Photo	Colour	B&W	Digital	Facing	Description
036	–	–	036	SE	TR07 Area shot after backfilling
037	–	–	037	N	TR08 Area shot after backfilling
038	–	–	038	NE	TR09 Area shot after backfilling
039	–	–	039	S	TR10 Area shot after backfilling
040	–	–	040	SW	TR01 Area shot after backfilling
041	–	–	041	NE	TR02 Area shot after backfilling
042	–	–	042	NW	General shot of access to field containing TR10



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